

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** November '09 BTKH Quarterly Meeting Family Voice Funding

Planning Meetings

In September a planning meeting was held where Brita Bishop, Fran Purdy, Shirley Pittz, Steve Krall, Bradley Grigg, Amanda Metivier, Paul Cornils, Barb Chambers, Renee Leyland, and Bill Herman attended. It was held primarily to discuss how the funds will be spent this year and to identify who would be working to further the priorities set in the plan. Subsequent planning meetings have been held to plan for specific events or priorities.

FFTA Conference Atlanta, Georgia

In July \$5,000 was used to sponsor attendance to the Family Foster Based Treatment Association Conference in Atlanta, Georgia for AYFN parent navigator, Paul Cornils, Facing Foster Care State-Wide Coordinator, and Amanda Metivier who both are also foster parents. Others who attended the conference were Courtney King, DJJ, Brita Bishop, BTKH, Doug White and Staff from Alaska Children Services and me. In October, a few who attended shared gained information via teleconference.

BTKH Transition Age Youth Policy Summit, Anchorage

November 6-7 we held a BTKH Transition Age Youth Policy Summit where we invited youth from around the state through several agencies and venues. Amanda Metivier spearheaded the event and was the lead in planning and arranging the event. We had 13 youth attend, including two people from Craig. Family Voice funds were used for travel for this event. This event was designed with the intention of gaining input for the BTKH Youth in Transition Charter Document. [Verbal report on the Event]

BTKH Quarterly Meeting/ Legislative Advocacy, Juneau

This year we have around \$7,000 earmarked for youth and family to come and participate in the February 15-17th quarterly meeting in Juneau, this amount is based on last year's expenditures for travel and lodging. This year there is a smaller group of the planning committee meeting to plan for youth and family involvement in the upcoming quarterly meeting in Juneau. This year we will be incorporating much more training in working with youth and families who attend and participate in advocacy efforts. We will be holding our next meeting upstairs after this meeting convenes tomorrow.

FASD Southeast Conference, Juneau

A Juneau group is going to hold a second Southeast Regional FASD conference February 18-20th. The conference will be held in Juneau in conjunction with the Legislature. Those attending the conference will also be advocating for FASD services and support. \$4000 of Family voice funds will be used to offer scholarships to bring youth and families in from rural and hub areas to participate in the conference and hill visits.

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System of Care

Last year we earmarked \$5,000 of the year's funding to be used as match funds upon approval/ receipt of the grant. We received notice we were not awarded the grant but were encouraged to re-apply after adjusting with review feedback addressed. The feedback was overall encouraging but due to current Open Minds system review and the relatively large amount of infrastructure required it makes the most sense to wait to resubmit after consultation is complete. This decision was made last week so this earmarked funding is available for other opportunities.

As of 11/9/09 we have spent \$7,300 so far out of our \$25,000 Family Voice '09 funds. This does not reflect all funds spent for the youth summit as it just occurred on the 6th-7th and some of those receipts will be in later this week.

This year with the formation of a plan we anticipate these funds will be successfully utilized. Some of the challenges in past years have been in the timeline for adequate time for travel arrangements and planning of events. This year with a plan that identifies who will participate and what our planning cutoffs are we will see a dramatic increase in the funds used. Planning ahead is Key.

Also with the intent of the funds to increase Family and Youth voice be included it is encouraged that we make *our* efforts for opportunities to be more welcoming and more youth and family friendly. This includes using person first language, seating dynamics in meetings and agendas reflect being inclusive.