

**Alaska FASD Partnership Steering Committee  
Family/Peer Support Workgroup  
June 1, 2011**

**Present:** *Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus (chair), Robyn Priest (Alaska Peer Support Consortium), Trish Smith (Volunteers of America), Kate Sumei (Alaska Court System), Larry and Laura Rorem (parents/ grandparents), Ardyce Turner (birth parent/Office of Children's Services), Teri Tibbett (Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse)*

**I. Alaska Peer Support Consortium (APSC)**

Robyn discussed the meeting schedule of the APSC. They have regular meetings twice a year, and other occasional meetings. At the meetings they discuss statewide issues, have speakers, plan the bi-annual conference, and are looking to promote webinars related to peer support in future. Currently they have an education council to work on training; are working on sending out a newsletter; are looking for topics on peer support to highlight at meetings; are developing trainings in peer support for both rural and urban areas; are working on setting up a "warm line" that people can call if they need someone to talk to before they go into crisis. Discussed the funding passed during the legislative session related to rural peer support services (still waiting governor's signature *Note: Governor signed on June 29*) which will expand grant opportunities for peer support services in rural areas – this funding is different from Peer Navigator Program (which is administered through another section of the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH)). Anyone interested in knowing more or joining the consortium can contact Robyn at [dir@akpeersupport.org](mailto:dir@akpeersupport.org). They're doing statewide travel to promote peer support statewide.

**II. Supports for Adults/Corrections**

Larry and Laura: Talked about their daughter cycling through Hiland Mountain Correction Facility where she's currently getting support services. The problems start when she gets out, when her benefits have stopped and she has no money, so she calls her parents for support, or goes out on her own without supports. Inside she takes her meds, outside, she doesn't get them and so fails and cycles back into corrections. The Rorem's have a daughter, 35, and son, 39, both of whom have cycled in and out of corrections for many years – which they say is directly related to their children's FASD. Noted services come and go as programs and funding come and go. Their children benefit from these programs, but fall apart when they go away. Their daughter has been through the Juneau system and is now working her way through the Anchorage system. Laura has been her children's case manager, and has always done a good job, but as she and her husband age, they are not doing a good job anymore because they are losing energy, the emotional strain, the numerous hoops that have to be jumped through, paperwork, etc. She used to be able to help others navigate the system, but can't do it anymore.

Kate: The courts are seeing more people with FASD coming through the system and the courts are not well versed in how to deal effectively with them. People like the Rorem's daughter need wraparound services. DBH is piloting a project that serves a small group of people through Assets and Choices (in Anchorage?) who provide these kinds of support services. They are hoping to expand the project, including setting up a system to identify people with disabilities, in order to better serve them. She asked "what do families need? What would help?"

Jeanne: Case management, someone who can go through it with them, help them with the process, offer support, and relieve some of the burden. Lots of parents and grandparents dealing with this same thing and its overwhelming.

Laura: The overwhelming nature of it makes parents fail, and subsequently their children fail too, ending up homeless, in prison, into drugs, etc. Lots of parents kick out their adult children with FASD because it's too overwhelming to deal with them. Need respite for families, and case management.

Jeanne: Adults don't get case management – no one to talk to for the caregivers. What does active case management look like?

Ardyce: Quality assurance, making sure the service people are doing their job and are well-trained, or when case manager is providing the service, making sure he/she is well trained. Training in how to do active case management (active meaning going on and on, fluid). Suggested FASD 101 and 201 for everyone.

Kate: After FASD 101 and 201, is there a mechanism to provide technical assistance or consultation for people who are out there?

Jeanne: "FASD into Action" is where the rubber meets the road, it's more specific to the person and how to set up a plan for the individual. Assets does team training – good model.

Teri: Noted that the Dept. of Corrections is working on applying for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Act grant that will identify people with FASD and steer them to a re-entry plan that would include services. *Note: from 6/29/11. DOC was unable to apply for the grant because of difficulty meeting the cash match.*

Trish: VOA across the country has housing for people coming out of prison, and Anchorage is moving in that direction. Talked about Denali Family Service transition age youth 21 and older.

Jeanne: UAA is starting a program through Center for Human Development and the ARC.

**The most important issues are: case management, parent navigators, peer navigators, respite, and independent living program for adults.**

### **III. FASD Camps Update**

Trish: Re: FASD Family Camp grants – she heard they did well on the scoring; they liked the "FASD into Action" piece w/Diane Malbin training, and the fact that they want to expand out (Fairbanks, Palmer, Sitka and Anchorage). Heard interest from another village (near Iliamna). They chose "community ready" and "easy-to-get-to" locations for their first round, but hope to expand to more rural areas. *Note: From 6/25/11 Volunteers of America received the grant to expand the camps, as mentioned above.*

Ardyce- talked about a camp site in Bethel that might be available.

Teri: Plan ahead for next year, get more communities ready to host a camp. To make Trish's job easier, need to identify a location and a team of volunteers and be "camp ready."

Trish: Talked with Tony Piper (ASAP) and Ron Taylor (Parole) who know about FASD issues. She asked Ron how they treat people with FASD when they come up for parole. He said they are looking for ways to deal with people with FASD related to parole.

### **IV. Action Items**

Ardyce: Has been working on these issues for years. Wants to see training be mandatory – go to school boards, health corporations, school districts, etc. and make training mandatory. Make grant conditions include mandatory FASD training. Go on the radio, go to public meetings, etc.

Jeanne: Suggests creating a display board and materials to go from conference to conference (Conference Kit); and packets that can be downloaded and used for letters to the editor, resolutions, talking points, suggestions for in-services, etc. (Advocacy Kits). Also, has permission from school district to offer FASD 101 and 201 in-services.

**ACTION: Jeanne will draft letter to Melissa Stone asking to bring back the FASD diagnostic team in Kotzebue.**

**ACTION: Teri will call Kate Summey about how to interface with the Courts on training, resources; also what is pilot program with Assets & Choices? Contact Tony Piper and Ron Taylor. Also, Develop Conference Kits and Advocacy Kits.**