

**Alaska FASD Partnership
Steering Committee - MINUTES
Wednesday, November 9, 2011**

Action Items in Purple

I. Introductions – Monica Charles Leinberger (Bethel), Deb Evensen (Homer), Art Dulaune (Fairbanks), Jeri Museth (Juneau), Amy Hansen (Mat-Su), Sean O’Brian (DVR), Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus (Kiana), Teri Tibbett (Juneau).

II. Approval of agenda. Approved.

III. Approval of Minutes – 9.21.11. Approved.

IV. Meetings with Education Professionals in Juneau

Deb Evensen and Monica Charles-Leinberger reported on their meetings in Juneau with the representatives of the Association of Alaska School Boards and Alaska Council on School Superintendents, the commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development, and the superintendent of the Juneau School District, in early October.

At a pre-meeting with Deb, Monica, Ric Iannolino (Juneau FASD Clinic), Jeri Museth (Central Council on Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska), Richard Eaton (Juneau School District), and Teri Tibbett (Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse), the group discussed several main points that should be made at the meetings with administrators, including: 1) invite each administrator to be trained in FASD; 2) encourage administrators to start from the ground up to implement changes, for example, invite teachers, students, parents, staff, and principals to work together on an “FASD committee” with the goal of learning about FASD, brainstorming solutions for their school (or district), and working collaboratively to make the changes happen; 3) identify one person in every school (or district) to be the “FASD specialist” or point person who receives advanced training and is available to answer questions, assist in problem solving situations, help develop appropriate interventions, advocate for students, assist with treatment plans, etc.

The meetings with administrators resulted in positive responses from each one, with each agreeing to receive FASD training themselves and support raising awareness among their constituencies. Monica pointed out that when administrators hear meaningful first-hand life stories of working with individuals with FASD, their increased understanding helps push the cause throughout their constituencies. Deb commented on how far we’ve come, that in the early 1990s she had similar meetings with leaders who resisted wanting to know about FASD and openly said the problem was too big and they did not want to deal with it.

Note: Expand this same approach to other professional groups, e.g. invite public defenders, prosecutors, judges, correction officers, probation officers, medical professionals, etc. to educate themselves first, then expand awareness and training opportunities in their respective domains.

V. FASD Conference Kits – Elders & Youth Conference

Teri reported that the Partnership’s FASD conference kits are finished and ready for use. Each contains two dolls (one with FAS and one without), brochures, posters and other resource materials. The goal is to loan the kits to Partnership members who wish to set up exhibit tables at conferences (or other events) and provide information and awareness-building throughout the state.

The kit had its trial run at the Elders and Youth Conference at AFN (Alaska Federation of Natives) in mid-October. The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority sponsored a table for the Partnership and the Alaska Brain Injury Network to share. Partnership members volunteered to staff the table, including: Trish Smith from Volunteers of America-Alaska, Susan and Denise from the Alaska Peer Support Consortium, and Tami Eller from OCS.

Jeanne suggested pointing out (at conferences) that the healthy baby doll could also have an FASD, that not all babies with FASD.

Monica told about a poem by Brittany Arey (Teri's intern at the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse) which spoke about substance abuse and suicide. Upon hearing the poem, she called Julie Kitka, president of AFN, to encourage her to include the poem somehow at AFN. Julie arranged for the poem to be printed in the program, and Brittany, who was already planning on attending AFN, was invited to read it at the lectern – to which she received a standing ovation. Monica read the poem to the group on this teleconference.

VI. Workgroup Updates

Family/Peer Support Workgroup: The workgroup met 10/6/11 (see minutes at www.hss.state.ak.us/abada/fasd.htm) and discussed being more active. At the next meeting they will begin assigning tasks. Some actions have risen to the top, including: 1) exploring the Whitecrow Village (Canada) model and how to reproduce that in Alaska; 2) training for case managers – including finding existing case manager programs that can benefit from FASD training, identifying practices that families feel are important for case workers to know about and how to get this word out, and expanding training in appropriate case management skills to Parent Navigators; 3) partner with AK Peer Support Consortium in peer specialist training criteria.

Teri suggested contacting village-based counselors, Rural Health Aides, case managers that are tied to existing counseling programs (e.g. ASSETS), advocates at the Alaska Disability Law Center, agencies that interact with Judicial, Corrections and Medical systems, and other people in authority who could benefit from understanding how to better work with people with hidden disabilities. [GCDSE knows how to focus on lifelong case management services, talk to them accommodating FASD.](#)

Jeanne noted every movement has a youth component and the Partnership should too. Monica suggested connecting with Teens Acting Against Violence in Bethel. Teri suggested getting an active youth to lead it; Jeanne added there needs to be a mentor to work with them. [Contact Trish for suggestions of youth. Contact ACCESS \(talk to Ann who runs the Youth in Transition program\).](#)

VII. Individual Action Plans

- Monica asked everyone to report on their Action Update at the next meeting.
- Jeanne asked about kits for musher. Teri will follow-up.
- Jeanne wants to do an FASD summit in Northwest Arctic Region.
- Deb said a probation officer and public defender are interested in the Partnership's efforts.
- Jeri suggested Ginger Bains (Dillingham) might be interested in working with us too.

VIII. Second Summit

The group discussed a second summit to evaluate and update the goals established at the 2010 summit. Jeanne said its important and voiced concern about funding for travel; Monica agreed and said a face-to-face is important. Funding through DD programs are available through the Trust. Jeri commented on

how much was accomplished in the last year. Jeanne is pleased things are happening about the progress the Partnership is making – though it doesn't appear to be filtering down. Deb said this is a no-nonsense workgroup and is happy to be part of it; Monica hoped we can do advocacy during the legislature, and possibly follow up with the commissioner. Teri suggested the summit be in Juneau so members can dovetail with legislative visits, also that the plan for 2012 session is to focus on FASD related to judiciary issues — including presenting before the House and Senate Judiciary committees, meetings with Judiciary committee members. Action: Need to research funding for travel for summit participants.

IX. Next steps

- Deb will have education meeting next week; Deb will get names of legal folks from Dillingham and other places.
- Monica will be meeting with Barbara Knapp and the waiver and how it benefits families with FASD; also got an email from SAMHSA Katie Cole invitation to conference in May, "Building FASD state Systems."
- Art will look into professional development workgroup and how it ties in with peer support.
- Jeanne has two children on the FASD waiver and would be willing to talk with Barbara Knapp and keep abreast of what Monica learns.
- Jeanne will contact Robyn at AKPSC and Art about the peer support meeting in Fairbanks. Will set date for next meeting of Family/Peer Support workgroup when Ke Warner and Deb Evensen are available.
- Teri will research funding for travel for summit participants.
- Contact Ginger Bains in Dillingham to discuss

X. Individual Action Plans (v = **completed!**; new information italicized and in blue)

- **Monica** – **v-Give presentation to LKSD district board on FASD. Coordinate with Stephanie/Teri on recruiting mushers.** *Working on inviting Valerie Davidson from ANTHC to join the steering committee. Is working with Deb, Ric and Teri on "conference kits."*
- **Alex** – Create resource list of trainings for professionals currently available (by profession) and send it out.
- **Mike J.** – Canadian Bar Association resolution to adapt to FASD stop criminalization of people with FASD – get AK Bar and American Bar Association to do the same. Start with contacting Law & Community Health Sections – May 2011. *Recommends reading "Living with FASD: A Guide For Parents," by Sarah Graefe.*
- **Jeanne** – **v-Get mushers to champion the FASD cause.** *She is working with a local musher who has agreed to support it if we can get a sponsor packet to her.* Attend AK Peer Support Consortium meeting to talk about peer support and parent navigation.
- **Cheri** – Contact FASD Center for Excellence to research current screening tools, including forensic assessment of FASD.
- **Diane** – Prepare letter for manufacturers of home pregnancy tests. Send letter to all members and encourage to send to their people as well. Deal with alcohol pregnancy signs, get examples from other states and give to ABC Boards. Call Anna Sappah about having a presence at Annual School.
- **Mike B.** – Research data on the camps – how much, how well, is anyone better off. Contact Trish at VOAA, contact families from camp (Note: was sent out last week, will forward). Work with Vickie to outline telemedicine components for pilot project.

- **Dee Dee** – ✓-Talk to DBH and DOC about incorporating FASD screening into intake process.
Work with Tami on best practices to present later. Coordinate with Tami on FASD 101 and 201 about using it with DOC Mental Health Clinics.
- **Stephanie** – ✓-Talk to DJJ about incorporating screening process into intake process.
✓-Rural technical assistance evaluation mental health services in villages (Lee Underwood). She will promote addressing FASD into that system. On DJJ statewide training committee will promote appropriate trainings. *Is working on improving screening for juvenile justice, what will they do after testing and have a huge list of people testing positive, they're working on figuring that out. A couple villages are working on underage drinking grant to educate youth and young adults about FASD.*
- **Cindy** – Will talk with new DEED commissioner and address school board about FASD; also talk with Geri Benshoof.
- **Jennifer** – ✓-Identify education conferences each year, how to apply, etc. ✓-Talk to Eric Gebhart about superintendents' conferences.
- **Deb** – ✓-Presenting at conferences two-day classes at ASSEC. ✓-Replicate presentation at other conferences. *Is working with Monica, Teri and Ric Innolino to develop the "conference kits."*
- **Teri** – ✓-Will type up notes. ✓-Will investigate opportunities to interject FASD issue in meetings with Courts, Corrections, Education, Legislature, etc. *Has been discussing FASD with policy makers and department representatives about promoting FASD awareness within their departments – DEED and DOC responding favorably. ✓-Will develop list of legislative priorities that Partnership can advocate for. See FY13 Budget Recommendations above.*
- **Ardyce** – ✓-Will talk with John Simon (has step-son with FASD) to champion the FASD cause. *She is waiting to give him the sponsor packet.*

Next meeting:

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

3-4:30pm