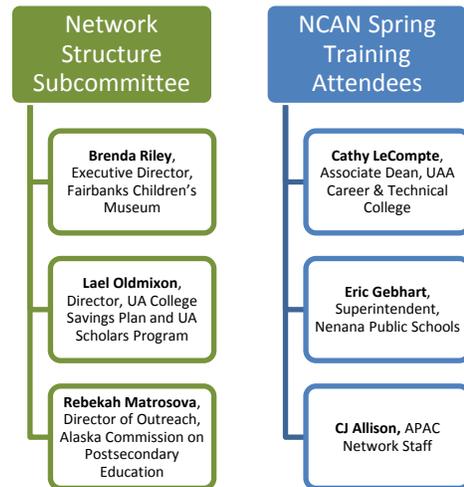


### Meeting Purpose

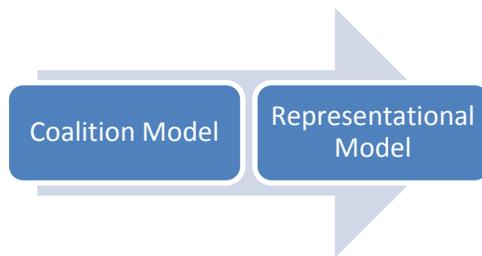
The Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network planning team convened in Anchorage to review research, recommendations, and tools reported on by members of the Network Structure Subcommittee, and members who attended the National College Access Network (NCAN) Spring Training on Coalition Building in March 2014. This review prepares the planning team to develop an Alaska network structured to: create synergy, reduce duplication of effort, disseminate best practices, and develop common public messaging themes for Alaska programs, agencies and organizations to encourage and support students' credential attainment.



### Network Structure Subcommittee

#### Governance Models:

The subcommittee presented potential governance models for a statewide network and associated recommendations. The full planning team currently functions in a collaborative Coalition Model -



appropriate at this stage in the network's expansion. The subcommittee recommended developing a long-term vision for transition to a more formal Representational Model, governed by an elected board, providing core member services, and potentially collecting membership fees, for a sustainable operations model.

The group discussed potential benefits and barriers to network expansion arising from imposition of a membership fee. Core network services and clear, easily understood benefits would need to be at least identified, if not demonstrated, prior to establishing fees. However, a well-designed and appropriate fee structure could strengthen the network's ability to benefit members in the long term.

#### Organization Home:

The subcommittee presented benefits and challenges to three options for housing the network after the incubation period at ACEP: 1) remain with ACEP, 2) transfer to another non-profit organization, or 3) create a new backbone organization with the sole purpose of managing network activity. Formation of a new non-profit backbone organization provided the most flexibility, as the other options would confine network activities to the scope of the host organization's core mission and be subject to any existing organizational constraints. In addition, members felt most non-profits across the state currently operate at maximum capacity in support of existing activities and therefore lack capacity to devote sufficient attention to the network.



**Membership Structure & Tax Exempt Statuses:**

**401(c)3**

- Strict structure requirements
- Membership dues possible, not required
- Political activity restricted
- Donations ARE tax-deductible
- Maximum eligibility for grants

**401(c)4**

- More structure flexibility
- Membership dues common, no specific requirements
- Political activity permitted for specific purposes
- Donations are NOT tax-deductible

**401(c)6**

- More structure flexibility
- Membership dues required at meaningful level
- Political activity permitted
- Donations are NOT tax-deductible

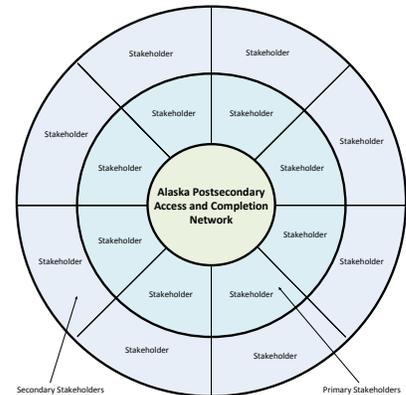
The subcommittee reviewed primary options for network structure and tax-exempt statuses. Fundraising capability and structure of membership dues were the most distinct differences between the three types considered, with 401(c)3 affording the most flexibility. Organizations with 401(c)4 and 401(c)6 have less ability to qualify for and receive grant funds.

The subcommittee recommended consideration of a 401(c)3 status for the future backbone organization supporting the network, the most common status found among other national networks and backbone organizations. Members elected to return to this

information at a later time, when the planning team has more defined strategies identified for future network activity and is ready to consider creation of the new backbone organization.

**The Coalition Building Process**

Eric Gebhart and Cathy LeCompte attended training on coalition building, provided by the National College Access Network (NCAN), on March 26, 2014. Key takeaways presented included the concept that the process of coalition building is equally important to the product(s) developed. The training provided a model for establishing a strong, collaborative coalition, and several tools that can be used to evaluate and strengthen member understanding and participation.



**Stakeholder Mapping:**

One of the tools presented mapped the roles of currently engaged partners, at various appropriate levels of involvement, while identifying missing stakeholders. This tool was presented in an early draft format, and members discussed the possible formation of a subcommittee to develop a more comprehensive version for future use.

**Collaborative Assessment Tool:**

Training attendees also highlighted the Collaborative Assessment Tool, developed and provided by the Institute for Coalition Building. This tool is designed to help coalitions: strengthen collaboration, align efforts, and create action plans.

**Next Steps**

A Strategy Subcommittee will review current network strategies and develop recommendations for a strategies work session at the next meeting

The Collaborative Assessment Tool will be converted into an electronic survey to be distributed to all planning team members

The Collaborative Assessment Subcommittee will convene after survey completions to review responses and develop recommendations