

Alaska FASD Partnership
STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011

- I. **Introductions** – Trish Smith (Volunteers of America), Hersh Wallace (DVR), Monica Leinberger (LKSD, Bethel), Jennifer Jones (GCDSE, Anchorage), Diane Casto (DBH/DHSS, Juneau), Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus (Kiana), Vickie Tinker (Frontier Community Services, Kenai); Sean O’Brien (DVR, Juneau), Mike Jeffery (Alaska Court System, Barrow), Amy Hansen (OPA, Wasilla), Teri Tibbett (ABADA/AMHB, Juneau).

- II. **Approval of Agenda.** Approved.

- III. **Approval of Minutes (11/9/11).** Approved.

- IV. **Steering Committee Summit in Juneau in spring**
Planning a summit for spring in Juneau. Trust has conference funds we can apply for. [ACTION: Send out Doodle request to steering committee members \(don’t schedule during Key Campaign or Spring Break – March 12-16, or first & second week of March\). ACTION: Contact the Trust and inquire about funding for travel.](#)

- V. **FASD Conference Kits/Musher Kits**
The conference kits are ready. Jennifer offered to host a table at upcoming conferences where GCDSE will be already be hosting a table. Upcoming conference: Statewide Special Education Conference, Full Lives Conference, Health Summit (Diane and Trish will help at Health Summit). Trish will help organize volunteers for any upcoming conferences. Diane will be at the Health Summit and will help out there too. Suggestions for musher kits: bumper stickers with slogan, pens with slogan, patches for musher jacket, hat or sled bag, brochures, etc. John Simon (Iditarod and Kusko 300 racer) is ready and excited to carry the kit. [ACTION: Work with Sarana Schell in DHSS on professional designs \(she helped Statewide Suicide Prevention Council on their Iron Man campaign materials\).](#)

- VI. **Add Youth Component to Partnership**
Jeanne reported the Family/Peer Support workgroup is interested in inviting a youth representative and/or a youth committee run by the youth – based on a model at Whitecrow Village where the youth run the groups. Diane asked if they are familiar with Self Advocates with FASD in Action (SAFA) an expert panel run by Centers for Disease Control, including Rob Weyrauch and Jasmine Swaraz-O’Connor, young adults with FASD who have developed a group working with Leanne Davis (sponsor). She will forward their contact information. Mike discussed a case with a young person on his caseload affected by FASD who was able to speak up and ask the judge to repeat himself and Mike was very supportive of his self-advocacy. Trish reported she worked with a woman who self-advocated for a more doable regime for herself and others responded that she’s trying to run the show, but she’s actually just making it work for herself (self advocacy). [ACTION: Contact Paul Cornils about chairing a youth committee for the Family/Peer Support workgroup, with a youth member serving on the steering committee.](#)

- VII. **Workgroup Updates**
 - **Diagnosis/Parent Navigation** – No meeting.

- **Family/Peer Support** – See minutes for 12.6. 11 meeting. The workgroup formed a subcommittee to discuss bringing the Whitecrow Village model to Alaska , meeting on Jan. 9 @ 1:30pm).
- **Prevention/Treatment for Pregnant Women** - Will meet after the first of the year.
- **FASD and the Education System** – No meeting.
- **FASD and the Legal System** – Mike gave overview on the discussions about FASD as a mitigating factor which would give sentencing judges a little more flexibility to recognize the functioning cognitive impairments of defendants with FASD, TBI, ABI, etc. Sen. Meyer is interested in pre-filing legislation; Dave Fleurant of Alaska Disability Law center, Susan Astley, University of Washington Pediatrics, Christine Marasagin of Sen. Meyer. There is a draft bill that will do this. Goal is to make some changes to statute, but not too big as to not get it passed. We discussed definitions for FASD as it relates to mental retardation or defect. What is the ideal language and what is the minimum we could do and still allow our argument to be heard. The current mitigating factor has restricting language related to felonies – meaning that if the crime is felony, it won't apply. Another effort is to get the Alaska Bar Association to introduce a resolution or have a session related to FASD. First step is to get something going at the national level. Current law has presumptive sentencing for any felony. If a proposal is made to serve less jail time than the lowest of the presumptive range, this is a mitigating factor. The goal is to get the awareness out to judges that people with FASD a lesser sentence, it would open up the flexibility to send them to treatment or case management. Jeanne suggested assisted living, intensive case management. Hersh suggested looking at a 6-month treatment with extensive long-term outpatient/assisted living. Stephanie said their difficulty is placing them in treatment facilities who don't accept people with low IQ. Jennifer suggested there are options for people who are eligible to DD services, including Independent Living Centers/Services, Centers for Adults, etc. who will often serve people with any disability. Jeanne said low IQ is not the only qualifying factor – it takes disability in three live domain areas. Jeanne said we need greater community support. Stephanie - DJJ is looking at a screening tool that screens for FASD. The current one has minimal capability to screen for FASD. The Arctic FASD Regional Training Center is sponsoring regionalized training (working with the center to accommodate the training for each facility). She's on the statewide DJJ training committee which helped make it happen. The goal following communities: Nome, Anchorage, Kenai, Bethel, (Fairbanks has a training they developed themselves online). The Trust provides funds training for justice professionals related
- **Professional Development** – No meeting. Still looking for a chair.
- **Services for Adults** – Sean reported that DVR is focused on helping people with disabilities become successfully employed. DVR employees have had additional training on FASD. This workgroup seems like a good fit for DVR. The group needs to get off the ground and Sean is willing to help do that. He has training in facilitating. Amy Hansen , Jennifer Jones, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Diane Casto, Teri. **ACTION: Teri will put together a distribution list of Adults Services workgroup participants. Discussed training FASD Into Action, how it looks at the brain dysfunction and how to develop accommodations for each person.**

VIII. Next Steps (from last meeting)

- Deb and Monica will have education meeting; Deb will get names of legal folks from Dillingham and other places.
- Monica will meet with Barbara Knapp about the waiver and how it benefits families with FASD.

- Jeanne has two children on the FASD waiver and will 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 Kee Warner and Deb Evensen are available.
- Art will look into professional development workgroup and how it ties in with peer support.
- Teri will research funding for travel for summit participants.
- Teri will send out doodle request for Spring Summit in Juneau.