

Alaska FASD Partnership Steering Committee
MINUTES – May 11, 2011



Present: Deb Evensen, Vickie Tinker, Mike Jeffery, Amy Hansen, Stephanie Johnson, Alex Edwards, Tami Eller, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Monica Charles-Leinberger, Teri Tibbett.

I. Legislative Update

Teri: Overview of budget items that passed the legislature and are now waiting for Governor's signature (and possible vetoes): Included Substance Abuse Treatment for At-Risk Parents (\$225,000 to OCS Family Preservation Program); Rural Peer Support Services (\$225,000 to DBH), and more. Also, Trust funds were passed for training for prosecutors, public defenders, Judicial Council, therapeutic courts staff, and more. Teri will send out a more comprehensive report soon. Mike: Regarding treatment for at-risk Parents funding – how does that work when there are no beds available in the community? Tami: OCS is changing its philosophy about treatment, doing protective capacity assessments, motivational interviewing and changing the current model to better work with families to identify what would work for that family. Akeela has a case manager who works with people before/while/after treatment, they are available to help support while the family is waiting a bed (in Anchorage). Anchorage doesn't appear to have a bed shortage. Barrow has outpatient only and they're full, residential has to go out of state, if they don't have insurance, borough has scholarship program. Maybe funnel money to scholarship fund. Teri will follow-up.

II. Workgroups update

Diagnosis Workgroup – Vickie: talked with Albert (Ab) Chudley – an expert who is on the “cutting edge” of research related to FASD, from Manitoba, Canada – about developing a telemedicine network for FASD diagnosis/treatment in Alaska. He is interested in working with us. Planning to invite him to a diagnostic clinicleconference to discuss it. Talked about expanding use of FASD ID card and limitations of having a diagnosis in the criminal justice system (some prosecutors could use it negatively). Follow-up on what's happening with case management funds through DBH – will bring it up at next diagnostic clinic teleconference. Still a lack of services for adults, needs attention. Problems with parents not supporting their children getting a diagnosis – fear of negative outcomes. Still looking for screening tools.

Legal System Workgroup – Stephanie: Final report from Dr. Lee Underwood, of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and Mental Health Technical Assistance Grant – included recommendations:
1) BH unit at McLaughlin Youth Facility (includes cognitive impairments) sub-acute unit to have BH plans. This unit would separate those with cognitive impairments from those with conduct disorders;
2) Western Alaska needs improved screening for people with cognitive impairments and ???, specifically mentions high prevalence of FASD. Next step is a statewide training meeting, covering five priorities – one of the five is to have two staff to deal with youth with an FASD, paired with a class on adolescent development, including developmental stages of those with FASD. First meeting will happen soon to go through the report and develop strategies for fitting in recommendations into division. Mike: last week went to annual judges meeting (overlapped with attorneys meeting). One training was “Procedural Fairness” – trying to make sure things are understandable. Two judges from out of state said if people could understand what the order is they'd be better able to follow it and suggested using more laymen's terms. Another was adolescent brain development training. Also, co-occurring disorders w/panel and

plenary, including CIT program (officers trained to work with mentally challenged people). Mike has completed his positive language bail order. Will send it out to all for review.

Professional Development – Alex: Arctic FASD RTC’s grant is over Sept. 30 – hoping for refunding. They have offered trainings in Anchorage, Juneau, Fairbanks, and will go to Bethel in June. Looking for more training opportunities and funding. Mike: Judicial Council/Conference? has brought the three branches of the legal system together to educate everyone about mental health issues. Good progress being made. Stephanie: BTKH money was passed and is available for setting up safety plans for youth, transitional planning etc. Really helpful for them. Need to be diagnosed with one of these three: mental health AXIS 1, FASD or TBI to apply. Funds must be used in therapeutic manner. Alex needs to resign as chair, and so this workgroup is looking for a new chair.

Adult Services – Tami: Employment guide for employers for serving people with FASD, she’s currently reviewing it and will send it out to us. Will have a workgroup meeting before June steering committee meeting.

Family/Peer Support – Jeanne: Was in touch with local camp facility about using it for an FASD Camp; at mining conference talked with Mayor of NW Arctic Borough and DPS commissioner related to training for VPSOs and troopers for being proactive and prevention/interventions for people with mental health disabilities. Suggests communicating with DPS commissioner and giving him more info. Talked with mayor regarding their weekly call-in show, Jeanne will give bullet points for the show to get discussion out there. Mayor’s daughter is taking a class at UAF and is very interested in FASD. Jeanne did presentations at Stone Soup Conference, and with Shannon Cross at ICWA conference in Anchorage. Will be talking about trainings with Maniilaq Association about providing trainings in the region, including getting a diagnostic team going in Kotzebue. Keep Jeanne in the loop about itinerant telemedicine team.

Education Workgroup – Deb/Monica: Focused on where we go from here, next steps, how to get info out about what’s happening in education world, what support there is already, etc. Next steps, how do we move to the next steps of how to get it into the system, including supporting Monica’s position. Monica still needs support in communicating to her superintendent about how many people are in need in the district and what an important role the FASD Specialist plays. She could still use letters of support. Deb will write up a draft (to come from the Partnership) and send it around for review.

III. Where do we go from here? Monica met with John Simon who is a Kusko 300 musher, who has children with FASD, and is willing to do whatever to promote FASD awareness, such as patch or sign or something to go on his sled or jacket. Jeanne knows a friend of John Baker (winner of Iditarod) and will talk to them about sponsoring FASD, suggests we have stuff (patch, sign, cards) in place already so we have something to present. Monica has met with Valerie Davidson, an attorney from ANTHC in Anchorage who used to work for YKHC, who is willing to be on or find an ANTHC rep to serve on the steering committee. Teri suggested inviting Trish Smith from Volunteers of America to serve on steering committee. Jeanne suggested inviting Shannon Cross to help with adult, waiver and mental health therapy issues and Art from GCDSE. Jeanne suggested inviting to the Education workgroup Deb Kitelinger (AFYN) and Jennifer Jones (GCDSE). Teri suggested starting a couple of ad hoc committees to put special focus on the issues that are making headway, like TeleHealth, FASD Mitigating Factor, Public Relations (to pursue promotional materials for mushers, conferences, FASD ID card, etc.).