

**Alaska FASD Partnership
Steering Committee - MINUTES
February 11, 2015**

I. Introductions. Trish Smith, Vickie Tinker, Christie Reinhart, Sean O'Brien, Alex Edwards, Deb Evensen, Lakota Holman, Shannon Cross, Teri Tibbett.

II. Approval of Agenda. Approved.

III. Approval of Minutes 1.14.15. Approved. Minutes for this meeting were not written, but the meeting was held as scheduled.

IV. FASD Forum and Training in Juneau.

Teri reported on the FASD Forum and Training in Juneau, Feb. 3-6, 2015. Fifteen family members, and others, attended the Family Voice advocacy training on Feb. 3. They also attended the forum and other advocacy activities at the Capitol (sponsored by Family Voice project of the Alaskan Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse). About 125 people attended the forum on Feb. 4, which consisted of a family panel and provider panel in the morning, and breakout sessions in the afternoon on: Diagnosis, Criminal Justice, Education and School Systems, Nutrition for Recovery and Children with FASD, A Family's Personal Story, FASD and Trauma, Parent Navigation. On Feb. 5-6 an FASD Into Action training was provided for Juneau families, teachers, criminal justice workers, developmental disability workers, etc. taught by Jenn Wagaman (Alaska Center for Children and Adults) and Trish Smith (Volunteers of America Alaska). Also, Stone Soup Group sponsored a Strategies for Success training, taught by Wendy Barrett and Meghan Clark on Feb. 5. Also on Feb. 5-6, experts went into the field and did on-site consultation/training/presentations for several local organizations, including: DJJ facility Johnson Youth Center, Dzantik'l Heeni Middle School, Gastineau Elementary School, Juneau Job Center, REACH, Public Defender Agency, Juneau Bar Association. The experts included Deb Evensen (FASD consultant), Vickie Tinker (director, Kenai FASD diagnostic team, Monica Charles-Leinberger (FASD specialist), Billy Edwards (public defender from Los Angeles), Judge Michael Jeffery (retired Superior Court judge), Clayton Holland (director special education at Kenai Peninsula Borough School District). Also, Family Voice participants presented before the House Health and Social Services committee on Feb. 5, offering compelling testimony and personal stories that inspired tearful emotional responses from committee members and audience. To read or listen to the House Health & Social Services committee testimony, go to: <http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Meeting/Detail?Meeting=HHSS%202015-02-05%2015:00:00>. The presentation on FASD begins at 4:09 minutes. Finally, on Feb. 6, Billy Edwards offered testimony before the House Judiciary Committee to a receptive committee. To read or listen to his testimony, go to: <http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Meeting/Detail?Meeting=HJUD%202015-02-06%2013:00:00#tab3> 4. The presentation on FASD begins at 1:03 minutes.

Vickie reported that everything fell into place, and the experience of one of the Family Voice participants, Debra, losing her son (who had FASD) during the forum offered a painful, but valuable opportunity to share that story to legislators during the Health & Social Services Committee testimony on Feb. 5. Staff at the DJJ facility were receptive to training offered by Vickie, Deb, Monica, Billy Edwards, Judge Jeffery. Started off in a panel format with Judge Jeffery and Billy Edwards, then Vickie offered her Powerpoint training. The Diagnosis break-out session at the forum was productive with positive interactions and information from participants. Trish thought the forum was good for getting together with Partnership steering committee members and others to visit and get to know each other. The testimony by Nick and hearing his perspective as 37 year old with FASD at the HSS committee hearing was powerful. The forum was well attended and there were a lot of professionals there.

Christie reported that Britteny Howell (who attended) reported it was a valuable experience. Especially, the FASD Into Action training. She stated that Britteny, who is new staff to the Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education, has a scientific background and the training offered a good amount of science.

Deb said it was great to get so many people together who are really invested in FASD. Her take-aways were how important it is to help folks so when they're adults they are not as challenged, hearing the personal stories, and seeing everyone working together.

Sean said the training at Juneau Job Center went well. Suggested that next time having a vocational break-out session at the forum would be good to plan ahead of time.

V. Invitation for New Members, Noelle Miller, Meghan Clark, PJ Hatfield.

Teri asked if the group objected to inviting them to join the steering committee. Noelle Millers is a speech therapist who does equine therapy from Kenai. Meghan is a parent navigator with Stone Soup Group. PJ Hatfield-Bauer is director of Infant Learning in Seward. Deb suggested inviting Jackie Lannon who is a special education teacher for Anchorage School District and one of three FASD mentors at ASD that Deb is training. There was no objection to inviting these members to join the steering committee.

VI. Member Updates

Christie reported on "other health impaired" definition work they're doing at GCDSE. They did a comprehensive search for the definition in education regulations, and found it only under inoculations. They brought it to the Department of Education and Early Development (EED) and asked them to draft a definition. Advocates spoke with the commissioner of DEED and director of instruction (who writes a lot of the regulations) who seemed very supportive. Commissioner responded saying they will likely craft it and put it before the state school board in June, followed by out for public comment. They are giving their support and giving testimony. Explained the history, and how the new Anchorage diagnostic clinic has an advanced nurse practitioner, but in order to qualify for other health impaired for eligibility in schools, the diagnosis has to come from a physician (MD or DO). "Other Health Impaired" is the preferred category for FASD. The GCDSE FASD working group has been working to get that changed to it being an MD, DO, or PA (Physician's Assistant) under the direction of a physician, or an APRN (Advance Practice Registered Nurse). They compared it to other diagnoses that are allowed that come from non-physicians. The commissioner was for it as long as they were talking about expanding eligibility rather than reducing it.

VII. Other Announcements

"FASD and Trauma" at the Kenai conference is coming up April 2-3 in Kenai. Dr. Mark Sloane and Jim Henry psychologist, (who have a clinic that focuses on FASD and trauma), Dr. Phil Mattheis, Deb Evenesen, Dylan Wisner (Guardian Ad Litem). Contact Vickie Tinker at vtinker@fcsonline.org.

Trish visited the new NEST (Neo-Natal Evalution Support and Treatment) program at Alaska Regional Hospital, a program supports moms and infants who have drug or alcohol issues. They are sponsoring a conference April 15-16 at Millennium Hotel in Anchorage. Dr. Ira Chasnoff will be presenting.

VIII. Next meeting: March 11, 2015