

Alaska FASD Partnership - Steering Committee
Wednesday, September 10, 2014 – MINUTES (final)

Introductions

Present: Monica Charles-Leinberger, Jenn Wagaman, Amy Hansen, Vickie Tinker, Art Delaune, Trish Smith, Christy Reinhardt, Sean O'Brien, Clayton Holland, Phil Mattheis, Mike Jeffery, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Deb Evensen, Alex Edwards, Lakota Holman, Teri Tibbett. Guest: Rich Sanders.

Approval of agenda. Approved.

Approval of minutes. Will approve next meeting.

Introduce New Members: Clayton Holland and Phil Mattheis

Clayton is special education director at the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. He's been with the district since 2000, and has worked at the district office since 2005. He grew up in Eagle River, serves on the GCDSE's education committee, and is the vice president The Alaska Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE). He said Vickie Tinker encouraged them to do more in regard to FASD in the district and got them moving in the right direction. "One of the best things I ever did was connect with Deb Evensen and start working on a more comprehensive strategy for how we work with students with FASD and brain based differences," he said.

Phil Mattheis is a developmental pediatrician who has worked with brain injury and FASD, among other areas. In 1990s he began doing clinics in Alaska. He supports going beyond diagnosis into treatment, and works with emotional trauma, which he said prevalent and complicated and needs attention. He is currently working with Frontier Community Services and Division of Juvenile Justice in Alaska.

Employment First

Rich Sanders, who works for the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, reported on the Employment First legislation passed in 2014. One of the Governor's Council members, Rep. Charisse Millett, sponsored the legislation. There's a movement happening across the U.S. that employment be the preferred outcome when considering individual plans for people with disabilities. As the Alaska law gets implemented, they will be looking at benefits planning and counseling to be sure that employment is pursued and does not negatively impact their needed health benefits – if it's in the best interest of the individual. The bill highlights 1) The Department of Education developing oversight (reporting on the progress made each year); and providing transition services during the disabled students' school years related to employment or secondary education, which could include being gainfully employed within a certain amount of time after graduation; 2) The Department of Labor and Workforce Development would work on regulations that support a person with disabilities working at, or above, minimum wage (making sure that people with disabilities aren't paid less than other employees) and 3) The Department of Health and Social Services ensure that their programs (HCBS Waivers for day habilitation and supported employment) hold employment in integrated settings at or above minimum wage as the first and preferred outcome. How does it affect people with FASD? Employment can empower people in many ways including a sense of purpose, pride in their work, higher self-esteem and income and assets to help pursue their dreams. This legislation and related projects have an "expectation for all" and puts the light on people who have often been considered "unemployable" or who are underemployed and/or making sub-minimum wages.

FASD Awareness Day

The AK FASD Partnership collaborated with CHARR (Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant & Retailers Association) and many volunteers to distribute FASD Awareness table tents in five Alaskan communities: Bethel, Nome, Mat-Su, Anchorage, Juneau. The tents advertised a free non-alcoholic beverage to every pregnant

woman and information about not drinking alcohol during pregnancy. About 50 restaurants participated, with over 800 tables. If each table turned over five times during the day, averaging two people per table, that means our message could have been viewed by over 8,000 people statewide!

- Monica (Bethel) distributed 22 table tents to two restaurants, also a message in Yup'ik about FASD went out over facebook.
- Amy (Palmer) distributed to 45 table tents to four restaurants.
- Trish partnered with Travis Hedwig (Anchorage) and distributed 200 table tents to 15 restaurants. K&L Distributors in Anchorage got wind of the effort and printed 100 table tents and distributed to some of their customers. Also, Trish and Senator Meyer were interviewed on KTUU Channel 2 and the news folks followed Trish around with the cameras as she distributed table tents. Trish said K&L Distributors said they want to get involved next year, and possibly in Fairbanks too.
- Jenn (Fairbanks) participated in an event at United Way in Fairbanks that featured an information booth, where they had stickers and napkins and FASD information. Jenn suggested she could coordinate distribution of table tents next year with K&L Distributors who also have a presence in Fairbanks.
- Stephanie Johnson (Nome) distributed 175 table tents in five restaurants.
- Teri (Juneau) reported that she and volunteers from Juneau Partnerships for Families distributed tents to 14 restaurants, about 280 tables.

Mike reported that in Barrow they had an FASD "discussion" hosted by the library. About 10 community professionals attended, including Ellen Sovalik, who has been Tribal Court chief judge and also former FASD educator. He showed the video "A Child for Life," which people liked, and someone suggested they should show the film to every middle school student in Barrow. They talked about FASD in town and the possibility of working with Dr. Phil Mattheis on diagnostic issues. People left contact information. It was a "low key event, with limited publicity and great results" he said.

Vickie reported that KBBI and KDLL the public radio stations in Kenai and Homer interviewed Deb and Vickie and broadcasted the story on FASD Awareness Day, she presented to the Cook Inlet Council on Alcoholism and Drug abuse and talked about FASD awareness and a 2-hour training for their women's group with a small ceremony.

Clayton reported about the Kenai School District's ongoing efforts to raise awareness about FASD among teachers, parents, students, and administrators.

Suggestion from Mike Jeffery: to make the message appropriate for communities and restaurants that don't serve alcohol.

Christy and Trish reported about the event at the Anchorage School District, they had 20 tables with crafts, assistant superintendent welcomed everyone, Senator Meyer read the proclamation, a representative from the Anchorage Daily News showed a couple of videos of families and individuals impacted by FASD, both were "touching and emotional." The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education kicked off their SAFA chapter getting started through the ARC of Anchorage. Tommy O'Malley was interviewed on a morning show on KNBA. About 150 people attended. Lots of information shared between providers, families, teachers, administrators. Deb Evensen presented a powerful and positive message about comparing FASD to another epidemic that happened in 1925 with the diphtheria epidemic and how great things are happening around the state. Deb noted there was a strong feeling of comradery, a feeling of celebration, and Trish agreed.

Alex reported that Arctic FASD Regional Training Center offered an FASD 101 workshop and seven people attended.

Jeanne reported in Kiana that during lunch, she set up the FASD kit with information for teachers and poster contest and acronym contest (putting positive statements to FASD); also did an awareness walk.

Member Updates

Alex reported that the UAA Center for Behavioral Health Research & Services (CBHRS) was awarded a new grant to establish an “FASD Practice and Implementation Center” and will be focusing on educating and training nurses. They’ll be working with other states in the Pacific Northwest (Washington and Oregon). It’s a four-year grant with a first year as a planning year. She reminded that their current grant for the Arctic FASD Regional Training Center ends at the end of the month, and they are working on how they’re going to move forward with a limited no-cost extension budget. The last of the RTC’s public workshops was held on 9/9.

Teri reported setting up an FASD Awareness table at the Juneau Early Learning Fair on Sept. 4 at Harborview School in Juneau.

Jeanne will be doing an *FASD Into Action* class in Kiana, a community meeting with a general training. The SESA workgroup on FASD is sending out a survey.

Monica reported she’s traveling to Washington D.C. for the NOFAS Gala, then to Arkansas for two days presenting on “FASD in the Classroom” through the university there.

Mike reported they’re talking about forming a Barrow FASD Council.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2015