

Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities meeting 09-03-15

ADA 25th Anniversary Open house is this evening at the Viridian Center from 4:00 – 5:30, we encourage everyone to attend.

UVU is having a disability awareness week with an agency fair, keynote speaker who is a current UVU student, a film showing, and guest speakers. They will send a flyer for dissemination to the Coalition.

The Utah Autism Coalition has been working with several groups to raise awareness about upcoming changes in law. The insurance law is changing in January. There will be an informational meeting on the 28th of this month; they will send us a flyer for dissemination as well.

The Brain Injury Conference is next month; Kris will send out more information about this.

Joyce reported on interim meetings. There has been a lot of discussion regarding medical marijuana. They are weighing pros and cons. We are seeing a few bills in the works. This issue took up most of the HHS Interim Committee's time this summer.

A healthcare expansion meeting was held yesterday. There is still not a formal plan, but there is a lot of speculation. The big question is still how to pay for it. There is discussion about raising the food tax again. Americans for Progress have come into the State and are holding meetings opposing expansion. The Governor would like to call a special session before next year, but has not done so yet.

USOR has a new Director; his name is Darin Brush. There has been quite a shuffle with the staff in that agency. Darin came from the Community Housing Development Agency, and DWS before that. One of the LCPD's members voiced some concern about the Order of Selection. USOR's audit will be held in Interim meeting on the 8th, there is a recommendation within to move USOR from Education to Workforce Services. Many of us are opposed to that move.

Sunny explained that she has concerns with how the DSPD rate increase was disseminated and rolled out by providers. Some providers put 100% of new revenue to DSP salaries, while others gave pay increases to other staff positions as well, such as behaviorists, nurses, and professional parents. There is concern that Social Services Appropriations committee members will take issue with this and the 3 year plan could be jeopardized. Kris will ask Paul Smith and Charlie Luke to attend the next Coalition meeting so that we can all get on the same page for approaching the Legislature this coming year.

Joyce reported that she and a few others met with the legislative analysts, and took their funding priorities for next year. There were a few families present that were interested in increasing funding for the pilot waiver.

Funding priorities include ongoing funding for people coming off of the DSPD waiting list, the second year of rate increases for DSPD providers, mandatory additional needs, youth aging out of DCFS services needing DSPD services, and additional funding for those on the DSPD waiting list. Joyce made a motion to support these priorities in that order; passed.

Kris reported that Independent Living also met with the Legislative Analysts. They have concerns regarding communication between the ILCs and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. They are very concerned about USOR moving to DWS, as their funding is passed through USOR. They are requesting on-going money to replace the one-time funding they have had the past couple of years. They have also requested an appropriation for the AT fund. Motion to support those requests; passed.

There have been many changes at USOE. There is a new Superintendent, new Financial Officer, new Assistant Superintendents; they have experienced quite a bit of upheaval.

Baby Watch is putting together a presentation for the Health Department in hopes that they can secure an appropriation this year.

Senator Hatch and the Governor will be in attendance at the Dinner tonight; must have tickets to attend. The Open House is open to everyone; everyone is encouraged to attend.

Adjourn.