



Alaska FASD Partnership Steering Committee Meeting MINUTES – August 18, 2010

Members present

Cheri Scott, Anchorage
Bob Froehle, Nome
Cindy Anderson, Anchorage
Vicki Tinker, Kenai
Alex Edwards, Anchorage
Monica Leinberger, Bethel
Geri Benshoof, North Pole
Kathy Fitzgerald, Anchorage
Joe Dingman, Barrow

Staff present

Teri Tibbett, Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Teresa Holt, Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education

I. Select a permanent chair for the AK FASD Partnership Steering Committee

Cheri suggested inviting newer/younger members into leadership roles. Monica and Kathy volunteered to co-chair. The membership agreed and both accepted the roles. Monica chaired the meeting.

II. Discuss additional members to Steering Committee

Geri – Moved to approve draft letter to commissioners to send a representative to join the Steering Committee. Including the following departments: Education and Early Development (DEED), Health & Social Services (DHSS), Labor (DOL), Corrections (DOC), Public Safety (DPS) and Courts; and to Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC).

Motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Teri will send the letter to the commissioners.

III. Discuss goals/objectives

Kathy – One primary goal is to address the lack of service system for people affected by FASD.

Geri – Asked to establish some short term goals related to the organization of the steering committee and take the time to think things through in developing long term goals.

Vicki – Agreed that it is important to take time to narrow down the priorities.

Teresa – Suggested the group might follow a similar structure to the Autism initiative: 1) members poll a large stakeholder group who present all the needs they can think of, 2) items are broken into several categories, 3) identify “low-hanging fruit” (things that are easily accomplished now).

Kathy - Suggested using the SE-AK FASD Conference Report as a starting point.

Monica – Agreed about narrowing the list. Suggested the most important issue in her purview is services for people diagnosed with FASD.

Kathy – Would like to see a seamless system for people with FASD that isn’t tied to their cognitive ability (IQ). People need services based on functional ability, not IQ, and structured similarly how it’s done in the Developmental Disabilities (DD) community where people receive individual supports at the level they need. In order to do this they need trained professionals, case management, family supports, etc.

Joe - Asked if there was an outreach process for diagnosis.

Cheri – Explained there are 10 diagnostic teams statewide operating at different levels. Talked about the need for a traveling team for areas that do not have local teams.

Vicki – Even if we have sufficient diagnostic ability, there aren’t enough appropriate services available.

Cheri – Need to make services consistent and lifelong. The pattern has been that services are taken away after a time. Need to have the education component to ensure policymakers and funders understand the need to keep the services ongoing.

Geri – Education component is important – educating the general public and professionals about FASD.

Teresa – Suggested finding a way to survey the total membership of the Partnership to see what they think are the service gaps and pair that to what the steering committee determines are its goals.

Cheri – Would like to offer to the steering committee the results of a Survey Monkey Stone Soup Group conducted recently polling people statewide, asking what kind of services are going on in various communities, etc. Received 180 responses from providers and people with FASD and lots of new ideas.

Monica – Offered a recap: 1) more education and training; 2) expanding diagnosis – either by a traveling team or adding more local teams; 3) expanded services; 4) polling the entire membership.

Kathy – Look at how policies can help develop our service systems so we have better outcomes for people with FASD. We need to be asking families and stakeholders to tell us their gaps and needs and suggestions, then follow up with the professionals.

Joe – Suggested breaking it up by region, asking each region to offer what they see are the gaps and solutions.

Monica – Suggested looking at services by age group. Services will vary from age group.

Cheri – Important to look at it from a system of care approach. Long term goal might be developing an adequate system of care. National data offers effective practices – identify them and begin the process

of implementing them in Alaska. Offered an example of what Washington State is doing, screening all foster care children for FASD. Also suggested standardizing training for educators based on best practices, because school districts currently use a wide variety of training. Note: State law requires all teachers, principals and special education teachers to receive FASD training.

Kathy – Suggested there are gaps that can easily be identified, or “low hanging fruit.” Taking on a system is a major undertaking and what is most critical. Need to determine how we get started, what are the basics, and how to move ahead.

Teresa – Offered a list of things to do related to the organization process (get the list) then spring from there off into the direction of developing policy and education measures.

Kathy – Need to have good research.

Cheri – Identify legislators who are supporters of issues related to FASD. Also, take advantage of the Arctic FASD Regional Training Center, which is one of five in the U.S.

Teri – Will send out a list of legislators identified last session as supporters of FASD issues.

Alex – Suggested Arctic FASD Regional Training Center is primarily geared for education and training in the medical field. Will send information to steering committee members about their work.

Monica – Suggested the steering committee initially work toward an easy goal – like sending out a survey to Partnership members, and/or participate in an education campaign for FASD Awareness Day.

Teri – Offered to send out the FASD Awareness Day restaurant promotion templates, and the link to FASD Awareness Day event ideas. Also, to prepare a list of “low-hanging fruit” – items that are ready for advocacy.

Kathy – Suggested a first step could be gathering the data and see what’s needed. Ask Arctic FASD for help identifying the needs related to education and training, and what they can they offer.

Alex – Clarified the center does training for health care professionals – including prevention strategies – for students going into the medical field. They can stretch it somewhat, but their mandate is for health care professionals.

Cindy – Can offer support related to educational supports and transitional services.

Teri – Suggested there are some short term budget and policy goals already established and can prepare a list for the steering committee’s review. New budget items will need to be developed over the year during the regular budget process (April-July).

Kathy – Need to develop a comprehensive package that addresses the whole system of care, not little pieces. This will take time.

Cheri – Need to take the time to do this thoughtfully and right. Building the groundwork will be important.

Vicki – Suggested we have a face-to-face meeting to hammer out some goals.

Kathy – Agreed this would help in designing policies and establishing a direction(s) for work of the Partnership.

Teri – Polled the committee for a good time for a face-to-face meeting of the steering committee. Members present determined early December. Teri will send out a Doodle scheduling email to determine the day.

Cheri – Suggested during face-to-face we offer an overall training in how the legislative budget and Trust process works.

Vicki – Announced a training called “FASD and the Legal System” on Saturday, Sept. 11, with focus on legal system. Anyone is welcome. Asked Teri to send out announcement.

IV. Discuss subcommittees/areas of focus

Tabled for a future meeting.

V. Next meeting:

- Finalize steering committee membership
- Review draft survey for stakeholders
- Review research on best practices from other states (including funding)
- Determine dates for a face-to-face meeting in Anchorage (2-day summit)
- 2nd Wednesday in September at 3pm.
- Future meetings to be 2nd Wednesdays at 3pm