

# STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**ADVISORY BOARD ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE**  
**and ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

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**Alaska Mental Health Board**  
**Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse**  
BTKH Quarterly Meeting  
FY09 Family Voice Funding recap  
FY10 planning

## **FY09**

### **Family Voice Monthly Teleconferences**

The Family Voice monthly teleconferences ended prior to my coming to this position. Apparently the teleconferences dwindled to slight attendance and participation therefore they were discontinued due to very little impact gained.

### **Children's behavioral Health Conference January '09**

Intent; Collaborate and assist with funding travel for parents and youth to participate with the conference in Anchorage. Lesson learned; there ended up being sufficient scholarships available this year for families to attend the conference. In the planning process of this conference we suggested adding a youth/ and family track with would provide training for advocacy efforts. Due to time limits we may look into developing this further in the future.

### **System of Care**

\$5,000 of this year's funding was earmarked to be used as match funds upon approval/ receipt of the grant. Implementation would begin in October '09. This 20% of the overall funds will provide opportunities for youth and families from the Anchorage area to have input in developing the 'System of Care' program and demonstration. Inclusion of families in the planning and development of this system will have a positive impact on the implementation. As we are at this point unsure if this will be awarded this will go unfunded this year but hopefully can be allocated FY10.

### **BTKH Quarterly Meeting/ Legislative Advocacy**

This year the cost for the 6 people traveling to Juneau for Family Voice is \$6,471.66, which includes travel and lodging. This does not include incidental costs such as cab fare and airport parking.

### **Rural Community Visits**

The boards conducted a community town hall visits project, funded by the Trust. We have visited 4 communities, holding meetings with community members, and providers to hear how the behavioral health system is serving the community and what unmet needs there are in the area. We have been to Ketchikan, Haines, Homer, and Nome. These visits have provided opportunities for families to be able to offer feedback on the systems barriers and successes with services in the community. A family who participated in the meetings during this visit had planned to participate this week as well but unfortunately was unable. They are interested in

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participating in the future. We had hoped to use some Family Voice funding to provide the and individualized opportunity for families in the areas surrounding locations we'll visit to participate. This did not come together unfortunately but overall we have a great amount of contacts to work with in the future. Reports will be available on our websites next week.

## **School and Transition BKTH Planning**

We worked to bring families to this meeting but for various reasons this did not come to be.

For FY09 we spent \$6,454 of our \$25,000 Family Voice dollars. All money was spent on travel. The intended funds had totaled closer to \$15,000.

## **FY10**

These funds have been underused in the past two years. You may have received an email from me recently but I am looking at putting together a plan for this year and would like to comprise a team to do this. I am looking at holding a meeting either the last week of August or first week of September to map out how to spend these funds for the year. If you have interest in participating in this please let me know, I would like to schedule this by next week.

## **FFTA Conference August**

We are hopefully going to sponsor attendance for a group to attend Foster Family Based Treatment Conference in Atlanta in August. This group could potentially include a AYFN Youth Navigator, Facing Foster Care representative, a foster parent and a parent to attend the conference but also participate in ongoing planning and advocacy efforts. The estimated cost/person is around \$2,000.

## **FASD Conference**

Juneau group to hold another Southeast Regional FASD conference February 18-20<sup>th</sup> in Juneau in conjunction with the Legislature for advocacy efforts. Family voice funds to used to offer a number of scholarships to bring youth and families from rural and hub areas to participate in the conference and hill visits.

## **System of Care Match funds**

As mentioned above for the previous year, if this grant is awarded then \$5,000 will be used to match these funds and provide youth and families opportunities to participate in planning and development.

Family Voice "funding is directed to the Alaska Mental Health Board to be used to encourage meaningful input from parents and youth in advocacy regarding policy as the Bring the Kids Home initiative is planned and implemented.