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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Zoom Meeting

Thursday, May 28, 2020

9:00 AM – 9:58 AM

WORK SESSION NOTES

The Board reserves the right to enter into Executive Session for matters allowed by law.

1. FY21 SESA Budget Review (see full budget document)

Genevieve Hollins (AKEBS)

- SESA received unexpected funds, had staff vacancies, and received 3 premium holidays from the Political Subdivision
- The number of public trainings for FY20 was low, FY19 public training number was used as prediction for FY21
- SESA has not been effected in terms of employees that are impacted by COVID-19 so it does not qualify for the CARES Act funding
- No changes to overall AARC grant
- AARC budget is entered into the Grant Management System where it can be reviewed and approved by DEED
- DB grant is a direct Fed grant on a 5 yr cycle

2. Eligibility Criteria for SESA Services

Patrick Pillai, Executive Director

- In the past, SESA's policy was to reduce services when a site has 10 students with a common LID category. SESA is looking to increase that number to 20.
- During the legislative audit, three school districts were found to have more than 10 students with a common disability. Each one of those school districts had corresponded with SESA to explain why they still had continuing need of services despite exceeding the threshold.
- SESA's MD team serves students with intellectual disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, early childhood developmental delay, multiple disabilities, and traumatic brain injury.

- Increasing the threshold will not negatively impact the specialists providing the services. If the number of students exceeds SESA staff capacity in the future, a wait list will be created.

3. Acceptance of Electronic Signatures and Records

Patrick Pillai, Executive Director

- SESA is in the process of converting to a paperless documentation process. COVID-19 has created an increased need for electronic documentation.
- According to the auditors, if the information that would be in a paper file is available in the electronic file, SESA can go paperless.
- SESA is working on redesigning the referral process to be in line with the existing student database.
- In anticipation of implementation of the electronic referral process, SESA needs to create a policy addressing the acceptance of electronic signatures and records.

4. SESA Legislative Audit

Patrick Pillai, Executive Director

- The audit went well.
- SESA will redesign its operational process to avoid input errors in capturing the primary disability from the IEP.
- SESA will redesign the referral form to clearly indicate district requests for program services when they are different from the primary disability.
- SESA will also redesign the status of service from sent to Special Education Directors to indicate the provision of SESA service in a program area other than that of the primary disability.

5. SESA Board Vote to Elect a Treasurer

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Board Chair

- The treasurer looks through the financial documents as presented during the meetings.
- Josh Gill was nominated and accepted the nomination