

**AK FASD Partnership Steering Committee  
MINUTES - February 8, 2012**

- I. **Introductions** – Trish Smith, Jeanne Gerhart-Cyrus, Dee Dee Raymond, Stephanie Johnson, Jeri Museth, Sean O'Brien.
- II. **Spring Summit** –(Judicial focus) March 26-28
- III. **Musher Kits** – Not going happen this year.
- IV. **Workgroup Updates**
  - Diagnosis/Parent Navigation. No meeting.
  - Family/Peer Support – The group established a regular meeting time: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday each month at 9am. Making progress on bringing Whitecrow Village model to Alaska. Whitecrow offers L.I.F.E. session (opportunities for parents and providers to participate in activities, training, mentoring people with FASD). The goal is to 1) send Alaskans to Whitecrow Village in Canada, 2) bring to Alaska two days of L.I.F.E. sessions training for adults and professionals – followed by a camp for families, kids, teens, for activities and to work on skills. For more on Whitecrow Village L.I.F.E. sessions, go to: [http://www.whitecrowvillage.org/community/life\\_sessions.html](http://www.whitecrowvillage.org/community/life_sessions.html)
  - Prevention/Treatment for Pregnant Women. No meeting.
  - FASD and the Education System. No meeting.
  - FASD and the Legal System – Judge Jeffery reported that he went to New Orleans for a meeting of the American Bar Association (AMA) who offered an overview of what happened. He was part of a panel on Family Law and attended a ½ day training which included medical perspective that show brain scans of people with FASD showing how hard the alcohol affected brain has to work to do normal tasks, compared to a non-affected brain. Another piece involved adopted children with FASD who described her experiences. The presenter showed slides of the children as grown who look normal, but then showed slides of their lives as they were growing up – looking haggard from staying up late filling out forms for services, how they had to change their jobs so one parent was always at home with the kids, etc. One of the medical providers at the training was Dr. Ken Jones, who was one of the people who first diagnosed FASD back in the 1970/80s. The AMA is working on a resolution related to FASD, which will be presented at the AMA's fall meeting. Asking for co-sponsors from other bars across the nation, including the Alaska Bar Association. Judge Jeffery is moving ahead to get Alaska on board. Some of the highlights of the resolution include: 1) the definition of Developmental Disabilities should include mention of FASD. Center for Children and the Law in Washington DC section of the ABA (contact: Howard Davidson). Stephanie reported that the Nome Youth Facility staff and community partners will be attending the FASD Training (including the local disability services, jail, Native organization, training about 50 people. "Introduction to FASD and FASD Intervention Strategies.")
  - Services for Adults with FASD. Sean reported the workgroup will start organizing soon.
  - Professional Development. No meeting.

## V. Individual Action Update

- Jeri Museth is offering a training FASD 101 and 201 for case managers, parents next week. About 100 people will be attending from all over Southeast Alaska. They had to turn away about 18 people.
- Stephanie attended the regional wellness committee meeting and a woman from Unalakleet asked about data related to people with FASD and suicide. Do we have that information? She told story about a boy with FASD who was addicted to violent video games and who believed that people shot in the videos always got up and didn't fully realize the concept of dying being permanent. **ACTION: Teri will inquire about data on completed suicides and people with FASD.** Jeri reported there is a correlation between FASD and suicide, however the statistics are hard to quantify because so many people with FASD are undiagnosed. Jeri invited her Kathy Johnson Native Leadership meeting in Anchorage March 22-23.