

Alaska FASD Partnership Steering Committee
April 13, 2016 – MINUTES

Introductions – Deb Evensen, Jenn Wagaman, Alex Edwards, Meghan Clark, Mike Baldwin, Mike Jeffery, Britteny Howell, Teri Tibbett.

Approval of Agenda – Approved.

Approval of Minutes 2.10.16 and 3.916 – Approved.

Legislative Update - Teri offered updates on SB 91 Criminal Justice Reform; SB 165 Alcohol Beverage Law Reform, and the Operating budget, which contains budget items related to substance abuse and community-based services.

AD HOC: Therapeutic Foster Homes - The group decided on having an AD HOC meeting to discuss therapeutic foster homes on April 27. Teri will compile all the previous minutes on this topic and send it out so folks can brief themselves before the meeting. Jenn will invite Tiffany McCormick from Alaska Center for Children and Adults (Infant Learning and LEND fellow) to speak at the next meeting on her project. Teri suggested also inviting Aileen McGinnis, Lori King, and John Regitano to the next ad hoc meeting.

Member Updates - Deb Evensen attended a Democratic platform meeting in Homer, in which people brought up the importance of dealing with FASD. This was written into the platform. She noticed that this discussion is an example of the topic hitting the mainstream, and its influence on addiction and education. Also, both Kenai and Anchorage school districts have agreed to continue their FASD programs. She is noticing increased awareness in both school districts and is seeing real change.

Alex Edwards shared that UAA CBHRS has moved more upstream in their FASD work, focusing on prevention of alcohol exposed pregnancies and substance use disorders. Through a three year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) they have been working to teach students in healthcare programs at UAA (nursing, social work, and psychology) as well as the Alaska Family Medicine residency program about how to conduct an evidence-based screening for alcohol or other substance use, and then provide brief education or brief intervention to those who may benefit from it. They also have a four year grant from CDC to establish an FASD Practice and Implementation Center, with a focus on implementing alcohol screening and brief intervention into health systems, and to train and educate nurses in this area. They have also participated in the development of two online courses for health and allied healthcare providers on introduction to FASDs and preventing alcohol-exposed pregnancies, which will be piloted on the CDC website sometime this fall.

Mike Jeffery reported about his participation in the Vancouver international FASD conference, which focused on juveniles and adults with FASD. He talked about a screening tool (Life History Screen) presented by Dan Dubowski(sp) who has preliminary results of a survey in Yukon Correctional system, and the screening tool for juvenile probation officers from the Asante Center in Canada.

Mike Baldwin clarified that DOC is obligated to use a validated screening tool because they are not allowed to experiment on inmates, and any tool they use cannot be too comprehensive (e.g. researching family history) because of the time factor in processing inmates. He added the most realistic tool will be a functional assessment. The Trust is working with Kenai on their trauma center approach. Mike also reported on the Full Lives Conference (for people who provide direct services for people with disabilities). They honored Betsy Chivers, an FASD case manager, with a recognition award. He also reported on previous legislative funding for a demonstration project that put pregnancy tests in bars, that the project is still going on, but he's not sure of the update. He reported that the FASD media campaign is still ongoing as well. He will follow-up and give us a more current update at a later time.

Next meeting: Ad Hoc Therapeutic Foster Care Workgroup, Wednesday April 27 3pm, and regular meeting of the Partnership on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 3pm.