

**Alaska FASD Partnership
Steering Committee – FINAL MINUTES
Wednesday, June 14, 2017**

I. Introductions. Vickie Tinker (Frontier Community Services), Lanny Mommsen (GCDSE), Jenn Wagaman (Alaska Center for Children and Adults), Deb Evensen (private consultant), Mike Baldwin (Trust), Christie Reinhardt (GCDSE), Mike Jeffery (Barrow Superior Court), Clayton Holland (Kenai School District), Noelle Miller (private consultant, family member), Barb Chambers (FASDx), Shannon Cross-Azbill (DJJ), Lakota Holman (ANTHC), Teri Tibbett (AMHB-ABADA). Guests: Margaret Vrolyk and Sandy Fiscus (Juneau Whitecrow training and camp).

II. Approval of Agenda. Approved.

III. Approval of Minutes from 4.12.17 and 5.10.17. Approved.

IV. Professional/Workgroup Updates.

Juneau's Whitecrow Training and Camp: Margaret Vrolyk and Sandy Fiscus presented on the professional training in Juneau July 31-Aug. 4 and camp Aug. 7-11. The events are open to people statewide. The Whitecrow Village model (not a place) offers practical, hands-on experience for living and working with FASD. The 4-day training will cover how to accommodate environments, how to be strength-based, and other information. The camp will offer an intensive experience, including mornings in a classroom setting and afternoons applying what was learned in the morning that includes typical camp activities. The environment is set up to ensure children with FASD and their families are successful, with a consistent schedule, engaging activities, whole foods and no sugar, etc. The professional piece will be immersion style and open to anyone interested in learning strategies for working with people with FASD.

GCDSE FASD Workgroup 5-year Plan: Lanny presented that they've hired a contractor, Agnew::Beck, and the first planning meeting will be a half-day (in-person and by phone) in August to establish long term goals, core values, vision, and priorities, followed by an all-day in-person planning session in October to finalize the previous steps and begin establishing action steps. They are using the same strategy GCDSE used for the autism 5-year plan and are continuing to gather historical materials. Please send whatever historical information you have to Lanny.

Alaska Center for FASD: Barb Chambers presented that they are continuing to move ahead on becoming a non-profit and that workgroups are settling on priorities to inform the board at their next meeting.

Therapeutic Foster Care Ad Hoc Workgroup: Teri reported that the workgroup has not met in the last month, and will begin meeting again in July or August to finalize recommendations.

V. Legislation/Budget Related to FASD

Teri reported that legislators are still in session, with many budget items still on the table that could affect people with FASD, family members, and service providers. She will offer an end-of-session report when the legislature concludes its business.

VI. Member Updates.

Deb and Clayton: KPBSD is on summer vacation, but staff are working on some things for next semester. Things that are working: parent support groups are growing and getting tight-knit, individualized classroom support is effective, staff are getting lots of training. The district is continuing to expand the

FASD program and answer questions that come up. Exciting to see the level of understanding that people are getting at the grassroots level.

Jenn: Has “a ton of kids” for the list for their diagnostic clinic, booked through December. Planning an “FASD into Action” training on two Saturdays in October. One of their families participated in a Swedish TV interview last month (it’s in Swedish, not English): <https://vimeo.com/217921421?ref=em-v-share>.

Shannon: Waiting to see what happens with the state budget. *Impact of Proposed Cuts:* The Senate proposed reduction will result in the closure of the Community Detention Program (an alternative to institutional detention) at both McLaughlin Youth Center (MYC) and the Mat-Su Youth Facility. In FY 16 the program diverted 183 youth from expensive beds in detention. Community detention serves youth who commit low level offenses, who are not a serious risk to themselves or others, and who need additional supports, such as case dismissal, diversion, probation, treatment, etc. The program allows youth to come to the facility for the day, attend school and obtain services, such as anger management and drug and alcohol counselling, then go home at night. Without this program, youth will be moved to expensive detention beds and could grow by 150-200 youth per year. MYC is already over capacity, so a new wing would be needed to accommodate the additional youth, at a cost of about \$1.6 million per year to operate.

Barb: FASDx has been working with families whose children are in residential treatment at MYC, trying to get a diagnosis so they can qualify for comprehensive support. Four mental health clinicians there are costing the state a lot of money. Comprehensive care could help reduce those costs. Parents brought the diagnosis to the treatment center with request for therapy and accommodations and trauma-informed care, that are Medicaid billable, but the facility denied those requests. One father was encouraged for his son/daughter during the diagnostic process, but is now very discouraged. Suggested a pilot treatment program that looks at all these alternatives as a model for others.

Christie: The GCDSE is also updating the council’s five-year plan to address across the lifespan and proposed a focus on individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities (Autism and FASD) but the feds said no, so they decided to focus on increasing evaluation and diagnosis of school age children 0-22 for Autism and FASD, which could include expanding developmental screening statewide to increase the number of children being screened. Their plan will go out for public comment before going back to the feds for approval. The current standardized screening tool is “Ages and Stages,” a social/emotional tool that a parent can use, and doesn’t have to be administered by a professional. They want a preventative tool and looking to learn what supports caregivers need to keep the problem from becoming a lifelong disability.

VII. Announcements.

Vickie announced the “Regional Partnership Grants to Increase the Well-Being of and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for Children Affected by Substance Abuse” Grant (HHS-2017-ACF-ACYF-CU-1229). To apply, go to: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/howto>. Deadline: July 10, 2017.

Mike B. suggested contacting Senators Murkowski and Sullivan to advocate against the U.S. Senate’s version of the American Health Care Act, currently in the U.S. House, and the non-transparent manner it is being handled, with no committee hearings or public oversight.

Barb announced a radio presentation on KSKA radio (Anchorage) which featured a Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Therapeutic Court” related to Wellness Court for birth to age 3 and reunification of families, overseen by Southcentral Foundation. The program featured Dr. Matt Hirschfel, MD, and others speaking on ACEs and other factors. Go to: <http://www.alaskapublic.org/2017/06/09/palmer-superior-court-judge-vanessa-white/> to listen.

Next Regular Meeting: July 12, 2017