

**Alaska FASD Partnership  
Steering Committee - MINUTES  
May 9, 2012**

- I. **Introductions** –Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus (Maniilaq), Mike Jeffery (Barrow Superior Court), Vickie Tinker (Frontier Community Services), Trish Smith (Volunteers of America-Alaska), Alex Edwards (Arctic FASD Regional Training Center), Sean O’Brien and Art Arnold (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation), Angel Gonzales (Alaska Youth & Family Network), Stephanie Johnson (Nome Youth Facility), Monica Charles-Leinberger (Lower Kuskokwim School District), Teri Tibbett and Brittany Arey (Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse).
- II. **Approval of Agenda.** Approved
- III. **Approval of 4.18.12 Minutes.** Approved
- IV. **“Building FASD State Systems” Conference in Virginia (sponsored by SAMHSA).** Trish, Diane Casto, Jeri Museth and Monica attended and put on a presentation showing what Alaska is doing. They talked about the Partnership, diagnostic teams, FASD as mitigating factor, etc. Monica realized that even though we struggle so much in Alaska, most other states have even worse struggles, some don’t even have ability to diagnose. We are so much farther ahead than other places in the world.
- V. **FASD Justice Summit – March 27-28 in Juneau** (Attendees to the summit: Mike Jeffery, Deedee Raymond, Stephanie Johnson, Trish Smith, Sean O’Brien, Teri Tibbett). Members of the FASD and Legal System workgroup flew to Juneau for a 2-day summit in which they met with state agency directors and employees, including Barb Henjum, director of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ); David Seid, Public Defenders Agency; Janet Reep, Office of Public Advocacy; Judge Keith Levy, Kendall Merry and Julia Erickson of Juneau Mental Health Court; David Brower, Attorney General’s office; Steve Williams, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. The group also presented on a “FASD and the Justice System” panel before the House Judiciary and House Health & Social Services committees. Mike: The experience was enriching and inspiring. It was a first for him to testify before a legislative committee at the Capitol. He commented that the quality of the panelists was very high. The presentation was educational and did not specifically advocate for any FASD legislation or budget items because most of the panelists are state employees who are restricted from direct advocacy. Legislators were engaged and asked good questions – including wanting to know what services are out there for adults with FASD. The panel shared their collective knowledge of what’s out there for people with FASD related to the justice system. He supported the advantage of being there to testify in person as opposed to testifying over the phone. Trish: The summit participants spent one day compiling a list of services and programs each knows about. She used the photo of the white board in her presentation at east coast conference. Stephanie: Thought it was a great experience. She was nervous, but appreciated how the legislators engaged with the group. The panelist represented a broad group and so there were a good range of perspectives. She also appreciated meeting with DJJ and the Mental Health Court, etc.
- VI. **American Bar Association Update.** Mike reported that the Alaska Bar Association officially went on record as a co-sponsor of the resolution that will go to the American Bar Association in the fall in Chicago to respond to FASD issues. When Mike was in New Orleans, he collaborated with the person who sponsored the American Bar Association resolution. Teri presented before the Juneau Bar Association and invited them to “sign on” to the resolution. Kay Kelly, of the FASD

Legal Issues Resource Center at the University of Washington, encouraged the Anchorage Bar Association to support it as well. With Alaska's support, the American Bar's effort has more potential for passage. Both the next step will be for AMA members to vote on it in Chicago in the fall. Mike reported that when Canada passed a similar resolution through the Canadian Bar Association, it mobilized a lot of pieces to come together to address the issue in Canada. If it happens through the AMA, there will likely be a host of advantages, including giving the American Bar "marching orders" to address FASD.

## VII. Workgroup Updates

- a. **Diagnosis/Parent Navigation** (Vickie). Did not meet. Vickie talked about the \$100,000 for telehealth that was included in the state budget that passed this year. The increment will support increased access to behavioral services by 1) assessing readiness of DBH provider network to pilot demonstration project, 2) review potential vendors and telecommunications carriers to work collaboratively with DBH.
- b. **Family/Peer Support** (Jeanne, Trish). Met 5/9/12 (see minutes online). The workgroup did a recruitment effort for the workgroup and have new and broad representation from many different parts of the state. The workgroup established a regular meeting time, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9am. They shared there were two FASD Camps this year (Mat-Su and Homer) and are looking to do two camps next year. Working toward bringing Whitecrow Village L.I.F.E. Sessions model to Alaska. Teri and Jill developed a draft proposal and the workgroup is working to finalize that. The workgroup also discussed the AK Peer Support Consortium, who is developing a clearing house for identifying trained peer specialists statewide that can be accessed by individuals and families – someone who has "been there" but also has some training to help navigate systems and provide support. Also, talked about the FASD Waiver and upcoming RFP process for rural peer services by the Division of Behavioral Health. Guardianship is a major concern because youth who turn 18 often think they're ready for the world when they're not. Guardianship can be a strategy for better success.
- c. **Prevention/Treatment for Pregnant Women** (Diane). Did not meet. Angel reported that a lot of young girls drink on purpose to excess to abort their babies, or women who are alcoholics who cannot stop drinking. Angel suggested women who are alcoholics and drinking during pregnancy should be locked up and Vickie said if you lock up women, the threat of jail will likely make them go into hiding with their drinking, which effectively results in them getting less help. Mike talked about constitutional issue (right to privacy) in making drinking during pregnancy a crime. Alex talked about practical issues related to when a woman knows she's pregnant, evidence shows that forced treatment doesn't work, evidence shows a lot of the damage occurs in first trimester before she knows she's pregnant, evidence shows that what's more effective is awareness and connection with the primary caregiver. Teri suggested the PCAP model is effective.
- d. **FASD & Education System** (Deb). Did not meet. Art Arnold (former Director of Special Education for Alaska) suggested that FASD falls through the cracks because there isn't an IDEA definition. Suggested advocating for an FASD eligibility category under state statute or regulation. If not, then move to get more explanations about what happens to kids, possibly through a 504 plan for those youth that don't have an IEP under IDEA. School districts need to serve kids who display certain behaviors – with or without the diagnosis. Vickie said it's a matter of time in the districts. Jeanne said "FASD into Action"

offers tools and interventions – the next step after FASD 101 and 201. The normal course is delivered over 6-8 weeks. Jeanne teaches it in 3-days, and has a “teaser” she can do in a half day, that gets the key components out there and gets people excited, followed by them asking for more. Monica is still doing training at LSKD sites, has lots of interest from new sites wanting training in FASD.

- e. **FASD & Legal System** (Stephanie). Did not meet. No updates.
- f. **Services for Adults with FASD** (Art Arnold). Art reported that over 30 people signed up, 20 showed for the first meeting. Committed to 1-hour per month for six months. Using a questionnaire researched by DVR as a starting point. The group took the list and are weighing in – identifying transition needs for young people moving into adulthood – what’s working, what’s not working, and what improvements can be made. Asking each participant to contribute in the areas they feel they are expert on.
- g. **Professional Development** (no chair). Alex (Project Coordinator for Arctic FASD RTC) reported that they’ve submitted a grant proposal for putting on an FASD summit/conference in Alaska where they’ll have professional education elements, family focus elements, good speaker line-up, etc. They expect to hear back by the end of the year (earliest September). Looking for a co-chair to help her.
- h. **Youth and FASD** (Angel, Brittany). Will be organizing their first meeting. Coming up with an agenda, including introductions and brainstorming on what should be the workgroups goals and priorities.

VIII. **Next meeting:** July 11, 2012 (no meeting in June)