

Alaska FASD Partnership Steering Committee Draft Minutes - April 8, 2015

Present: Deb Evensen, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Mike Baldwin, Vickie Tinker, Mike Jeffery, Britteny Howell, Shannon Cross-Azbill, Noelle Miller, Alex Edwards, Sean O'Brien, Jenn Wagaman, Teri Tibbett

Approval of Agenda. Approved.

Approval of Minutes 3.11.15. Approved, with changes.

FASD & Trauma Conference (Kenai). About 130 attended. Shannon said it was a great networking opportunity. Deb appreciated the secondary trauma piece. She noted a deep level of understanding and support for FASD issues on the Kenai Peninsula. The conference offered information on the brain, trauma, and FASD. Jim Henry and Dr. Mark Sloane offered an overview of their work and research. The second morning focused on secondary trauma that can happen to people who work in the field and strategies for dealing with that.

Reducing Recidivism through Success Reentry

Teri reported the "Reducing Recidivism Through Successful Reentry" conference in Anchorage offered a good information for people working with youth and adults in the juvenile justice and criminal justice fields. Some of the take-home messages were that it's important to work with people according to how their brains work, not just one particular therapy or one-size-fits-all approach. Shannon presented at the conference on transitioning youth back into the community after DJJ, and listed accommodations that need to be made and considerations that need to be put into place for these transitions to be successful. She will send these out to Partnership members. The two-day conference offered a Youth Track and Adult Track. The adult track began with an overview of Alaska's developing Justice Reinvestment movement that looks at reducing recidivism and state costs for prisons by redirecting funding to treatment and rehabilitation. Other states are doing this and it's proving to close prisons and save millions. A coalition of public and private agencies are partnering to implement these strategies and practices (see the Alaska ["2015 Recidivism Reduction Plan: Cost Effective Solutions to Slow Prison Population Growth and Reduce Recidivism"](#)). Legislators codified their support in intent language in HB 72 supporting the effort to be carried out by the Departments of Corrections, Health & Social Services, Labor & Workforce Development, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Alaska Criminal Justice Commission, and Alaska Court System. Part of the push from this group is to address brain-based disorders in DOC and reentry into the community.

Department of Corrections Request for Proposal (DOC-RFP)

Teri gave the overview of the Request for Proposal (RFP) that is currently out for FASD/Rural Specialist. This contractor would be responsible for addressing screening, training for DOC staff, treatment for inmates with FASD, and reentry support/strategies. There were some definition issues in the RFP, which Teri brought to the attention of DOC and the Trust. DOC is hoping the contract will be awarded July 1.

Member Updates

Alex Edwards announced the Arctic FASD Regional Training Center is holding a statewide FASD 101 "train the trainer" in early June, as well as an FASD 101 for general public. Teri reported comments that FASD 101 and 201 offer basic information, but not how to apply that information in people's regular lives, which *FASD Into Action* offers. Alex and Mike B. suggested that the *FASD Into Action* needs some

FASD 101 information added to it before it's fully well-rounded. The suggestion from the group is to see both offered, either in one integrated curriculum, or to be sure the public is aware that 101 and 201 are introductory, and *FASD Into Action* offers practical applications. Important to have a sustainable body of trainers too.

Sean O'Brien reported on the Workforce Investment Opportunities Act passed by Congress last June and that they are combing through the Act to see how they at DVR are to implement it. Some of the pieces are producing software and videos for staff training, rehabilitation efforts, etc. Starting with internal pieces, then will move out to general public.

Jeanne reported the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education FASD workgroup is continuing to work on their priorities: 1) DD eligibility for FASD, 2) prevention of secondary disabilities, 3) self-advocacy for people with FASD, 4) role of the workgroup in world of FASD advocacy. This workgroup is working on clarifying and adjusting their focus so they can look at waitlists and Medicaid expansion as well.

Teri offered an overview of Medicaid expansion effort in the state. There is a statewide effort with many stakeholders writing letters, sending emails, appearing for public testimony, meeting with legislators, and appearing at rallies. The Governor supports it, a majority of legislators do not. Expansion in Alaska would give health insurance to about 40,000 low-income Alaskans who earn less than \$20,314 per year (if single) or less than \$27,490 (if married).

Other Announcements

For National Prevention Week, Providence Hospital will put on "The Voice of One, The Power of All" personal stories told by people who have experienced successful prevention, treatment and recovery strategies. There will also be a book fair with books related to addiction, and an opportunity to meet with Alaska Youth Development Coalition members to discuss prevention, treatment and recovery. May 18 at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage.

Next meeting: June 10, 2015 (NOTE: No meeting in May)