

**MINUTES**  
**“FASD and the Education” Workgroup**  
**AK FASD Partnership**  
**June 26, 2012**

**I. Introductions** – Deb Evensen (FASD Consultant, Homer), Monica Charles-Leinberger (FASD Specialist, Lower Kuskokwim School District, Bethel), Bill Martin (Statewide Suicide Prevention Council, Juneau), Gay Wellman (Copper Basin Diagnostic Team/Dr. Truitt), Wendy Weston (Ketchikan Indian Community, Ketchikan), Jenn Wagamen (FASD Diagnostic Team, Fairbanks), Pat Cochran (current parent of child with FASD, advocate, former director of prevention and intervention at Volunteers of America, Anchorage), Cynthia Puhalski (Kineticions, WE R, Juneau), Teri Tibbett (Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Juneau).

**II. Approval of Agenda** – Approved.

**III. Short Update** – Gay reported that Copper Basin Diagnostic Clinic is up and running again. OCS and a mid-level nurse practitioner with Copper River Native Association are making referrals, have had 4 in the last month, Gay serves as coordinator and parent navigator, through Dr. Truitt’s office (Dr. Truitt is based out of Anchorage and travels to Kotzebue and Valdez and now to Copper Basin to do diagnoses, their biggest challenge is availability of appropriate services – such as counseling, activities for young people and adults, education for professionals about what works and what doesn’t, educating consumers about the courts and other systems, etc., regarding interfacing with school districts, Gay suggested collaborating with Michael Johnson, superintendent of schools for Copper River School District, and Tammy Van Why(?) who is in charge of training for teachers at the district; Wendy reported that Ketchikan has started an FASD Task Force, and their biggest concern is what to do after diagnosis, as there are not enough services and professionals need tools for dealing with FASD, also educating educators and administrators about FASD because they don’t recognize it as its own disability with its own interventions; Bill is working on suicide prevention in Juneau and sees the link between FASD and suicide; Jen is working on a paper/class related to FASD at the University (??); Deb reported that Anchorage School District (ASD) has printed 33,000 copies of an FASD pamphlet developed by ASD’s FASD Think Tank that will be distributed at registration to every family in the district, Kenai School District is on board and is following in ASD’s footsteps; Teri reported that the conference kits are ready and available for check-out for conferences; Pat reported she has an adopted son with FASD who has difficulties and she’s looking to see services develop.

**IV. Regroup – Direction of Workgroup**

Regular meeting time is 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, 12 noon to 1pm.

**V. Action Items**

- **ACTION:** Arrange a follow-up meetings with DEED 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). **Lead: Teri. Helpers: Bill, Cynthia, Monica, Deb. Topics for administrators: Give them the Hot Sheet, talk about diagnosis, behaviors in the classroom that are often misdiagnosed as defiance or willful when it’s actually related to brain damage caused by prenatal alcohol exposure, also preparing for adult life is a system-wide issue, how teachers can work with parents who have FASD, bullying**

### issues related to FASD.

- **ACTION:** Develop a “FASD Hot Sheet” (PowerPoint?) for meetings with school administrators and school board members, to include: what is FASD, how it affects students and teachers in the classroom, what are some successful interventions (e.g. take from what ASD and LKSD have done). The group suggested also including: diagnosis, behaviors in the classroom that are often misdiagnosed as defiance or willful when it’s actually related to brain damage caused by prenatal alcohol exposure, also preparing for adult life is a system-wide issue, how teachers can work with parents who have FASD, and bullying issues related to FASD. This will be given to school administrators as an overview of how they can address FASD in their schools/districts. Also can serve as an outline for what a 4-hour training for administrators will look like. **Lead: Deb and Monica. Helpers: Teri. This group will meet Friday, June 29 at 9:30am (Teri will call everyone via conference phone).**
- **ACTION:** Develop a presentation model/template (Powerpoint?) to be used before local school boards, based on the Hot Sheet and Monica’s previous presentations (see info below). **Lead: Monica, Helpers: Deb and Gay. Monica has an outline for what she presented to the LKSD big board, also what she presented in Hawaii, group noted it needs to be culturally appropriate. This group will meet at 9:30pm on July 17 (800-315-6338 code: 3273#). Consider inviting ASD Think Tank to join the effort.**
- **ACTION:** Coordinate an effort to recruit Partnership members to “check out” conference kits, present as keynote speakers, and/or conduct break-out sessions. **Lead: Brittany, Helper: Teri. Deadline: by July 31.**
- **ACTION:** Approach the Anchorage School District’s FASD Committee members about presenting before the State School Board; set date for presenting at September (Kodiak) or December (Anchorage) meeting of the state board. **Tabled until the fall.**
- **ACTION:** Create postcard, flyers, PSAs, and editorials **Tabled until next meeting.**

### **VI. Next Steps/Actions**

Pat suggested we need to take a closer look at the treatment options for youth in Alaska, we’re trying to bring them home, but there aren’t sufficient services at home. Connect with Bring the Kids Home, “Youth and FASD” workgroup of AK FASD Partnership, and “Youth Move” through Alaska Youth & Family Network (AYFN).

**VII. Next Meeting:** July 31 at noon. Call-in 800-315-6338 code: 3273#