

**Alaska FASD Partnership  
Steering Committee – MINUTES  
June 10, 2015**

**I. Introductions.** Lakota Holman, Mike Baldwin, Alex Edwards, Trish Smith, Britteny Howell, Stephanie Johnson, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Vickie Tinker, Phil Mattheis, Teri Tibbett

**II. Approval of Agenda.** Approved, as amended.

**III. Approval of Minutes 4.8.15.** Approved, as amended.

**IV. Statewide Efforts (Department of Corrections FASD-RFP, Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education (GCDSE) FASD workgroup, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Northwest Strategies, Institute of Circumpolar Health).**

Mike B. from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority reported on efforts from the Trust: Supporting Senator Pete Kelly’s “Empowering Hope” initiative focusing on FASD Prevention. The Trust provides context information and resources toward that effort, using funds allocated from the legislature. Part of Sen. Kelly’s effort include a study through the Institute of Circumpolar Health’s to measure the effectiveness of pregnancy tests in bars, a statewide media campaign through Northwest Strategies (an Alaskan marketing and advertising company) who has developed video PSAs currently playing on statewide TV and Youtube. The Trust also supports the Dept. of Corrections (DOC) Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a contractor that would facilitate screening, training for staff, treatment for people with FASD and other brain-based disorders while incarcerated, and reentry strategies for them.

Jeanne and Britteny reported on the efforts of the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education (GCDSE) FASD workgroup. The workgroup has recently clarified its role within the council and is working on a mission statement. The group’s priority is supporting lifelong strategies for success for people impacted by FASD. They are also working on FASD Awareness Day activities and the 1915(i) & (k) RFP process. Britteny reported they support FASD as one of the diagnoses qualifying for services within the 1915 (i) &(k) Medicaid reform strategy. The workgroup also recently completed an evaluation of Fascinating Families Camp, and recently presented before the State Board of Education on clarifying the definition for who can sign off on a child’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP) related to eligibility for special education services. They are advocating to add nurse practitioners and physicians assistants under direction of medical doctor to the list. Currently only MDs and DOs can do this.

**V. FASD Awareness Day.** The Partnership will again coordinate the statewide FASD Awareness Day restaurant promotion. New partners will likely include Northwest Strategies and K&L Distributors, who have both voiced an interest in helping with the effort. Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant and Retailers Association (CHARR) has been partnering with the Partnership for four years on the effort and will also likely partner again. Lakota and Trish volunteered to help distribute table tents in Anchorage. Mike B. suggested the Trust has Small Projects grant that could be used to support the effort (deadline July 1).

**VI. Partnership Direction.** Teri asked Partnership members to think about projects the Partnership might work on in the coming year. Previously, Partnership members led workgroups that addressed priorities, such as education, legal, diagnosis, families and parent navigation, etc., but this broader effort became difficult for participants so we moved to a project-by-project strategy. Currently, the Partnership hosts the annual statewide FASD Awareness Day restaurant promotion and co-sponsors an annual Family Voice advocacy fly-in to Juneau that offers advocacy training and opportunities to testify

and meet with legislators during the legislative session. This spring, the Partnership coordinated the Family Voice FASD Forum and Training, a five-day conference that included advocacy training for families and individuals with FASD; an all-day forum with family panel, a service provider panel, and break-out sessions on a variety of topics; on-site personalized training by experts at the juvenile detention center, Job Center, REACH, and Gastineau School; a two-day FASD Into Action training; a presentation by individuals, families, and providers before a legislative committee; and individual meetings with legislators. Lakota suggested looking at the recommendations from the Photovoice project. Vickie suggested FASD case management needs attention, as an idea for a project. The group agreed to think about ideas to be brain-stormed more fully at a future meeting.

**VII. Presentation by Kristen Mitchell-Box and Lindsey Henkelman “Tell Me Your Story: Outcomes After an FASD Diagnosis.”** They received funding from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to evaluate the Anchorage FASD Diagnostic Clinic. Objective was to evaluate the process and obtain data to help design and implement effective diagnostic and intervention services, and pilot the Photovoice methodology as an alternative for individuals living with FASD to communicate their experiences and be self-advocates. Evaluation section (presented by Kristen): Learned if the diagnostic process was valuable to clients. Administered surveys to OCS and OPA, and interviews with parents and caregivers. Seven people were interviewed. Positive Outcomes: Clients developed coping skills and strategies and found strengths and supports for family members, increased confidence, and opened doors. Challenges: Barriers in the justice and education systems, inadequate services or follow-up. Photovoice project (presented by Lindsey): Photovoice is a method of research that encourages personal empowerment using pictures and words to communicate people’s experience. Part of “participatory action research” strategy. Process consisted of five sessions over a five-week period in which participants were trained to use a camera and Photovoice research themes, photography ethics and parameters for the photos, develop narratives and titles for photos, and discussed emerging themes of the study. Three themes emerged: family and love; desire for belonging and understanding; opportunity for happiness. Synopsis of results included...for Anchorage Diagnostic Team: developing an intervention and/or action plan for all clients; verifying resources/services; follow-up services (e.g. case management). For providers: education about diagnosis and treatment plans; communication with diagnostic teams to develop coordinated system of care; develop services specifically for individuals with FASD and families. For educators and criminal justice professionals: improve/update training opportunities; introduce screening mechanisms into systems; education to all school district children. For policymakers: reinstate/streamline waiver system and ensure agencies are trained in appropriate billing structure with capacity to offer appropriate services; re-deploy the KABB survey statewide; fund case management and follow-up care. For advocacy groups: Secure funding to provide training, education, supportive networks, respite care, etc.; use alternative means of data collection and interpretation, like Photovoice and process analysis, from those affected by FASD for their input in structuring their system of care.

## **VI. Partner Updates**

Mike reported the Trust met with Vickie, Phil and Deb on efforts related to trauma.

Vickie said it’s important for districts to know the importance of the physician argument. Had a town hall meeting in Kenai to discuss a trauma center, followed by task force meetings to see how to make it happen.

Alex reported last week the UAA Center for Behavioral Health Research and Services, on behalf of DHSS Prevention and Early Intervention, hosted the FASD 101 training and Train the Trainers. We now have 20 more FASD 101 trainers around the state. Also, they’ve created a Facebook page for the trainers.

Stephanie reported Norton Sound Health Corporation is working on setting up a diagnostic team in the Nome area, hoping to coordinate with Maniilaq Health Corporation. The Fairbanks diagnostic team has offered support for this.

Trish is working on two camps in July, one each for younger and older camps. Called Camp Hope, for kids whose parents experience substance use disorders. Scholarships were awarded to rural families.

#### **VIII. Other Announcements**

Diane Casto, formally FASD point person in DHSS, has taken a new job with DOC to work on reentry issues, which is an asset for the FASD effort in DOC. Congratulations Diane!

**IX. Next meeting:** July 8, 2015