



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

Council Orientation

Updated August 2014



COUNCIL MISSION

Create change
that improves the
lives of people
with disabilities

COUNCIL VISION

- **Self Determination**
 - People have choices, flexibility and control over the services and supports they receive
- **Employment**
 - People get and keep employment consistent with their interests and abilities
- **Housing**
 - People live in accessible, affordable and safe homes in the community
- **Health**
 - People are healthy and benefit from the full range of needed health care services
- **Education**
 - Students reach their educational goals, hopes and dreams
- **Early Intervention**
 - Children receive the needed prevention and early intervention services
- **Community**
 - Every individual is a valued, participating member of their community

COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education

State Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Advisory Panel on Special Education

State Interagency Council on Infants and Toddlers With Disabilities

Governing Board of the Special Education Service Agency (SESA)

Beneficiary Board of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

COUNCIL GRANTS AND PROJECTS

- **Federal Grants**
 - Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative
 - Health and Emergency Preparedness

- **Projects**
 - Project SEARCH
 - ASPEN
 - Trust Employment First Initiative
 - Micro Enterprise Program

GENERAL COUNCIL INFORMATION

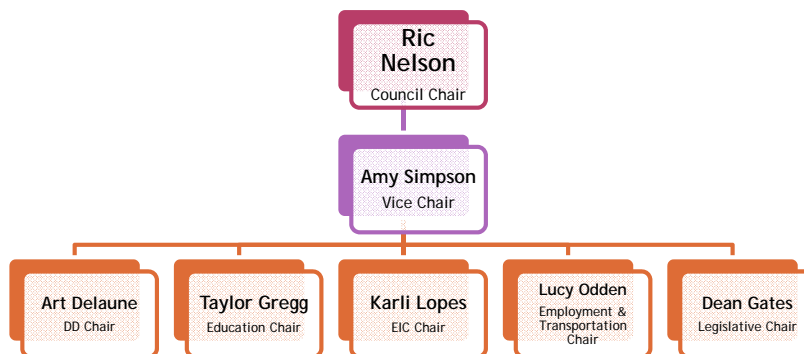
- **28 Council members appointed by the Governor**
- **3 meetings per year: in person for 3 days**
 - **October** in Anchorage focus on work plans and training
 - **January** in Juneau focus on advocacy
 - **May** in Anchorage focus on evaluation and planning
- **Committees: meet monthly by teleconference**
 - **Developmental Disability**
 - **Education**
 - **Early Intervention**
 - **Legislative**
 - **Employment and Transportation**
 - **Health and Disabilities**
 - **Executive**

COUNCIL WEBSITE

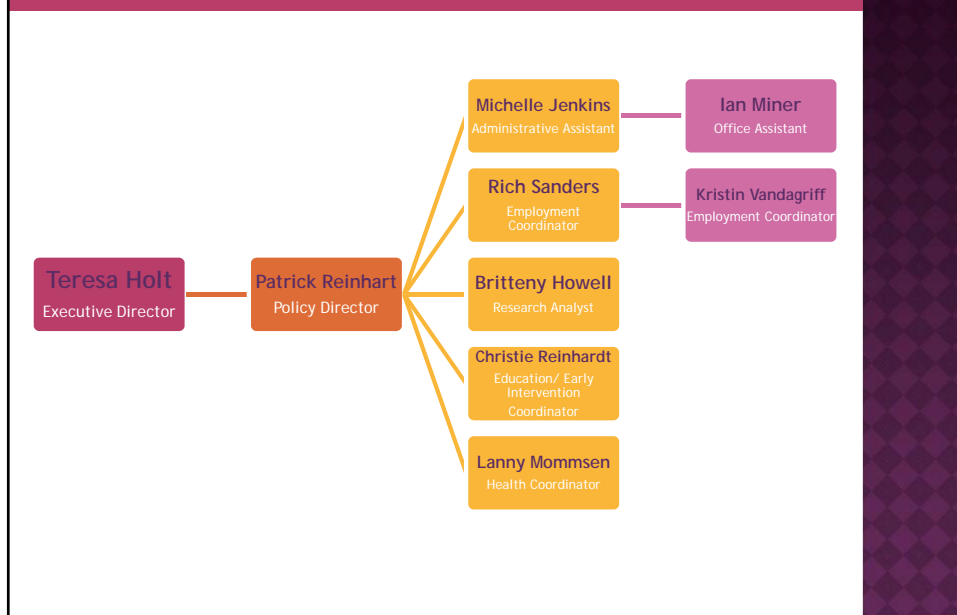
[HTTP://DHSS.ALASKA.GOV/GCDSE/PAGES/DEFAULT.ASPX](http://DHSS.ALASKA.GOV/GCDSE/PAGES/DEFAULT.ASPX)

- About the Council page
 - State Plan
 - Bylaws
 - Council member roster
 - Federal laws (DD Act, IDEA)
- Committee pages in column on right of page
 - Information about the committee
 - Agendas and meeting minutes
 - work plans
 - information and links

COUNCIL POSITIONS



COUNCIL STAFF



COUNCIL MEMBER DUTIES

- Develop, implement, and monitor State Plan
- Set annual priorities and develop annual work plans
- Monitor state systems: regulations, policies, and procedures
- Evaluate Council activities and outcomes
- Focus resources and activities on priorities
- Develop leaders and advocates
- Hire, supervise, and evaluate executive director

COUNCIL MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attend and participate in Council meetings; prepare for meetings
- Actively participate on at least 1 Council committee
- Complete tasks and respond to email in a timely manner
- Notify the Chair or staff if unable to make a meeting, have to leave early, or will be arriving late
- Keep track of your travel expenses and turn in required receipts promptly
- Learn about different service systems and issues in your area: seek stakeholder input on priority issues
- Participate in public policymaking activities
- DO NOT represent or speak on behalf of the Council without permission

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

◉ Purpose

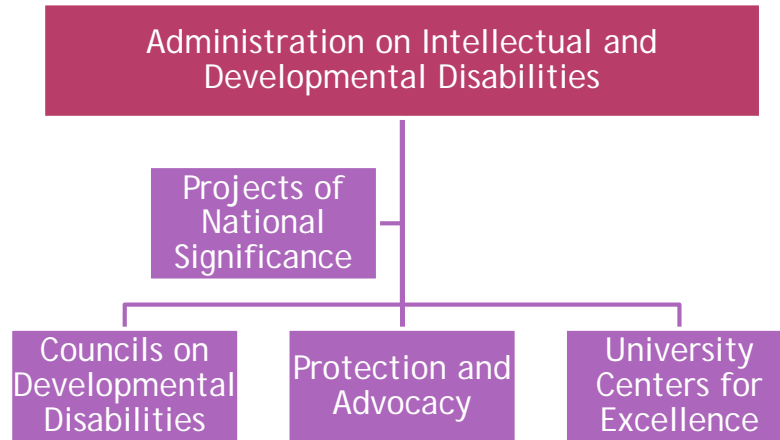
- Advocacy
- Systems change
- Capacity building

◉ Community Services

- Consumer- and family-centered
 - ◉ Individualized supports
- Consumer- and family-directed
 - ◉ Self-determination



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

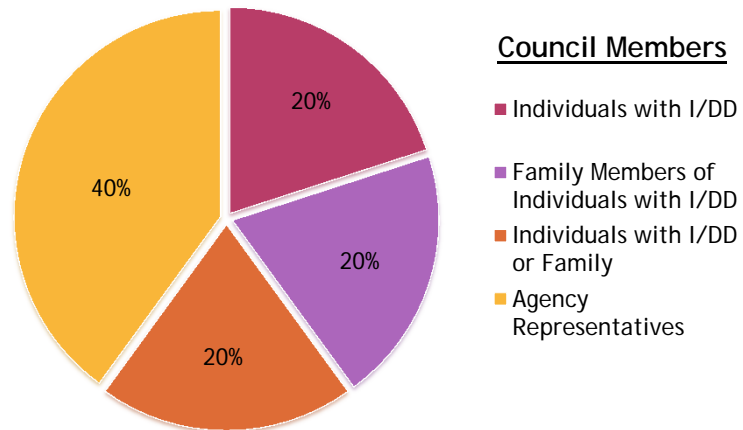


DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

◉ Current 5-Year Plan: 2011-2016

- **Advocacy and Leadership**
 - Peer Power
 - Key Campaign
- **Community Choice and Supports**
 - Quality Assurance
 - Recreation
- **Housing**
- **Transportation**
- **Employment**
- **Early Intervention**
 - Childcare
- **Education**
- **Health**

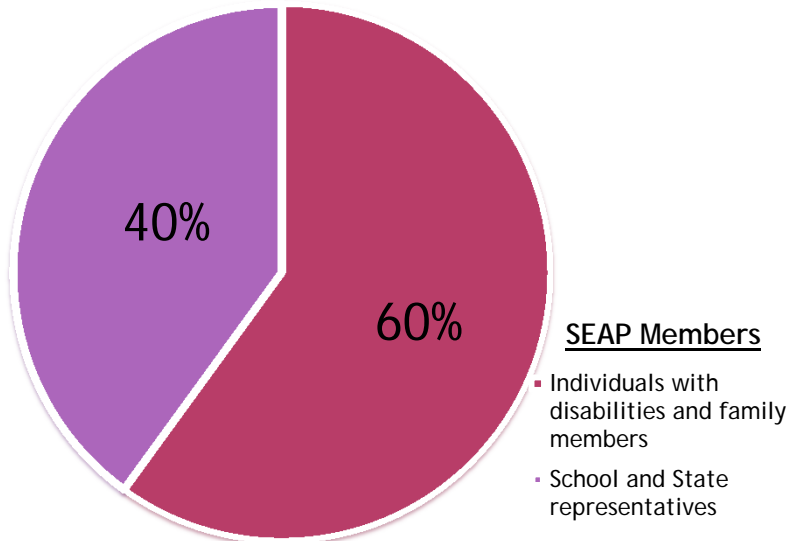
WHO ARE COUNCIL MEMBERS?



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL


- ◉ Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), every state has a Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)
- ◉ The Governor's Council serves as Alaska's SEAP
- ◉ The Education Committee is the workgroup for the SEAP
- ◉ The Education Committee is made up of representatives from stakeholder groups

WHO ARE SEAP MEMBERS?



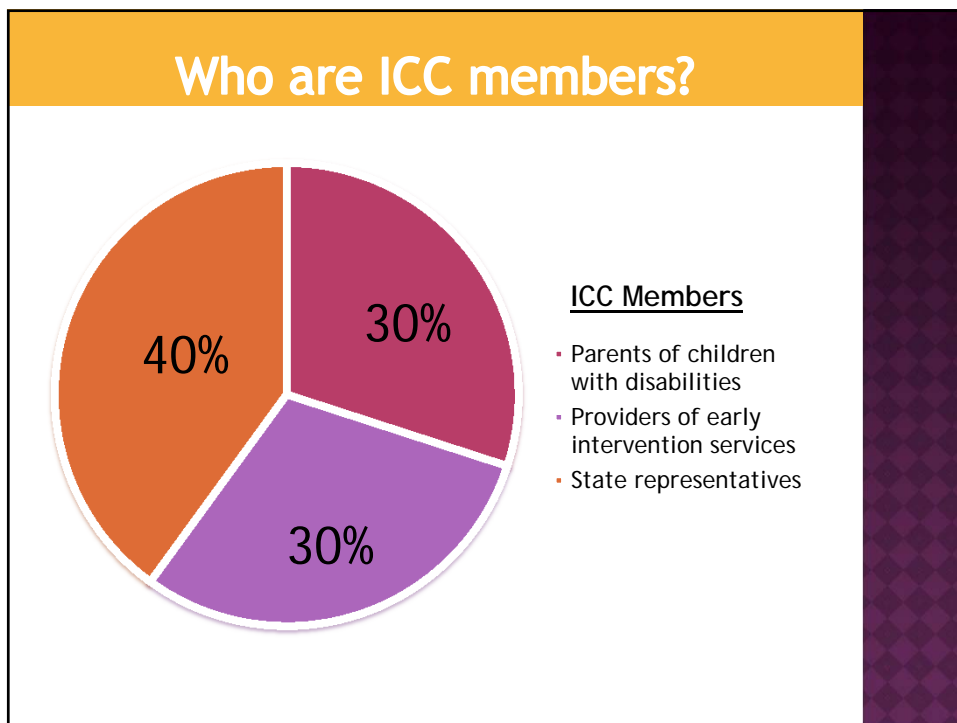
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL

- ◉ Advise on unmet needs within the state
- ◉ Comment publicly on any rules or regulations
- ◉ Advise in developing evaluations
- ◉ Advise in developing corrective action plans
- ◉ Advise in policies on coordination of services
- ◉ Review and comment on completed due process hearing findings



Interagency Coordinating Council

- ◉ Under IDEA Part C, every state has an Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities
- ◉ The Governor's Council serves as the ICC
- ◉ The Early Intervention Committee is the workgroup for the ICC
- ◉ The EIC is made up of representatives from stakeholder groups





Interagency Coordinating Council

- ◉ Advise on unmet needs
- ◉ Review and comment on rules and regulations
- ◉ Identification of program supports and services
- ◉ Promotion of interagency agreements
- ◉ Transition of toddlers to preschool
- ◉ Report annually on the status of early intervention programs
- ◉ Advise other agencies about the integration of services

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY SESA

SESA Mission

SESA provides consultation and training to support the unique educational needs of individuals and the Alaskan communities that serve them

◉ **SESA Programs**

- Low Incidence Disabilities (LID)
- Alaska Autism Resource Center (AARC)
- Educational Transition Support Project (ETSP)
- Alaska Deaf Blind Project (DSI)
- Guiding and Investing in New Special Educators (GAINS)



SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY

LID program serves students who have the following disabilities:

- ❖ *autism*
- ❖ *Deaf, deaf-blind*
- ❖ *cognitive impairment*
- ❖ *hearing impairment*
- ❖ *Blind, visual impairment*
- ❖ *orthopedic disability*
- ❖ *severe emotional disturbance*
- ❖ *multiple disabilities*
- ❖ *other health impairments*

SESA BOARD MEMBERS



Terese Kashi, Taylor Gregg, Eric Gebhart, PJ Ford Slack, Ernie Manzie, Diane George, Don Enoch, Dan Kaasa, Milton Cheemuk



ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

- ◉ Perpetual Trust (like a private foundation)
- ◉ Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan and Program
- ◉ Trust Beneficiaries
 - Mental illness
 - Developmental disabilities
 - Chronic alcoholism
 - Alzheimer's and related dementia
 - Brain injury

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY FOCUS AREAS

- ❖ Housing and Beneficiary Projects
- ❖ Disability Justice
- ❖ Workforce Development
- ❖ Beneficiary Employment & Engagement
- ❖ Alcohol abuse

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY TRUSTEES



Mike Barton



William Doolittle



Laraine Derr



Larry Norene



Mary Jane Michael

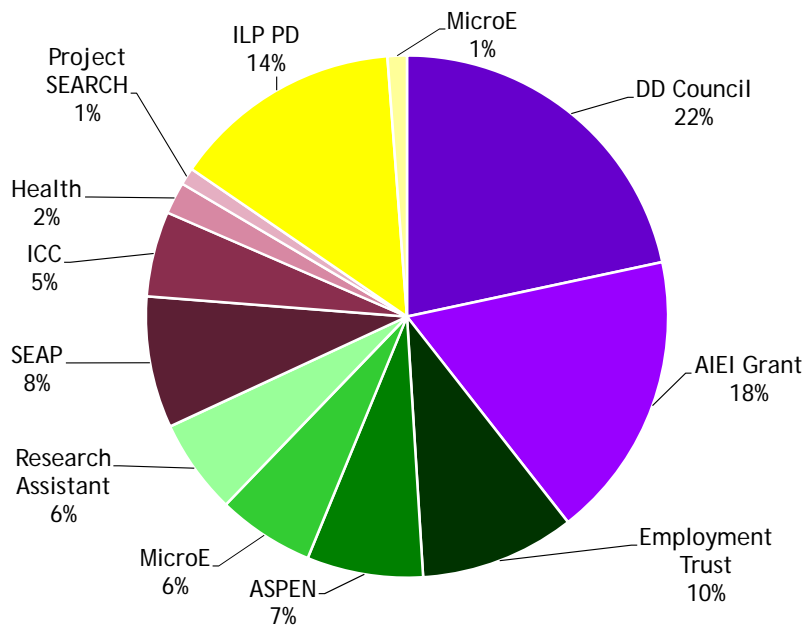


Paula Easley

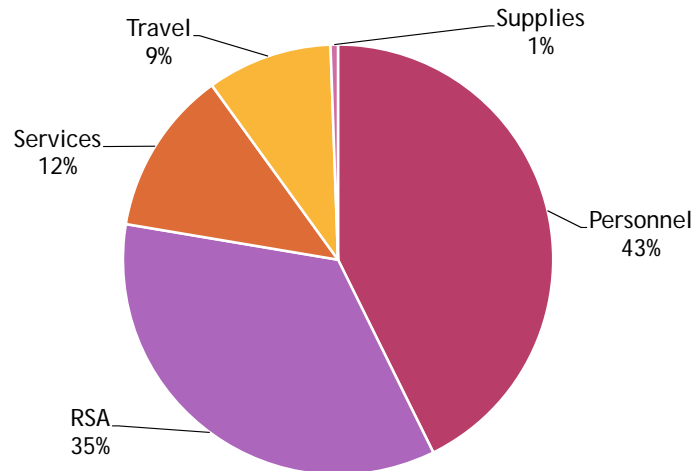


Russ Webb

COUNCIL INCOME



COUNCIL EXPENSES



BOARD ETHICS

- ⦿ **Ethics for statutorily created boards**
 - Misuse of position
 - Improper gifts
 - Improper use or disclosure of information
 - Improper influence in state grants, contracts, leases, or loans
 - Improper representation
 - State employment restriction after leaving Council
 - Disclosures

You can find more information at:

<http://www.law.state.ak.us/doclibrary/ethics/EthicsInfoBC.html>

or in Alaska Statute 39.52

<http://www.law.state.ak.us/doclibrary/ethics/EthicsAct.html>

TRAVEL FOR COUNCIL

- ◉ **Members often travel to:**
 - Council meetings
 - advocate on behalf of the Council
 - conferences
- ◉ **Forms you need to complete:**
 - Travel Worksheet
 - Sign Authorization Form
 - Non-Employee Travel Agreement
 - Personal Care Attendant Estimate Form (if needed)
 - Respite Services Estimate Form (if needed)
- ◉ **Receipts you need to keep:**
 - Boarding passes (must have a paper copy)
 - Hotel invoice
 - Transportation receipts (taxi, airport shuttle, etc)
 - NO FOOD receipts needed
 - Receipts need to be turned in 5 days after travel is completed
- ◉ **Who to contact:**
 - Ian Miner 2690-8990
 - Michelle Jenkins 269-8993

PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE

- ◉ Every individual deserves to be treated with respect
- ◉ Emphasizes the person first
- ◉ Recognizes the person is not a disability
- ◉ Don't use terms that label, generalize, stereotype, devalue, or discriminate
- ◉ Unless it is relevant to the conversation, don't refer to the person's disability
- ◉ **Examples:**
 - Use "person with a developmental disability" not "disabled person"
 - Say "person who uses a wheelchair" not "wheelchair-bound person"
 - Use "accessible parking/bathrooms" instead of "handicapped parking/bathrooms"
 - Consider using "diverse ability" instead of "disability"