

MINUTES - April 18, 2012
Steering Committee - Alaska FASD Partnership

Present: Monica Charles-Leinberger (chair), Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Angel Gonzales, Deb Evensen, Vickie Tinker, Stephanie Johnson, Art Delaune, Sean O'Brien, Ardyce Turner, Amy Hansen, Brittany Arey, Teri Tibbett.

I. Agenda – approved

II. Minutes from 3/14/12 – approved

III. FASD Justice Summit in Juneau (March 27-28)

Stephanie reported on the FASD Justice Summit that met in Juneau on March 27-28. The following steering committee members participated: Stephanie Johnson, Judge Mike Jeffery, Trish Smith, Dee Dee Raymond and Teri Tibbett.

The group met on the first morning and developed their message for the Juneau meetings and presentations. They met (by teleconference) with Steve Williams, Disability Justice Program Officer with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and discussed screening for FASD in Corrections, training for justice professionals, release planning, expanding capacity of community-based supports, ongoing support and supervision, case management, assisted living, housing and employment support, and wrap-around services.

In the afternoon, summit participants met with Barb Henjum, Director of Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), and DJJ Juneau Operations Manager Karen Forrest, on the topics of improving outcomes for Alaska Native Youth, success with employment, education, and training; substance abuse treatment and prevention; behavioral health diagnoses, transition issues, rural specialist, culturally-appropriate screening assessment and services, individualized plans, and the division's goal to reduce recidivism.

They later met with participants of the Juneau Mental Health Court, including Judge Keith Levy, David Brower (Juneau District Attorney), Kendall Merry (MH Court coordinator), and Julia Erickson (mental health clinician).

At the end of the day, summit participants presented before the House Health & Social Services committee of the Alaska State Legislature – on the topic of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and the justice system. Committee members asked questions and participated in an informative dialog with summit participants.

Minutes of that meeting can be read at (starting at 4:49pm):

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_single_minute.asp?house=H&session=27&comm=HSS&date=20120327&time=1503.

Audio can be found at (starting at 4:49pm):

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_audio.asp?session=27&chamber=H&comm=HSS&date1=3/27/2012&start=1503

On the second morning, summit participants met with David Sied of the Juneau Public Defenders Agency, and Janine Reep, Dawn Peterson and Sarah Bosma of the Juneau Office of Public Advocacy. Topics included huge caseloads (over 80 per public advocate in some cases); lack of resources; the need for training and understanding of issues related to FASD; the need for training in successful interventions; the need to address adults living independently with supports; diagnosis being a detriment because people with FASD are seen as unable to rehabilitate; and the need to make OCS forms simpler and easier to follow.

In the afternoon, participants presented before the House Judiciary Committee of the Alaska State Legislature. The committee member asked questions and engaged thoughtfully with the summit presenters.

Audio can be found at (starting at 2:15pm): (minutes are forthcoming)

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_audio.asp?session=27&chamber=H&comm=JUD&date1=3/28/2012&start=1308

In the final hours of the summit, participants brainstormed a list of services and programs that currently exist in Alaska serving people with FASD involved in Corrections, Juvenile Justice, and Courts – with the goal of being able to expand what is working and/or create what isn't available. A full report of the summit recommendations is forthcoming.

Sean reported the highlight of the summit for him was seeing the adaptations and accommodations offered in Judge Jeffery's court, modeling best practices, and offering great examples of what we can do.

Jeanne suggested sending thank you notes to legislators. Teri reported the cards were designed and printed with hand-written notes from her and Monica Leinberger. They would be hand delivered that day to each legislator.

IV. Workgroup Updates

Diagnosis/Parent Navigation workgroup. No meeting this month. Vickie reported she needs help chairing the workgroup since Cheri Scott left. Teri offered to help set up the meetings, recruit new members, and continue to take minutes. Other members are sought for additional work on the workgroup.

FASD & Education workgroup. Deb reported on the meeting that happened today. See Education Workgroup minutes 4/18/12.

Family/Peer Support workgroup. Jeanne reported that the workgroup is focusing on bringing the Whitecrow Village model to Alaska. See workgroup minutes 3/4/12 and 4/18/12.

Youth and FASD workgroup. Teri introduced new youth steering committee members Angel Gonzales and Brittany Arey, who will co-chair the Youth and FASD workgroup. They are both hoping for guidance for how to chair and carry out the meetings. Teri will help them organize over the next few months. Sean suggested the group invite Art Arnold to help organize. Brittany and Jeanne suggested it would be good if the youth would participate in other workgroups as well, as a youth perspective is needed everywhere.

Services for Adults with FASD workgroup. Sean reported that Art Arnold with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will chair the workgroup to get it up and going again – probably for about 6 months. The first meeting will be May 7. Teri is sending out a recruitment request to Partnership members.

FASD and Legal System workgroup. No meeting (see report from FASD Justice Summit, March 27-28).

Prevention/Treatment for Pregnant Women. No meeting.

Professional Development. No meeting.

V. Other news

Vickie noted that U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski has co-introduced federal legislation addressing FASD. A link to an overview can be found at: http://www.nofas.org/advocate/FASD_BILL_SUMMARY.pdf

VI. Actions

Brittany will finish Statewide Conferences list.

Teri will meet with Art Arnold re: Services For Adults Workgroup.

Brittany, Angel and Teri will start taking steps to organize the Youth and FASD workgroup.

Jeanne will send out list of youth that are interested in being on the Youth and FASD workgroup.

Teri will work with helping to organize the Education, Family/Peer Support, and Diagnosis/Parent Navigation workgroups to include: 1) help recruit new members, 2) set up regular monthly meeting time, 3) send out announcements and take minutes. Chairs will deal with content of meeting (setting agenda, chairing meetings).