

**Alaska FASD Partnership Steering Committee
September 14, 2016 - MINUTES**

I. Introductions – Vickie Tinker, Mike Jeffery, Shannon Cross-Azbill, Christie Reinhardt, Alex Edwards, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Deb Evensen, Phil Mattheis, Teri Tibbett

II. Approval of Agenda. Approved.

III. Approval of Minutes from 8/10/16. Approved.

IV. FASD Awareness Day Events

Mike reported about the September 9th training sponsored by the Alaska Bar Association in Anchorage, “Practical Strategies for Addressing FASD in the Justice System,” in which many members of Partnership’s steering committee presented, including Vickie, Mike Jeffery, Christie, Deb, Shannon, and Teri. The training lasted 9 hours, and covered an overview of legislation affecting Medicaid reform and criminal justice reform as it relates to FASD, and sections relating to special education, community supports, working with clients with FASD, and FASD as a mitigating factor and other legal considerations. It was an engaging training with almost no attrition from participants. Most were not attorneys (after a show of hands) and Shannon noted the director of special education for the Northwest Arctic School District attended. A highlight for Mike was the perspective of Gina Schumaker, an adult with FASD, who offered a perspective not often heard at conferences or trainings. The Bar recorded the entire training, which will be available on DVD (contact the Bar). There was a hard copy of all the materials over 200 pages, and a digital copy went out as well. Teri gathered names and contact information of over 30 people interested in future advocacy efforts.

The Anchorage FASD Council organized an event at the Anchorage School District main office. Speakers included people with FASD, family members, Billy Edwards gave an overview of a case study of a client for whom he was successful in getting her services even though she had an IQ above 70. Judge Jeffery and Teri presented on legislation affecting FASD.

Jeanne participated in a Wellness Gathering in Kotzebue, which included people from Kawarek and Norton Sound. They’re working on organizing a Northwest Arctic Brain Institute in Kotzebue for next year.

V. Ad Hoc Therapeutic Foster Care Training Workgroup

Teri reported that the ad hoc workgroup has been meeting twice monthly to go over 20 brainstormed ideas, assessing for short term goals, long term goals, and low-hanging fruit for action items. The group hopes to have some identifiable action items soon. See ad hoc minutes for details.

Vickie reported that she spoke with Presley Ridge about their curriculum (which is used extensively in Alaska for training foster parents (and OCS workers?). She asked to view it, but was told she would either need to purchase it, or view it through one of the agencies using it. She said they expressed being open to accepting ideas to enhance their training related to FASD and/or other brain-based disabilities. Vickie will look at the list for which agencies use the curriculum in Alaska so we can inquire about viewing it.

Jeanne reported that she and Jenn looked at what trainings are currently available to foster parents/OCS workers through Alaska Center for Family Resources (ACRF) and found most were in-depth and accessible with a good foundation of material that is easily understandable. Vickie said it was well-written, clear and a good resource for people just coming into it. She suggested that some of it could use updating, but was impressed with its accessibility. Shannon said she used to teach for ACRF and said the

materials on trauma offer a good foundation as well, adding that she used to teach to Guardian Ad Litem who benefited from ACRF's trainings. ACRF offers five regional conferences annually, which are very well received and attended, and noted that foster parents are receptive to FASD and trauma trainings. She added that foster parents are hungry for appropriate interventions, so anything this workgroup can do to expand existing trainings would be likely be appreciated and utilized. Jeanne said she'd like to recommend ACRF hold a regional training in Kotzebue. Vickie used to train OCS workers.

VI. Member Updates

Shannon reported she met with Diane Payne, from the Child Advocacy Center, about Safe and Healthy Children's Conference (for social workers, medical providers, and other child advocates) in November, and suggested adding FASD to a section on Addiction. Diane was open to it and supported expanding accommodations for this population.

Mike inquired about inviting Shannon to speak about FASD and Trauma at an upcoming Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee meeting. He will contact Noel Kennedy-Torres to arrange this.

Mike reported on his visit to Whitecrow Village in Canada, a camp sponsored by the Whitecrow Village FASD Society. The event was attended by Mike and several women from Juneau (members of the Juneau FASD Workgroup) who are planning to bring Kee Warner, the executive director of the society, to Juneau to put on a camp in August 2017. One of the highlights for him was how the Whitecrow camps are put by people with FASD and showcase what people living with FASD have to teach the rest of us. Deb is on their board and respects their work immensely.

Teri reported on the recently formed integration of SB 74 (Medicaid Reform) and SB 91 (Criminal Justice Reform) workgroup through the Department of Health & Social Services. The group is identifying what reforms are required. Rising to the top of the list is enrolling soon-to-be released felons in Medicaid so their primary and behavioral health needs are met immediately upon release—as a strategy for increasing stability and reducing recidivism through appropriate community supports, like health care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, case management, etc. Also, Department of Corrections are still working to find an appropriate screening tool that will help identify people with FASD and other brain-based disabilities so that appropriate interventions can be offered during their incarceration. Phil noted any screening needs to look at behaviors, not diagnosis, and people with brain-based disabilities require individualized interventions that can be different from person to person.

Shannon mentioned Dr. Ken Jones, one of the original doctors studying FASD in the 1970s, is working on a screening tool for youth in juvenile justice in San Diego. It was recommended we contact him for more details—Alex volunteered to reach out to them as the university has come connection with his organization. The group also discussed the "Life History Screen" provided by Dan Dubowski and "Yukon FASD Diagnosis and Case Management in Adult Corrections Population" (June 2015). All these are potential screening mechanisms that DOC may consider investigating.

VII. Next meeting: Wednesday, October 12, 2016