

**MINUTES – April 18, 2012**  
**FASD and the Education System Workgroup**  
**Alaska FASD Partnership**

**Present:** Deb Evensen (chair), Shannon Cross, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Cynthia Puhalski, Teri Tibbett

### **I. Individual Updates**

Shannon reported the “Teen Friendship and Dating” class will begin May 1. She mentioned Diane Malbin’s training “FASD Into Action” as a vehicle for educating Alaskans little by little.

Deb reported that once people try successful strategies in the classroom, courtroom, or wherever, they realize it works better than what they were doing before, and they realize it’s a good thing and it takes off from there – using it more and more themselves, sharing it with others, and it spreads like that. Real long term change comes from within a system like that.

Jeanne attended the Education Alliance (works with youth in transition) and reported she is concerned about the lack of awareness and appropriate strategies available in rural areas, that the larger agencies tend to figure out what to do in the urban areas, then “shipping it off to the bush.”

Cynthia reported she is passionate about educating systems about FASD, PTSD, TBI, etc.

Teri reported on the passage of SB 151 – FASD as a Mitigating Factor – and SB 127 – FASD Awareness Day, both of which passed the legislature unanimously and are awaiting the Governor’s signature. Through the committee process and individual visits to legislators’ offices, along with letters and emails and public testimony, Partnership members were able to reach all 60 legislators on the topic of FASD. The strategy of educating policy-makers so they will vote knowledgeably and favorably was a winning success.

### **II. Workgroup Goals Update**

1. Educate district superintendents and staff about successful models for addressing FASD, e.g. those models used in Lower Kuskokwim and Anchorage School Districts. **ACTION: Arrange a follow-up meetings with Commissioner Hanley, Superintendent Gelbrich (Juneau), and the executive directors of the Association of Alaska School Boards and Alaska Council of School Administrators to set date and time for FASD training – both for administrators (FASD 101) and teachers/staff (FASD Into Action).**

2. Present to State Board of Education on FASD. **ACTION: 1) Develop a “hot sheet” or “white paper” and PowerPoint on what is FASD, how it affects students and teachers in the classroom, what are some successful interventions (e.g. what ASD and LKSD have done); 2) Deb, Monica and Cindy Anderson will approach the Anchorage School District’s FASD Committee members about presenting before the State School Board; 3) develop the model to use before local school boards.**

3. Expand use of FASD 101 and FASD 201 at in-services, conferences, etc. Teri reported that the two FASD Conference Kits – with dolls, posters, handouts, Partnership brochures, etc. – are ready for exhibit at conferences. They are designed for shipping or air travel and can be “checked out” by Partnership members. **ACTION: 1) Deb, Monica and Teri will coordinate an effort to recruit Partnership members to “check out” conference kits, present as keynote speakers, and/or conduct break-out sessions.**

Shannon and Jeanne reported that its time to move to the “application piece” of FASD training – beyond the informative FASD 101 and 201 to the “hands-on” style of training, like FASD Into Action.

### **III. Decide on a regular meeting time**

**ACTION: Teri will send out Doodle or other request to poll workgroup members for a regular workgroup meeting time.**