

Alaska FASD Partnership - Steering Committee
Wednesday, October 8, 2014 – MINUTES (final)

Introductions – Mike Jeffery (Barrow Superior Court), Shannon Cross-Azbill (Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)), Jenn Wagaman (Alaska Center for Children & Adults (ACCA)), Alex Edwards (Arctic FASD Regional Training Center), Stephanie Johnson (Nome Youth Facility), Lakota Holman (Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)), Deb Evensen (FASD Consultant), Clayton Holland (Kenai Peninsula Borough School District), Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus (FASD Consultant), Mike Baldwin (Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority), Sean O'Brien (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)), Teri Tibbett (Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA)).

Approval of agenda. Approved.

Approval of minutes. (8.13.14 and 9.10.14). Approved with changes. Mike Jeffery's comment: on page 2 re: FASD awareness activities, add the names of the communities Stephanie and Jenn worked from.

Letter for Monica. Teri had sent out a draft letter to steering committee members supporting Monica Charles Leinberger's induction into the NOFAS (National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome) Hall of Fame. The letter would come from the Partnership. There was no objection to sending the letter. Mike Jeffery suggested looking at the NOFAS website for their hall of famers.

Member Updates

Lakota reported that Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is hosting "Thrive," an event on Oct. 22 in Anchorage coinciding with AFN, a celebration of Native humor, comedy, art, storytelling related to prevention, an alcohol-free event at Anchorage Community Works; Lakota also attended the Association of Addiction Professionals meeting in Seattle and reported that brain-based injuries came up a lot during the conference, she suggested going to their website to see the handouts, Powerpoints, etc. She also noted ANTHC is hosting an initiative for care providers called "Heal the Healer" for people who provide care—they're making videos of personal stories and other events as part of the initiative.

Clayton Holland and Deb Evensen reported that Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has a parent FASD support group in Soldotna and one starting in Homer next month; also they're putting together a think-tank for the district and getting a great response – the think tank includes principals, teachers, special education teachers, a nurse, and others; they're seeing a general change around the district, more awareness and interest spreading with one community asking for a community-wide event on FASD; the district is premiering a film that was created, filmed, edited, etc. to be used for training purposes based on the *Eight Magic Keys*. The film follows a regular teacher around for a day in a reality show style format, and that the teacher they're following really "gets it" and provides a great model for how to work with students with FASD. Deb noted that when teachers talk about strategies they don't often know how to implement the strategies, so seeing a teacher do it is very powerful.

Mike Jeffery reported about the public defender's office in Bethel and a position they have, "Protective Specialist III" (Megan Newport) who works with adults, children welfare cases, juvenile offenders, etc. on developing plans, paperwork, alternatives to jail sentences, and other supports. It is working well there and Mike thinks it would be a good model to see in Barrow. Mike Baldwin noted the position is Trust-funded; also Mike J. will be attending a meeting in Anchorage that hopes to have representatives from the Public Defender Agency, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Therapeutic Courts, etc. to discuss the details about that position.

Mike Baldwin reported that the Alaska Mental HealthTrust is working with Dr. Phil Mattheis, who has put in a request to work with DJJ on the Kenai Peninsula for some FASD-related planning and coordination. Mike reported that the Anchorage Diagnostic Team, which has been located at ASSETS, has recently moved into the community as a stand-alone entity. They are in the process of setting up their infrastructure while continuing to do evaluations.

Sean O'Brien reported DVR is doing some transitioning at Vocational Rehabilitation to implement changes coming from the Federal Rehab Act—related to outcome performance standards, youth transition programs (delivery system for pre-employment and other elements for students with disabilities, 16-21 year olds), and many other changes.

Jenn reported Alaska Center for Children and Adults are holding fall swim nights and an *FASD Into Action* class. They're also offering a training "Managing the Individual Education (IEP)" in Fairbanks on Saturday, October 18. Contact 479-7940 for information.

Shannon reported that DJJ is working on a grant to provide FASD training at DJJ facilities.

Stephanie reported the Nome Youth Facility is continues to work on trauma-informed care practices and the importance of approaching the youth this way, instead of seeing them as bad people.

Teri reported the Juneau FASD Working Group is continuing to plan the FASD conference in Juneau in February. They are currently consulting with the University of Alaska Southeast for their involvement, as well as other stakeholders that would offer tracks in education, legal system, medical, families and individuals, and social services. The group is looking at potential funding and other elements before committing. AMHB-ABADA boards will be meeting in Fairbanks October 27-29 and is a good opportunity for people in the community to voice their opinions at public comment (Monday, Oct. 27 at 5pm). Mike Baldwin added that the board members really listen to public comment, so it's good to show up at their meetings, as well as the meetings of the Trust, school boards, city councils & Assemblies, and other advisory boards.

Jeanne reported that the village of Kobuk voted not to go wet. Jeanne is continuing to do FASD advocacy around the region.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 12, 2014