

AK FASD Steering Committee
Steering Committee – MINUTES
March 13, 2013

Introductions – Monica Leinberger, chair (Lower Kuskokwim School District, Bethel), Judge Mike Jeffery (Alaska Superior Court, Barrow), Stephanie Johnson (Mental Health Specialist, Nome Youth Facility), Vickie Tinker (Coordinator, Kenai Diagnostic Clinic), Art Delaune (Peer Navigator, Fairbanks, FASD Diagnostic Team), Alex Edwards (Project Coordinator Arctic FASD RTC, Anchorage), Trish Smith (VOAAK, Prevention & Intervention and FAS Camps, Anchorage), Mike Baldwin (Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Anchorage), Amy Hansen (OPA Investigator, member Advisory Board on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse, Wasilla), Sean O’Brien and Art Arnold (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Juneau), Wendy Barrett (program manager, Stone Soup Group, Anchorage), Teri Tibbett (advocacy coordinator, Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse, Juneau).

Approval of Agenda. Mike asked to move up Legal System discussion because he has to leave early. Teri asked to add discussion about eligibility issues to the bottom of the agenda. Approved as amended.

Approval of Minutes (12.12.12). Approved.

General Updates & Info

- New members: Wendy Barrett and Suzie Klein of Stone Soup Group, Geno Daly of Center for Psycho-Social Development have been invited to join. Also, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) has agreed to send a representative to serve on the steering committee, and the Alaskan Federation of Natives is interested in sending a representative as well.
- Art announced that he took FAS 101 & 201 in Juneau and will be sending out the information he received in the class.
- Wendy announced that Stone Soup Group will be hosting an “FASD into Action Train the Trainer” series around the state, including Fairbanks, Juneau, and Anchorage. They will send out information as it is available.
- Mike Jeffery reported on two recent FASD conferences. The first was a conference in Anchorage on February 22 sponsored by the Alaska Bar Association. 100 people attended, about 60% were law-trained, and the rest from other fields. He was encouraged by the favorable comments about the training and the interest in having more of it. There was an informal follow-up session Saturday, February 23 with David Boulding from Vancouver, Canada. Teri added that the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and Alaska Mental Health Board sponsored an additional three days for David in Anchorage, allowing for six meetings at the Anchorage Police Department, meeting with 160 patrol officers during six shift changes. David also met with 15 Guardians ad Litem at the Anchorage Office of Public Advocacy and 30 probation officers at the Anchorage Probation Office. Mike attended one of those shift changes and observed David’s presentation there. Mike also reported on the 5th International Conference on FASD in Vancouver, BC during the following week. Tuesday was a meeting of the persons interested in justice system issues. There was a lot of excitement about Alaska’s new FASD as a felony mitigating factor statute, which is the only one like it in the USA (and maybe the world). Maine is working on a similar law right now. During the main session, Dr. Sterling Clarren asked why FASD diagnostic centers in Canada were not seeing more clients. Dr. Clarren thought that one problem is that the recommendations are too complex and not focused enough on the needs of the particular person who was evaluated. He also felt that diagnostic teams need to do follow-up with the clients to see how the recommendations worked out. Another session discussed successful efforts by aboriginal women in Australia to have the liquor store in their area limited to only selling low-alcohol beer. The community also completed the first-ever prevalence study of FASD in their community and there is a lot of advocacy to prevent FASD in the area.

- Alex announced the upcoming “FASD: Best Practices in the Last Frontier” conference in Anchorage, May 22-24. Registration will go online on Friday. National and international experts will be presenting.
- Teri announced the upcoming “FASD Family-Peer Support Advocacy Summit” March 17-20 in Juneau. 25 people will be participating from around the state, including Anchorage, Fairbanks, Delta Junction, Nome, Bethel, Kongiginik, Sitka, and Juneau.

Musher Kits Update

Stephanie announced the Nome Youth Facility (NYF) received a mini-grant for \$5,000 to do a promotion using mushers to spread the word on prevention of FASD as they travel through the villages. NYF recruited 2013 Iditarod musher, Aaron Burmeister, who grew up in Nome and whose father was an Iditarod musher, to be one of the host mushers to carry the message: “Mushing for Healthy Babies: No Alcohol” on a large yellow patch, and on bookmarks, pens, bracelets and posters to be passed out to villagers along the trail. The material acknowledged the Nome Youth Facility and the Alaska FASD Partnership as supporters. Aaron, who came in 11th in this year’s Iditarod Race, had numerous opportunities to talk about the FASD message on the radio and in the news along the trail. Also, youth from the facility made a banner that was displayed at the Iditarod finish. Additionally, NYF asked Zoya Denure from Delta Junction to do a similar thing on the Kobuk 440. She will also display sled bag patch on her sled and talk it up along the trail. Zoya’s New York sponsor offered to provide the youth at the NYF with hoodies displaying the logo. She’ll also be doing a tour of the Nome and Kotzebue region schools to talk about it. Her sponsor is also producing T-shirts with the logo to give to the elementary students Zoya encounters.

Workgroup updates:

- **Legal System** – No meeting.
- **Diagnosis** – No meeting.
- **Family Peer Support** – No meeting.
- **Prevention & Treatment** – No meeting.
- **Education System** – No meeting.
- **Professional Development** – No meeting.
- **Youth & FASD** – Teri reported the youth have identified their number one goal is identifying a curriculum or program that uses peers to spread the word about not drinking alcohol during pregnancy, then finding a way to deliver the curriculum statewide. Currently, the youth have divided into small groups that are seeking out programs being implemented around the state that they can use, while at the same time identifying groups in those same regions that might be willing to implement a program if we find one to deliver and fund.
- **Services for Adults with FASD** – Art reported that there are 25 members in the workgroup overall, with about 5-10 active members. The group is narrowing its focus to the goal of improving and expanding services for adults with FASD. The group is defining what individuals on the committee can do. Wendy talked about one of the ideas the workgroup has identified related to a “Mentorship Program” that would train mentors (family, friends, professionals) in the community to help people with FASD navigate life and help serve as an “external brain.” Also, Suzie is working on a proposal that would look at advanced training for professionals at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and others who work with adults with the goal of offering more specific “hands-on” interventions, e.g. “FASD Into Action,” motivational interviewing, etc. Also, workgroup member Gayle Young suggested developing regional resource centers that serve families and professionals throughout the state (similar to Alaska’s Autism Resource Centers).

Eligibility Issues

Sean reported about eligibility issues. There are a lot of consumers who are not being served. While those who present with serious enough Developmental Disabilities (DD) issues or Behavioral Health (BH) issues are served through waivers and other systems, those who do not qualify for either DD or BH services aren't being adequately diagnosed or served. This represents a huge number of people "falling through the cracks." Sean and others have been probing around to find in what areas we can increase capacity, in particular case management and support services. The goal is to move this idea ahead on the steering committee priority list, possibly forming an ad hoc committee to work with the advisory boards, Alaska Mental Health Trust, the state, providers and other stakeholders. He noted that incremental steps are just as important as larger systems change.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 3:00pm.