

Alaska FASD Partnership Steering Committee
May 11, 2016 – MINUTES

Introductions – Vickie Tinker, Amy Hansen, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Monica Charles-Leinberger, Shannon Cross-Azbill, Meghan Clarke, PJ Hatfield-Bauer, Teri Tibbett

Approval of Agenda – Approved.

Approval of Minutes 4.13.16 – Approved.

Legislative Update

Teri reported that SB 91, the criminal justice reform bill, passed the House today after its final vote. It now goes to the Senate, which we expect to concur. The bill contains sweeping changes to Alaska’s criminal justice system, including many provisions that include assessments to identify high and low-risk individuals and people with disabilities (including FASD); increased use of Offender Management Plans (OMP, similar to IEP) that will follow each offender through their incarceration and reentry to the community to include treatment or specialized units for people with disabilities and requirements for community supports upon release; alternatives to incarceration; Recidivism Reduction Plan funded by 50% of marijuana tax to be directed toward building treatment and other supports in the community; and more. Teri will provide an overview after the bill is headed to the Governor for his signature. The proposed \$30 million dollar increase for substance abuse treatment is still on the table.

Member Updates

Vickie reported the childhood trauma center they’re working on for Kenai is moving ahead “like molasses,” but is definitely making progress. Josh Arvidson from the Alaska Child Trauma Center will be on site to facilitate a two-day intensive trauma training for the Frontier Community Services staff, and this will help move forward joining the FASD program with the trauma-focused treatment.

Monica reported that the FASD diagnostic clinic in Bethel is struggling to continue operating. They have several new referrals that are near completion for an FASD diagnosis. Also, she received the good news that two of her former students diagnosed with FASD graduated with diplomas, and that one will apply to King Career Center and the other hopes to attend KUC in the fall.

Jeanne reported on the GCDSE Workgroup on FASD. Jeanne gave testimony at a Trust meeting about how folks with FASD’s are mostly excluded from DD, TBI and mental health services. She requested that the Trust acknowledge this population the way they have supported those with TBI through the Alaska Brain Injury Network. She thanked them for their prevention work, talked about prevalence and requested the opportunity to meet with the Planning Committee. She added that Betsy also spoke about her role as Case Manager and the challenges with identifying services.

Meghan reported that the Pediatric Neurodevelopmental Clinic (formerly Pediatric Neurodevelopmental and Autism Screening Clinic) is no longer a screening clinic it is now a diagnostic clinic which sees patients for concern of Autism and global delays. This clinic is up 10% from 25% in provider referrals with a primary concern for FASD. They are up in referrals

from hospitals and clinics around the state for FASD, seemingly because more physicians are aware of this. Currently the clinic does not serve patients with concern for FASD. However there is support from leadership to include FASD diagnostics in the clinic For FY18. The clinic primarily serves rural Alaska. Also, the Anchorage FASD Council has grant support for the Sept. 9th awareness event, so they expect for it to be bigger this year.

AD HOC: Youth in Transition and Therapeutic Foster Homes

Teri reported that Representative Tammie Wilson from North Pole spoke passionately on the House floor today about the broken foster care system in Alaska. She called for a reform effort to address the problems in Office of Children's Services (OCS). Teri suggested this could be a perfect time for our Ad Hoc Youth in Transition and Therapeutic Foster Home workgroup to have a place at the table for this discussion during the legislative interim.

It was suggested that the workgroup invite Tiffany McCormick from Alaska Center for Children and Adults (Infant Learning and LEND fellow) to speak at the next meeting on her project, and invite Aileen McGinnis, Lori King, and John Regitano to participate as well.

The Ad Hoc workgroup agreed to meet Wednesday, May 18 at 2pm.

Announcements

PJ announced that Deb Evensen is coming to Seward for a community training on FASD, trauma, ACEs, etc. sponsored by the Seward Prevention Coalition. It's the first time in 18 years there has been any official training related to FASD.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 3pm. Also, the Ad Hoc Foster Care and Youth in Transition Workgroup will meet on Wednesday, May 18 at 2:00pm.