

Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education Legislative Update



TUESDAY JANUARY 15TH BEGAN THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 25TH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE IN JUNEAU. DURING THE SESSION, THE GCDSE IS KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE BY MONITORING LEGISLATIVE ACTION AND TRACKING BILLS THAT RELATE TO ISSUES CONCERNING HEALTH, EDUCATION, DISABILITIES AND SERVICES IN THE STATE OF ALASKA.

Volume 2, Issue 1

Thursday February 21, 2008

Governor's Council's Legislative Priorities Update

Expanded Diagnostic Capacity
In House Social Services Finance
Subcommittee's **Recommendation**

Thank subcommittee members for
their support

Workforce Training on Autism Intervention
In Governor's Budget
NOT in House Social Services Finance
Subcommittee's **Recommendation**

Take Action!
Request that Workforce Training funding be added
to the final budget

Rate Freeze Catch-Up
In House Social Services Finance
Subcommittee's **Recommendation**

Thank subcommittee members for
their support

Let Your Voice be Heard

The House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) has released its final recommendations for the FY 2009 DHSS budget. The Subcommittee expanded diagnostic services for autism spectrum disorders and funded the rate increase for Medicaid providers; however, the subcommittee did not recommend the council's request for workforce training on autism intervention services (\$125,000 Trust and \$125,000 GF/MH). The Council believes that once diagnosed, children with Autism Spectrum Disorders need access to intensive early intervention services provided by a trained workforce; these funds would ensure Alaska has an adequately trained workforce.

On Thursday, February 21st at 1:30, the full House Finance Committee (Representatives Chenault and Meyer, Co-Chairs, Stoltze, Harris, Hawker, Kelly, Thomas, Crawford, Gara, Joule, Nelson) will take up consideration of the budget, and will take testimony from the public beginning on Friday, February 23. The Committee will take testimony from specific communities as follows:

Friday, February 22. 4:00 – 5:30: Anchorage

Saturday, February 23.

10:00 – 11:30: Kenai, Valdez, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Seward, Mat-Su, Glennallen, Tok.

11:45 – 1:00: Bethel, Kotzebue, barrow, Nome, Delta Junction, Offnets

2:00 – 3:15: Sitka, Wrangell, Petersburg, Homer, Dillingham, Cordova

3:30 – 5:00: Fairbanks

Monday, February 25. 1:30 – 3:00: Juneau.

Please take time to write, call, e-mail or provide testimony in person

Deadline to Register to VOTE in Anchorage April 2, 2008 Election is March 1