

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

**Zoom Videoconference
Governor's Council on Disabilities
and Special Education
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1230
Anchorage, Alaska
June 1 – 2, 2022**

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

Council Members:

Heidi Lieb-Williams
Anna Attla
Art Delaune
Don Enoch
Jena Crafton
Charlene Tautfest
Fred Villa

Corey Gilmore
Director John Lee
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Elizabeth Joseph
Dave Fleurant
Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich
Director Duane Mayes

Guests:

Kate Sheehan
Courtney Enright
Harriet Dinagar Milks
Jess Doherty
Jimael Johnson
Lizette Stiehr
Nicole Weary

Sheryl Matney
Jack Brandt
Allison Cruz
Beth Talcott
Joe Joseph

Council Staff:

Patrick Reinhart, Acting Executive Director
Ian Miner, Administrative Assistant II
Lanny Mommsen, Research Analyst III
Jamie Kokoszka, Program Coordinator II
Richard Saville, Program Coordinator II
Michael Stevenson, Business Services Project Manager I

Minutes Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 a.m.
ROLL CALL / ZOOM REMINDERS

Chair Heidi Lieb-Williams welcomed Council members to the in-person/Zoom summer Council meeting. Roll call was taken.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Lieb-Williams opened the floor for introductions.

APPROVAL OF WINTER 2022 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Fred Villa MOVED to approve the winter 2022 Council meeting minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by **Don Enoch**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Fred Villa MOVED to approve the summer Council meeting agenda as presented, **SECONDED** by **Dave Fleurant**. **Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus MOVED** for an **AMENDMENT** to add a roundtable discussion at the end of the day or during public testimony if there's time, **SECONDED** by **Corey Gilmore**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts of interest were declared.

COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT

Chair Heidi Lieb-Williams reported that she represented the Council in Washington, D.C. at the Disability Policy Summit. She said she was honored to share in the late Congressman Don Young's eulogy, in which she recognized the many ways in which Don Young advocated for people with disabilities. **Chair Lieb-Williams** shared that she embraced networking opportunities with nationwide council executive directors, staff, and other disability self-advocates and made contact with representatives from the Autism Society. **Chair Lieb-Williams** reported that she delivered a motivational speech on the Capitol steps in the middle of a tornado. **Chair Lieb-Williams** encouraged Council members to use their passion and testimony to advocate for themselves and others.

Chair Lieb-Williams apologized for the environment the Council has been operating in over the past few months. She reported that she has been working to improve her leadership skills, and she and **Vice-Chair Jena Crafton** will work together to improve the Council and restore respect for each members' voice. **Chair Lieb-Williams** presented the Council members and staff with tokens of appreciation.

Chair Lieb-Williams reported that Stone Soup Group will be celebrating its 30th anniversary, and many of the activities can be found on the Stone Soup Group website. She also shared that on August 22nd, 2022, the Alaska State Fair will be hosting Possibility Day. Vendors, resource tables, and sensory-based activities will be set up in the event tent. **Chair Lieb-Williams** noted that plans are being finalized for many of the statewide Disability Pride Festival events.

SUCCESS STORY

Tabled.

FEDERAL PARTNER PRESENTATION

Administration for Community Living (ACL), Information & Technology Assistance Center for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (ITACC) and Council Member Q&A Discussion

Allison Cruz, Jack Brandt, and Sheryl Matney joined the meeting and shared the following information:

- The DD Act authorizes DD Councils and includes statutory requirements for DD Council programs to follow to stay in compliance.
- The federal offices that provide oversight include:
 - The Administration for Community Living (ACL)
 - The Administration on Disability (AoD)
 - Office of Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (OIDD)
- If there are compliance issues, assigned federal staff are the leads working with ACL, AoD, and OIDD teams to address issues.
- All DD Council State Plans and performance reports are sent to and approved by OIDD.

In response to current compliance item queries forwarded by the Council to the federal partners, the following questions were answered as follows:

How did the issue come about?

ACL received information on two issues regarding programs in Alaska. The first one was Executive Order (EO) 121, the reorganization of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS); and the second was AS 47.80.090, which requires additional responsibility from the GCDSE staff.

On January 28th, 2022, OIDD had a call with DHSS and determined that the department's rebranding would not change the Council's roles and responsibilities. DHSS informed OIDD that EO 121 would have language that DHSS will do business as the Department of Health (DOH), but the functions would not substantially change. DOH would remain the Designated Service Agency (DSA) for the Council. OIDD

determined that the Council remains in compliance with regard to the EO.

ACL discovered the state statutes regarding the additional responsibility of the Council. These additional activities constitute additional responsibility for the Council and make the Council staff responsible for policy development, reporting, and advocacy functions for the following:

- Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)
- Special Education Service Agency (SESA)
- Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (ICC)
- Statutory Advisory Board for the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA)

These activities are not allowed under the DD Act. They found that the added staff duties are outside the State Plan and put Council out of compliance with the DD Act.

Why is this an issue now and not earlier?

ACL became aware of AS 47.80.90, which constituted interference in the activities of the Council when evaluating the State Plan and the Executive Order. The DD Act specifies non-interference and autonomy afforded the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) operations and protections for staff assignments defined within the DD Act. The key concern is that the current scope of GCDSE extends outside the DD Act's provisions, which could conflict with other federal programs, including those funded under IDEA.

What is a remediation plan?

A remediation plan (RP) is a written plan to address the issues of non-compliance. OIDD is asking for an RP, not a compliance plan. The plan should address how the Council plans to come into compliance. A majority of RP plans include a smaller group of people, for example, a Corrective Action Committee, or the work of the smaller group, ad hoc, or workgroup that provides enough information so they can see what the approach is going to be. The federal partners will evaluate the RP to the extent that the plan will provide the correction.

What are the parts of a remediation plan?

The process includes:

- Identifying the issues
- Identifying who will be working on a fix of the issues
- Providing a timeline

What are the Council's roles, responsibilities, and timeline?

There is not a prescribed way to approach the RP. Each Council operates along

the same parameters for the overall program but operates uniquely in each state and territory. GCDSE should recognize the compliance issues outlined in the March 16th, 2022 letter.

The goal of the RP is to identify compliance issues and the steps the Council is going to take to fix them. It will take time, and the federal government will work with the Council throughout the process. The Council has been given an extension to June 14th, 2022 to respond, and after the RP is received and approved, the OIDD staff will monitor the progress to ensure the Council will come into full compliance.

The floor was opened for questions from the Council members. A summary of the Q&A and comments follows:

Q: Is this primarily a fiscal issue? If the Council could demonstrate that the DD funding went to DD Act activities, what does it matter if the Council spent SEAP funding on SEAP activities? Is this a fiscal rather than programmatic thing?

A: The DD Act has a staff assignment clause, Section 125 C(10), that prohibits the staff of the Council from doing any duties outside of the program. It states:

- Staff assignments. The staff of the Council, while working for the Council, shall be responsible solely for assisting the Council in carrying out the duties of the Council under this subtitle and shall not be assigned duties by the Designated State Agency or any other agency or entity of the State.

And state interference is covered in Section 145 C(5)(L), which states:

- Non-interference. The plan shall provide assurances that the Designated State Agency and any other agency, office, or entity of the State will not interfere with the advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities, budget, personnel, State Plan development, or plan implementation of the Council, except that the Designated State Agency shall have the authority necessary to carry out the responsibilities described in Section 125(d)(3).

Q: Is there an appeal process?

A: The compliance issues are not around collaboration. The DD Councils are encouraged to collaborate with other entities in the state. There is no specific information regarding the appeal process, and ACL will follow up on that. If the Council wants to respond with an appeal, they would consider it and take it through another internal review and respond.

Comment: A big part of the issue is that these other duties were assigned by the legislature needs to be addressed. These assignments have been part of the Council for a long time.

- Response: ACL does not retrospectively look back on the State Plan. The

decisions were based on the current State Plan and information.

Comment: The reason for being on the Council is for special education. The Council is proud of the work they do for the DD community. It was mentioned that ACL needs to protect the I/DD community, and for many people, these efforts go hand-in-hand with special education, the ICC, and SEAP. These have been part of the State Plan for 30 years and have been approved at least six times. Alaska is unique because it has few people and a small DD community. People do need to wear several different hats to do this work.

- Response: Because of the purpose and intent of the DD Act and the funding that the Council receives for individuals with IDD, they can look to the statute. It is an asset that GCDSE can collaborate with other entities, and its state goals can address special education, but that's a Council decision. ACL is concerned about staff assignments and State interference. ACL is not questioning the merits and work. The question is who is leading and undertaking the activities; and in the DD Act, it's not the Council.

Comment: The Governor's Council and the SEAP has not been exercising authority; they strictly advise. If, hypothetically, Alaska changed the statutes to say that the Governor's Council is no longer responsible to be the SEAP, could we ask them to do it outside of that? Could the State ask the Council to sponsor the SEAP?

- Response: ACL encourages collaboration, and there is still an opportunity to collaborate. The Council needs to determine how it fits within the Five-Year Strategic Plan, how those activities advance the Council goals and reach the outcomes they identified, and how those activities assist and support the Council in achieving its goals.

Comment: This is an emotional issue, and change is difficult. Thank you for inspiring re-envisioning. What is the near-term or next federal fiscal year to impact the Council moving through the process, and what cost does the Council incur when going to the technical assistance center asking for time and consultation to work towards a solution that will best fit the state?

- Response: If technical assistance is required, there is no charge. Whatever is needed will be provided. The Council determines what help they need moving forward.

Q: Is the funding at risk while moving through the remediation plan?

- A: The Council will continue receiving funding as long as it works through a remediation plan. If there is an impasse, ACL has an internal process to determine restrictions on funding. Before the Council gets to that point, they would be notified.

COMPLIANCE PLANNING

Discussion About Ongoing DD Act Compliance

Patrick Reinhart shared a history of the successes of the Council, including work done with the SEAP, SESA, and the ICC.

1975

- Produced its first public policy document entitled De-Institutionalization Action Plan. The Department of Health and Social Services adopted the recommendations in the report, which became the basis for the creation of community-based services.

1981

- Drafted a nation-leading law to reform guardianship procedures. The Alaska legislature passed the Council's model statute.

1984

- Adopted and promoted service principles. The principles are used today to guide the delivery of services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

1986

- To meet the needs of students with intensive needs living in rural areas, the Council created the Special Education Service Agency (SESA). Serving as SESA's board of directors, the Council assures that the organization continues to serve rural districts.
- Led the effort that involved over 200 people to plan a comprehensive, coordinated statewide service system of early intervention for infants and toddlers with disabilities. In 1991, the Alaska legislature agreed to adopt new services and have the Council serve as the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC).
- Successfully advocated for Personal Care Assistance Services for people with severe or multiple disabilities to be added to the Medicaid options list.

1987

- Initiated the collaboration of beneficiary groups by forming the Alaska Mental Health Lands Trust Coalition, which assisted in securing a settlement to the decade-long legal debate.

1988

- The Council's Residential Services Task Force studied individual needs and costs to serve the residents at Harborview Developmental Center in their home communities. The Council's findings resulted in a policy of no new admissions into Harborview. The report was the basis for the Department of Health and Social Services to aggressively de-populate the center.

1989

- Parents and Professionals Coming Together was the theme for the first Pathways Conference. The Conference, which was planned and supported by the Council, was a dream of Dot Truan, the Council's Executive Director for 15 years.

1991

- Working with the Older Alaskans Commission (now the Alaska Commission on Aging), the Council made recommendations on how the State could use Medicaid to benefit people with disabilities. The result was the creation of Medicaid waivers to serve people with home and community-based supports and the TEFRA option, which provided families with Medicaid-funded medical services for their children.

1994

- To promote inclusion in public schools, the Council drafted changes in regulations. Once passed, the changes allowed school districts to receive funds for special education students based on the intensity of the student's needs rather than the place where they received their education.

1996

- In order to establish a balance in the development of long-term care, the Council and the State Council on Independent Living succeeded in securing a moratorium on the licensing of new nursing home beds, and a working group produced a report with recommendations impacting the future development of long-term care.

1997

- Worked with the State Independent Living Council and Governor's Committee on the Employment and Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities to plan the first-ever Disability Summit. Governor Knowles invited key people from the state government, public associations, and business and industry to participate in the Summit, which led to positive policy changes by state agencies.
- Closure of Harborview Developmental Center and voluntary de-certification of Hope Cottages' ICF/MR facilities (now Hope Community Resources), which made Alaska the first state in the country with no public or private institutions for people with disabilities.
- Secured funding from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (in 1998), and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (in 2000) to increase the employment rate of Alaskans with severe disabilities. The Department of Labor funds awarded to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Social Security Administration funds to the Center for Human Development in 2000 became part of the broader Alaska Works Initiative.

1998

- Worked with People First of Anchorage, the Center for Human Development, and the Disability Law Center to plan and coordinate the International People First Self-Advocacy Conference in Anchorage for over 1,000 people from 18 countries.
- Successfully advocated for passage of the assistive technology lemon law and the puppy guide dog bill.
- As a result of the advocacy of the Council, the State Independent Living Council, the Governor's Committee on the Employment and Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities, and the Disability Law Center, the State legislature passed a

Medicaid buy-in program for working people with disabilities. Alaska was the first state in the country to pass legislation and the second state to implement a buy-in program.

- Secured funding from the reallocation of savings from the closure of Harborview Developmental Services and from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to implement core services for people waiting for services.
- Conducted an examination of the two DD waiver programs, which resulted in a number of recommendations for improvement.

1999

- Secured funding from the Alaska Mental Health Trust for the Center for Human Development's Learn as You Earn program, which provides distance education for direct service workers who provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Successfully advocated with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and the legislature for funding to improve the quality and safety of the services DD service providers deliver.

2000

- Successfully advocated for the passage of a bill requiring the Department of Health and Social Services to establish a waiting list for state-funded services for persons with developmental disabilities and requiring the department to submit an annual report concerning the waiting list and persons with developmental disabilities.
- Secured funding from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority for the Division of Public Health, Section on Maternal, Child, and Family Health to develop a behavioral health initiative for young children under the age of eight.
- Secured funding from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to develop strategies to increase the recruitment and retention of direct service workers who provide services to Trust beneficiaries.

2001

- Worked with the Department of Education and Early Development, Disability Law Center, PARENTS, Inc, and other advocacy organizations and stakeholders to make changes to the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam legislation. As a result, students with disabilities may be able to earn a diploma if they successfully complete an alternative assessment program.
- Successfully advocated with the legislature for a \$700,000 increment to help reduce the Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program waitlist.
- Designated by the Governor to receive a starter grant for implementing systemic reform of Alaska's long-term care systems. As a result, the Division of Senior Services received two federal grants in October 2001 to 1) transition people from nursing homes to the community, and 2) increase consumer control of personal assistance services and supports. In addition, the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities received a federal grant in October 2002 to integrate self-determined service delivery into current service delivery systems and develop, implement, and evaluate consumer-driven care coordination/case management systems.
- Co-sponsored and helped plan a one-day workshop on Transportation Funding

during the annual Transit Conference, which resulted in the formation of the Alaska Mobility Coalition.

2002

- Co-sponsored and helped plan the Autism Summit. As a result, a commitment to fund an in-state Autism Resource Center was secured from the Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development.
- Co-sponsored and helped plan the first annual Full Lives Conference for direct service staff, which was a smashing success where 250 people were expected to attend the conference, and the actual attendance was over 350.
- Supported passage of SB 345 relating to school districts' eligibility to seek payment from Medicaid for covered services paid for or furnished to eligible children with disabilities.

2003

- Worked with the State Independent Living Council, the Alaska Mental Health Board, the Alaska Commission on Aging, and the Governor's Committee on Employment and Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities to plan the second Disability Policy Summit. As a result, secured commitment from the new administration to work together with the disability community to implement a number of specific recommendations.
- The Council served as the steering committee for the Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process for early intervention and special education. State staff began implementing the improvement plan in July.
- The Early Intervention and Education Committees jointly spearheaded a parent training collaborative to empower parents through training and information. As a result, parents now have access to a monthly e-mail list of learning opportunities and an electronic discussion group focused on early intervention and special education practices.
- As a result of the Council's advocacy, Alaska ranks first in the country in terms of the percentage of people with developmental disabilities (99 percent) residing in publicly funded out-of-home settings for six or fewer persons.
- The Alaska Mobility Coalition secured a variety of state and federal funds for coordinated community transportation. Six communities received funding to plan coordinated transportation systems, prepare for or startup operation, purchase vehicles for coordinated use, or initiate a shuttle or taxi voucher service.

2004

- As a result of the Council's leadership of the Alaska Works Initiative, a number of new or improved programs or policies were implemented, including 1) the establishment of a statewide benefits counseling program; 2) changes in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's self-employment policies; 3) identification of local contacts by the Social Security Administration; 4) increased access to one-stop Job Centers; 5) the piloting of Alaska's first Individual Development Account program; and 6) inclusion of disability in diversity training offered by the Division of Personnel.
- A comprehensive, multi-media training package on parent-professional collaboration and family support resources was developed through the Council's Far North Family Support project.

- Successfully advocated for the re-authorization of SESA through June 30, 2013.
- Together with a number of partners, the Council sponsored Wrights Law “Boot Camp” on Special Education Law Advocacy. The training provided parents and professionals with good, authoritative information about their rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and how it fits with the No Child Left Behind legislation. A total of 339 people attended the training (100 in Juneau and 239 people in Anchorage).
- The Council received a two-year Department of Justice grant to train disability service providers, victim services providers, women with disabilities, and family members to increase awareness and appropriate responses for women with disabilities who have been victims of sexual or physical assault or stalking.
- The Council co-sponsored the October 21-22, 2004 Transition Policy Summit. Over 50 people helped develop strategies and performance measures to achieve the following vision: All youth with disabilities are given the means and support to obtain the American dream.
- As a result of the Council’s co-sponsorship of the November 19, 2004 Disability Policy Summit, 140 participants reviewed the results of the 2003 summit and developed new recommendations in each of the six life domains: community participation, education, employment, health care, housing, and transportation.

2005

- The Council worked with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Alaska Mental Health Board, Alaska Commission on Aging, and the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to develop a strategic communications plan. The goal of the campaign is to promote broad-based support for services and reduce stigma and discrimination. A variety of media outlets are being used, including print, radio, and television.
- Over 70 people helped develop a new five-year strategic plan for the Alaska Works Initiative, which focused on achieving the following vision: Alaskans who experience disabilities are employed at a rate as close as possible to that of the general population.
- Co-sponsored the in-state Alliance for Full Participation and facilitated the participation of the Alaska delegation of 32 individuals in the national summit held in Washington, D.C. Participants developed a state plan to 1) grow the next generation of leaders, 2) increase the community participation and self-determination of Alaskans with developmental disabilities, and 3) ensure a quality workforce.

2006

- The Council took an active lead and coordinated in helping over 60 people and helped develop the Early Learning Guidelines, which encompass outcomes for infants and toddlers; preschool guidelines that focus on five domain areas; and guidelines for what K-2 children should know and be able to do.
- The Ad Hoc Committee on the DD Waitlist prepared a set of 17 recommendations to better manage the waitlist for developmental disabilities services. As a result, an increment of \$3 million in state funds and \$4.1 million in federal funds was secured from the legislature.
- After several long years of advocacy, the Newborn Hearing Screening bill was

passed by the legislature.

- As a result of leadership from the Trust and advocacy from the Council and other stakeholders, the legislature funded preventative and restorative dental care and dentures for adults on Medicaid.
- The Statutory Reference Disabilities bill (HB 357) was signed into law by the Governor.
- The Council contracted for a State of the State report, which described how Alaskans with developmental disabilities are living and how they viewed their lives and their place in the community.
- The Council was awarded a three-year research and demonstration grant from the Office of Disability Employment Policy to increase the number of Alaskans with disabilities who are self-employed.

2007

- Successfully advocated with the Alaska Mental Health Trust to fund Early Childhood Comprehensive System Grants (\$100,000) and Positive Supports Training for Young Children (\$80,000) in FY 08 as part of the Bring/Keep the Kids Home Initiative.
- The Ad Hoc Committee on Autism developed a set of recommendations for the Trust, the new administration, and the legislature. As a result, the FY 08 budget included a \$500,000 (\$250,000 Trust and \$250,000 in state funds) appropriation for expanded autism diagnostic clinics.
- A \$300,000 increment for Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program services was approved by the legislature.
- The Medicaid Buy-In program for working people with disabilities was changed to allow participants to save up to \$10,000 for an individual (formerly \$2,000) and \$15,000 for a couple (formerly \$3,000) without losing their ties to Medicaid.
- The Council was awarded a three-year grant from the Department of Justice, Office on Violence against Women to build collaborative networks between the disability community and the victim services community.
- Conducted a Provider Rate Freeze Survey to determine the impact of the Medicaid rate freeze on providers and a Family Survey to determine the impact of the rate freeze on service recipients and their families.

2008

- Co-sponsored the Disability Employment Policy Summit with the Governor's office to secure commitments from state agencies to 1) make the State a model employer of people with disabilities, 2) help people with disabilities build assets, and 3) better integrate services and resources.
- Successfully advocated with the legislature for a \$250,000 increment (\$125,000 state funds and \$125,000 Trust) for autism workforce development capacity building.
- The legislature provided funding to increase Medicaid home and community-based waiver rates by 4%.
- The Governor signed HB 272, which phases in increases to the Base Student Allocation, makes adjustments to the district cost factors, recalibrates the amount of pupil transportation grants, and phases in funding increases for students with intensive needs.

- The legislature allocated \$1,100,000 for coordinated transportation (\$800,000 general fund and \$300,000 Trust). This is the first time that any state general funds have been available for coordinated transportation.

2009

- The Council's five-part autism initiative continued to gain momentum. FY 10 funding for expanded diagnostic capacity transitioned from a mix of state general fund dollars and Trust funding to 100% state general fund dollars (\$500,000 total). An additional \$125,000 in state general funds was secured for workforce development, and for the first time, state general funds (\$150,000) were obtained for the Alaska Autism Resource Center.
- The Council organized and oversaw the development and implementation of Alaska's Kids Can't Wait campaign. As a result, the legislature funded a \$1 million increment for Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program (EI/ILP) services and \$300,000 for EI/ILP workforce development/highly qualified staff.
- The Council successfully advocated with the legislature for a \$150,000 increment for rural transition services.
- Together with many stakeholders, the Council successfully advocated for the passage of HB 26, which permanently reauthorized the Medicaid preventative and restorative dental program for adults.
- The Council received funding from the Trust to hold a Residential Services Summit on May 28 – 29. Approximately 125 participants learned about new technologies and approaches to providing residential services and identified implementation priorities.
- As a result of the Council's advocacy, the State Board of Education and Early Development added advanced nurse practitioners to the list of medical personnel that can make an autism diagnosis for special education purposes (adopted 6/12/09).
- The Council provided public comment and coordinated testimony by People First members to the State Board of Education and Early Development on proposed regulations to replace MR with "Cognitive Impairment" (adopted 9/9/09).

2010

- The legislature passed SB 219, which established a traumatic brain injury program within the Department of Health and Social Services.
- A comparison of a 2002 and a 2010 survey commissioned by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority shows a fundamental shift in people's perception of Alaskans with developmental disabilities in terms of comfort level (79.4% to 82.1%); ability to hold down a job (31.8% to 53%) and whether services can improve their quality of life (58.9% to 73.4%).

2011

- The Council helped establish three Project SEARCH sites to improve employment outcomes for youth with developmental disabilities.
- \$1 million was allocated for Public Transit Programs state match, which was distributed to partially fund federal match requirements.
- Secured \$325.0 OTI increment (half-year funding) for the Complex Behaviors Hub.

2012

- The Autism Insurance Reform Bill (SB 74) was passed on the last day of the session.
- Successfully advocated for a \$135,000 increment for services for the deaf.
- Successfully advocated for a \$100,000 increment for Project SEARCH.
- Job Centers start accepting Tickets-to-Work from Social Security beneficiaries on SSI and/or SSDI, thereby increasing employment options for people with disabilities.
- Worked with the Division of Public Health, Section on Women, Children, Family Health to secure a health promotion grant from the Centers for Disease Control.
- Secured five-year grant from the federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to increase the employment of youth and young adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

2013

- The Respectful Language Bill (HB 88) was passed, eliminating the “R” word.
- Worked with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to initiate the Trust Beneficiary Employment and Engagement Initiative focus area, which secured a commitment to five years of funding over a million dollars a year to improve beneficiary employment outcomes.
- Successfully advocated for a \$25,000 increment for the Trust Microenterprise grant.

2014

- The Employment First Bill (HB 211) was passed unanimously in both houses.
- The Safe Student Act (HB 210) was passed.
- The High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) was repealed by the passage of HB 278, which included a retroactive provision.
- Successfully advocated for the inclusion of \$450.0 GF/MH base funding for the Complex Behavior Collaborative in the SFY 15 budget.
- Alaska Association for People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Chapter was created.

2015

- The Medicaid Used Durable Medical Equipment Bill (HB 161) passed.

2016

- The Alaska ABLE Act (HB 188) was passed and signed into law, establishing financial accounts for individuals with disabilities and providing opportunities for increased independence and employment.

2017

- The Disability Training and ID bill (HB 16) was passed and signed into law, promoting positive interactions between individuals with disabilities and law enforcement officials through a law enforcement official training program at the academy level and a voluntary option to place a discreet mark on a driver’s license or ID card regarding one’s disability.

2018

- The Developmental Disability (DD) Shared Vision Bill (SB 174) was passed

- and signed into law, placing aspirational language into state statute to give a solid platform for how services are provided throughout the state to ensure that they lead to meaningful lives for individuals with DD.
- The Supported Decision Making Agreements Bill (HB 336) was passed and signed into law, proving an alternative to full or partial guardianship by allowing written agreements between an adult and supporters which describe a process for making life decisions.
- The Council was awarded a Living Well \$1.96 million federal Administration on Community Living grant to implement the Alaska Shared DD Vision over five years.

2019

- GCDSE co-leads the new Alaska Work Matters Task Force with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

2021

- Successfully advocated for the reauthorization of SESA through June 30, 2029.
- An Act relating to house rules for assisted living homes (SB 89) was passed and signed into law. This addressed rights for individuals in assisted living homes including visitation and brings it into compliance with federal law.

2022

- Regarding the elimination of minimum wage exemption (SB 185) passed.
- ABLE Act (HB 133) was passed. This bill brings Alaska into alignment with federal updates and keeps ABLE with the Dept. of Revenue instead of GCDSE.

Patrick Reinhart remarked that he listed the accomplishments to demonstrate that the Council has advocated for better lives for people with disabilities. The focus population has been IDD, but so much has been done to improve the lives of all people with disabilities. Other successes that were not mentioned included work on the following:

- Restraint and seclusion
- Telecommunication bill
- National Council ACT, American College of Testing, revise their global testing standards for admission.

Patrick Reinhart opened the floor for a discussion related to the federal partner presentation. He presented the Council with a document highlighting compliance strategies to discuss.

Art Delaune expressed frustration with the conversation because he didn't hear flexibility and felt ACL was rigid on what the Council could do. He noted that it is the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, not the Governor's Council on IDD. **Art** questioned if the Council could devise a model where it's still GCDSE, and the IDD portion is part, SEAP is another part, and all other responsibilities are part of the Council too, and the Council would have staff dedicated to each component. He remarked that there's frustration because of the list of accomplishments. If held to the letter of the federal partners, half of the list wouldn't have happened because it's not

strictly IDD.

Dave Fleurant remarked that the Council had done quite a bit over the last several decades, but it's not just the Council. The Council has been integrally involved with the Center for Human Development, the Disability Law Center, Stone Soup Group, and others to make it happen. It is an essential component of what the Council is. The Council coordinates and collaborates with other agencies to make things happen. He wants to impress to federal partners that what Alaska has going on is good and works.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus hates to see the collaboration with other entities diminished. The background and input SESA gets from Council members benefit all the committees and entities. She opined that if the Council is going to continue receiving federal funding, then the Council is going to have to look at separating the roles, and she was not in support of that.

Chair Lieb-Williams remarked that it seemed logical to have specific staff concentrating on particular roles, and she believes more could be accomplished doing it that way.

Director Lee noted that, like **Dave Fleurant**, he was frustrated with how the federal government perceived the situation. They mentioned revising the five-year plan to remove problematic items that caused the theatre of non-compliance, but they seemed hesitant to talk about the appeals process.

Dave Fleurant commented that he thinks their argument is unsound. He didn't understand how what Council has been doing conflicts with its overall goal and the fact that it has been doing it for 20 years with no raised eyebrows. He said it doesn't appear that the Council is pushing back, just saying, "What do we need to do to become compliant with federal authorities." He stated that this has come up before with the federal government in other contexts in the state, and this is another situation where their policies don't fit the reality. **Dave** recommended finding a way to challenge the findings. He stated that the accomplishments of the Council have been significant over the last few decades, but that also comes with an association with the coordination of activities between the Disability Law Center, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), Stone Soup Group, and other associations that need to be kept together.

Harriet Dinegar Milks appreciated **Dave Fleurant's** comments and stated that it is a complex issue that causes great frustration. She noted that she heard a lot about cooperation and collaboration as an opportunity and suggested taking Sheryl Matney from ITACC up on her offer to be a mechanic to come up with solutions that may be as simple as rebranding. She stated that the elephant in the room is the state statute. It sounds like outreach to the legislature is inevitable, and perhaps the legislature needs to be aware of the disconnect. She proposed reaching out to the legislature. She remarked that the reliance argument is worth exploring because the government has accepted this way of doing business for 38 years.

Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich agreed with **Art Delaune's** position. She firmly believes that education and DD go hand-in-hand. She has recently been in many meetings where the DD community focused on early identification for the Shared Vision. **Shelly** suggested creating sub-councils under the GCDSE to do the work outside of the DD Act compliance issue and wondered how that could be staffed.

Corey Gilmore shared that when he was chair of the Council, they received notice from ACL that they couldn't have a DD Committee, because DD is the business of the entire Council. He noted that they had to restructure the whole committee structure based on funding from DD Act. That's why the five-year plan is totally DD-focused to protect their funding.

Don Enoch expressed his concerns related to opening up the statute. He said that the legislature could rewrite the statute that the Department of Education will oversee SESA and/or ICC. **Don** suggested that EED overseeing SESA or the ICC may result in a situation that is counterproductive to the communities and may not align with how the Council has managed the entities.

Patrick Reinhart directed the members' attention to the document titled *ACL Compliance Responses: Mitigation and Strategic Plan* contained in the member packet and briefly outlined the document as follows:

Part 1: Compliance finding:

- ACL findings for the Governor's Council in two areas:
 - Executive Order separating DHSS into two departments.
 - The Council staff working on projects that are not related to the DD Act. Those programs are the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP), Special Education Service Agency (SESA), Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (ICC), Statutory Advisory Board for the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA)

Part 2: Initial compliance discussions:

- A list of which stakeholder groups the Council met with to discuss compliance issues.

Part 3: Organizational background:

- Who the Council is
- The DD Act and IDEA laws that oversee the Governor's Council
- The Council's roles
- Non-SCDD staff assignments
- Information on the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Advisory Board.

Part 4: Compliance plans:

- The process includes:
 - Need, comply, evaluate, research, advocate, and coordinate.

- Once a solution is identified, the Council must perform stakeholder and community engagement.
 - Note: The Council is in no danger of losing funding while working through the RP.
 - Note: The general election in the fall may impact a planned solution.

Possible compliance strategies:

1. Separate the Council into two boards
2. Create public corporate entities
3. Create private corporate entities
4. Joint management of separate boards under the GCDSE
5. Give up federal recognition and funding for the DD Council from ACL.

Patrick Reinhart stated that the goal is to identify and prioritize preferred solutions and decide on a timeline for key activities.

PROJECT SEARCH ANCHORAGE SUCCESS STORY

Elizabeth Talcott joined the meeting to share a Project SEARCH success story with the Council. She highlighted the following information:

- Interns participate in three rotations eight to ten weeks long with a break for a week between rotations. Afterward, they start the job search process.
- Type of students and how selected:
 - Enrolled in the school district
 - Students who qualify or have an IEP
 - Students come from the ACT Program
- The application process includes:
 - Meet minimum qualifications
 - Include letters of recommendations
 - Applications are due by the end of the third quarter
 - There is a panel of interviewers and interns that go through an interview process. Interns then go through the interview process at Providence Hospital and are required to have a health screening and background check.

Elizabeth Talcott shared that their program had eight interns, and seven of the eight are currently employed. She was excited about the success this year. She noted that Providence Hospital is a host site, and Project SEARCH partners with the Council, The Arc of Anchorage, and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Fred Villa shared his appreciation for the Project SEARCH program and the teachers who participate in it. **Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** asked when Project SEARCH will reach out to rural areas. It was noted that the program would have to be adapted so rural

students would also have that opportunity.

A student intern shared her experience. She said she was from the ACT Program, and she was hired at Providence Hospital after her internship. She said it was a good experience, that she was exposed to different jobs, and it was a good opportunity to see what she could do and experiment with things she had never done before. She noted that she was given the tools to succeed and became more confident in the job exploration process. She is now working full-time delivering food to patients.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A public testimony opportunity was offered, and a full transcript was prepared.

OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Patrick Reinhart commented that several Council members' terms are up at the end of June, and he encouraged those members who wanted to continue to directly contact the Governor's office with a request to continue. He noted that terms are ending for:

- **Anna Attla**
- **Jena Crafton**
- **Art Delaune**
- **Margaret Evans**
- **Elizabeth Joseph**
- **Charlene Tautfest**
- **Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich**

Patrick Reinhart circled back to the discussion on compliance strategies looking for direction from the Council members. Council members asked clarifying questions related to the five proposed strategies. In summary, the Council members agreed to think about the proposed strategies and discuss the topic again on day two of the meeting.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 4:40 p.m.

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
Governor's Council on Disabilities
and Special Education
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1230
Anchorage, Alaska
Zoom Videoconference
June 1 – 2, 2022**

Thursday, June 2, 2022

Council Members:

Heidi Lieb-Williams
Anna Attla
Art Delaune
Don Enoch
Jena Crafton
Charlene Tautfest
Fred Villa
Corey Gilmore

Director John Lee
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Elizabeth Joseph
Dave Fleurant
Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich
Director Duane Mayes
Nona Safra

Guests:

Dr. Anne Zink
Commissioner Adam Crum
Harriet Dinegar Milks
Jimael Johnson
Lizette Stiehr
Nicole Weary
Joe Joseph
Stone Soup Group

Council Staff:

Patrick Reinhart, Acting Executive Director
Ian Miner, Administrative Assistant II
Lanny Mommsen, Research Analyst III
Jamie Kokoszka, Program Coordinator II
Richard Saville, Program Coordinator II
Michael Stevenson, Business Services Project Manager I

Minutes Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

Chair Lieb-Williams welcomed attendees to day two of the meeting, and roll call was taken.

Jena Crafton shared a mindful moment. She invited Council members to dinner after the meeting adjourned.

Chair Lieb-Williams asked for a motion to move into an executive session to discuss executive director-related items.

Director Lee MOVED to move into an executive session to discuss executive director matters, **SECONDED** by **Charlene Tautfest**, who offered an **AMENDMENT** to include Kate Sheehan in the executive session. **Director Lee ACCEPTED** the amendment. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the Council moved into executive session.

As a result of the executive session, **Chair Lieb-Williams** asked for a motion to confirm **Patrick Reinhart** as the new acting executive director.

Charlene Tautfest MOVED to confirm Patrick Reinhart as the new acting executive director, **SECONDED** by **Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich**. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Chair Lieb-Williams asked for a motion to re-establish an executive director transition committee.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus MOVED to establish a transition committee that involves the Council at large to prepare for an executive director search, **SECONDED** by **Don Enoch**. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Art Delaune noted that the process should also include a bylaws review. **Patrick Reinhart** stated that he located a three-page transition document that also needs to be reviewed. **Director Lee** suggested the Council have the SDS team do a presentation on the selection of an executive director.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

No update was offered.

VICE-CHAIR ELECTION

Chair Lieb-Williams opened the floor for vice-chair nominations:

Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich NOMINATED Jena Crafton. Jena Crafton ACCEPTED.

No other nominations were offered.

Nona Safra MOVED to accept **Jena Crafton** as Vice-Chair of the Council, **SECONDED** by **Corey Gilmore**. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

SUCCESS STORY

Art Delaune shared that he has a 26-year-old son who suffered mental health disorders on his 18th birthday. Art was advised that his son needed a guardian because he couldn't make decisions independently, and **Art** became his guardian. After the supported decision-making (SDM) bill was passed, **Art** and his son were able to get an agreement with the help of the Disability Law Center, which was a great value for managing the challenges of his son being able to choose the life he wanted to live and addressed the fact of aging parents. He said that family members were also involved in the SDM process, along with his boss at work to support him at his job. **Art** noted that when an individual makes their own decisions with the help of an official team, they not only choose their direction but also direct their services, which keeps the situation fluid. **Art** said he found tremendous benefit for his son and their family using the SDMA.

COMMISSIONER CRUM and ADMINISTRATION

Commissioner Adam Crum joined the meeting and shared that the legislative session was over, and there were quite a few successes, including the successful passage of the Executive Order that allowed the reorganization of the Department of Health and Social Services into two separate departments, the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS). He noted that the EO received a lot of community support, and the administration appreciated the Governor's Council's support. The official start of the division is July 1, 2022. Other legislation passed included increased General Relief funding, a substantial increase to pay for home and community-based services (HCBS), and a personal care assistant rate increase.

Commissioner Crum reported that one of the key goals in the DHSS reorganization was to see that there was no disruption of services to beneficiaries and no interruptions in funding. Most of the work was internal, including involving federal partners to work with the Division of Finance to ensure a smooth transition. Commissioner Crum shared that he will be heading the Department of Health and looks forward to having the time to engage with different advocacy groups and work on the Shared Vision.

Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer for the State of Alaska, joined the meeting and shared that a priority for the state is to combine healthcare and state government to build a system that works together. She noted that government policy needs to support the people it serves. There has been a lot of focus over the last two-and-a-half years on the pandemic, and the pandemic showed the gaps in the healthcare system.

Dr. Zink reported that the state had been focused on injury prevention and access to healthcare. They are trying to take an upstream approach to improve Alaskans' healthcare outcomes. She shared that 80 percent of health issues are affected by things outside the healthcare system. Dr. Zink encouraged Council members to read the state's health improvement plan, titled *Healthy Alaskans 2030*. She urged Alaskans to try to focus on a health view in 2022. She said that it is important for people to focus on mental and physical health. Dr. Zink directed the members to a link on DHSS's website, Healthy You in 2022, that has quarterly features that focus on activities, minds, bodies, and habits to improve physical and mental well-being.

Council Member Q&A Discussion

Chair Lieb-Williams opened the floor to Council members for questions and comments, a summary of which follows:

Comment: People with disabilities experience all the same health conditions as others, but there are specific issues for people with disabilities that the healthcare sector needs to work toward understanding and empowering individuals so they can direct their healthcare and individual sovereignty.

Comment: As we go through another wave of COVID-19, there seems to be a higher incidence of brain injury.

- Response: There's a lot to learn about the neuro impact of COVID-19. People with a past injury are at higher risk of a neuro impact. COVID-19 does affect the neurological system. Vaccines minimize the chances of long COVID-19 and there are more treatment options. Prevention is the key to minimizing the impact of infection. With long COVID-19, there are different definitions, making it hard to track, but they continue to work with state and international colleagues on the challenges of long COVID-19.

Comment: One of the most significant issues that have come home to Alaskans is mental health. The disabled community tends to be more at risk for mental health issues than others.

- Response: The state has been focused on growing behavioral healthcare. The 1115 waiver opened up 23 new services billable through Medicaid, many addressing behavioral health and mental health and allowing more access to community providers.

Comment: Over the last couple of years of the pandemic, the need to improve awareness and proper training for doctors, police officers, and first responders on how to respond to people with evident or hidden disabilities has become apparent. Also, that suicide rates are heightened among people with disabilities needs to be addressed.

- Response: Fairbanks is the first community in the state to embrace the Crisis Now model. The first responders and others are being trained on how to recognize and work with people with disabilities. In other communities in the state, first responders and the healthcare sector engage in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT).

Comment: There is an appreciation for the State’s support of HB 172, which clarifies the process of treating people experiencing a mental health crisis. It allows admission of a person experiencing a crisis to a stabilization center for up to 23 hours and 59 minutes. It also requires a mental health professional to examine the patient within three hours of arriving at the facility. The patient’s stay at the facility would include evaluation, stabilization, and treatment, and hopefully that will plug a hole in the pipeline to institutional placement for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. It would be good to reach the point where we can help people avoid crises. There is an inadequate number of services for young individuals experiencing mental health crises.

- Response: Agreed. The conversation of crisis is too far downstream. One benefit of the intervention bill is in-depth training for legislators, which is valuable. The fact that the legislation passed in both bodies nearly unanimously will help get the public engaged in the conversation. The 1115 waiver has more pediatrics services, but providers need to be engaged to use the services.

There was a brief discussion about identifying kids and families who need help and the waiver services available through the 1115 waiver, having to consider institutional type care to receive services, eradicating the stigma associated with mental health, and how people look at and communicate about mental health.

LUNCH AND RECOGNITION

Council members shared lunch, and **Chair Lieb-Williams** took a moment to recognize Council members in attendance and staff and expressed appreciation for their contributions to the Council’s mission.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Art Delaune reported that the Legislative Committee has not met since early January. He shared the activities of the Council with regard to legislative issues as follows:

- Letters of support:
 - SB 185/HB 372 regarding the subminimum wage – PASSED
 - HB 372/SB 185 regarding the elimination of the minimum wage exemption
 - SB 124/HB 172 regarding mental health facilities and medications – HB 172 PASSED
 - SB 98/HB 119 regarding adult foster care for disabled – NOT PASSED
 - HB 292/SB 183, regarding HCBS – HB 292 NOT PASSED – SB 183 PASSED AND ADDS FUNDING FOR HCBS

- Executive Order, reorganization of DHSS – PASSED.
- Followed by Governor's Council:
 - SB 34/ HB 351 regarding state/tribal compacting schools, allowing a demonstration project to take place – PASSED
 - HB 20 requires the state medical assistance program to provide adult dental services – NOT PASSED
 - HB 25 related to socio-emotional learning – NOT PASSED
 - HB 119/SB 98 adult foster care – NOT PASSED
 - HB 133 ABLE Act, Senate version – PASSED

Art Delaune reported that the Council did not send all the Council members to Juneau this session. Commissioner Crum suggested setting priorities now for the new session. Art noted that he would like to start the Legislative Committee meeting soon to gather information and discuss priorities. **Art** suggested using the list of Council accomplishments to vet the Council to legislators. **Art** encouraged Council members interested in joining the Legislative Committee to contact him.

Jena Crafton reported that she and others attended the Disability Policy Seminar, where the discussions focused on the need for direct service providers and home and community-based services. **Chair Lieb-Williams** shared that other topics covered included national proposed legislation, criminal justice, self-advocacy, education, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and emergency response. The event included a rally where people spoke out for people with disabilities.

Director Lee reported that the legislature passed a General Relief bill and passed an increase of annual wait list draws from 50 individuals to 70 individuals. The department has been asked to create a plan to eliminate the wait list in five years.

Patrick Reinhart noted that other bills impacted some of the work of other beneficiary groups including a set-aside for the Independent Living Center travel voucher program.

Art Delaune reminded Council members to send in ballots for Don Young's replacement.

SEAP GOVERNANCE POLICY and MEMBERSHIP

Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich reported that until things change in statute and a formal decision is made on the organization, the Council is still responsible for the SEAP. She directed the members' attention to the governance policy included in the board packet and reported that the compulsory membership of the SEAP is outlined with specific roles. **Rich Saville** is contacting members to gauge their interest in continuing as SEAP members and looking at which seats will be vacant and require recruitment. The next meeting of the SEAP will not likely be scheduled until school is back in session in September.

RECOGNITION:

Chair Lieb-Williams recognized Lizette Sthier for her years of service in the field. Lizette, the executive director of AADD, shared that she will be placing the reins in the capable hands of Kim Champney, and she looks forward to the future for herself and the organization.

CONTINUED COMPLIANCE DISCUSSION

Patrick Reinhart restated that the deadline to respond to the ACL regarding the compliance issues is June 14th, 2022. After a brief discussion and considering the options outlined in the meeting packet, Council members agreed to indicate that the Council disagreed with the findings, which would take them to the next level of review.

Art Delaune MOVED to seek information on how to appeal the ACL's findings, ask for further clarification on how the Council is out of compliance with the DD Act, what duties outlined in the DD Act the Council is not currently performing, and how these findings do not result in interference by the federal government in the DD Council's business and request an extension for a formal response, **SECONDED** by **Charlene Tautfest**. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

Patrick Reinhart agreed to draft a letter and have it reviewed by **Dave Fleurant**.

2022 FALL COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Select Dates for the Fall Council Meeting/Retreat

Chair Lieb-Williams proposed planning a retreat for the fall Council meeting. She notes that a retreat would be an excellent way to go back to basics and continue to bridge any division remaining on the Council.

Patrick Reinhart asked committee members to notify the Council of conflicts they have with scheduling a meeting in mid-September through late October.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus requested that before the retreat, staff make sure that materials are accessible to all Council members and that they provide a mentoring opportunity before and during the Council meeting for those who would like to have it. **Dave Fleurant** suggested that a pre-meeting for new Council members would be valuable to orient new members to Council business.

Patrick Reinhart noted that there are vacancies on the Executive Committee. If members are interested in serving as a chair on either the Employment Committee or the Self Advocacy and Leadership Committee (SALC), please forward that interest to **Chair Lieb-Williams** within a week for consideration. **Patrick Reinhart** agreed to alert all Council members of the opportunity. He also shared that the Executive Committee meetings are open to all Council members.

Upcoming Events and Committee Meetings

Tabled.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHECK-IN

Lizette Stiehr expressed her appreciation for the Council and its work and has always supported the partnership between AADD and the Council.

Director Lee stated that he is proud to be a member of the Council. He found it interesting that the national talk has been focused on inclusion, which they think is a new thing, and he feels like Alaska was working on inclusion before it was cool.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lieb-Williams voiced her appreciation to the staff at the Council and the Council members for their time and dedication.

Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich **MOVED** to adjourn the Council's summer meeting, **SECONDED** by **Dave Fleurant**. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.