

Alaska FASD Partnership Steering Committee
Wednesday, September 13, 2017 – FINAL MINUTES

I. Introductions: Jenn Wagaman, Mike Baldwin, Lanny Mommsen, Alex Edwards, Vickie Tinker, Marilyn Pierce-Bulger, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Teri Tibbett

II. Approval of Agenda. Approved.

III. Approval of Minutes from 7.12.17. Approved.

IV. FASD Awareness Day Activities

Lanny reported about the event at Loussac Library, which included reading the Governor's proclamation by Sen. Meyer and the mask-making activities (telling one's story, making a mask, and what it represents to them) with 25 people attending, and 12 masks. The masks will continue on with "Unmasking Brain Injury" project that is moving around Alaska as an exhibit, including other masks from other communities. Stone Soup Group and GCSDE hosted, and Southcentral Foundation's diagnostic team helping out.

Jenn Wagaman reported distributing awareness day table tents to three restaurants, and approximately 100 tables. Also, she presented at Downtown Rotary Club, which included a 20-minute speech about FASD, reading the Governor's proclamation, and thanking her team members. She also participated in a local children's health fair and shared info about the Fairbanks FASD and diagnostic team.

Vickie Tinker reported that the local newspaper printed the Governor's proclamation with an editorial by the editor. Also Sept. 9 was the kick-off for the Kenai school district's parent support groups, led by Deb Evensen, which was held at a local park. Participants came from Homer, Seward, Kenai, Soldotna, and included parents, the superintendent, and others, who ate together at a potluck.

Marilyn reported board members from the Alaska Center for FASD non-profit approached restaurants and found some interested and some not. 17 were approached, and seven participated. One offered an extra dessert and \$10 gift card. Jill Burke helped a couple restaurants (who didn't want to use the tents) promote awareness day on their Facebook pages, and other venues. Lessons learned included, start planning earlier, have the list of restaurants that participated in the past so volunteers can return to those restaurants next year, promote more rural participation in the future, empower locals to get involved, generate ideas that work in rural areas.

Mike said in previous years they followed the restaurant promotion with a thank you in the newspaper acknowledging all the restaurants that participated—which inspired the restaurants to do it again the following year. Also, recalled the "Nine for Nine" slogan and poster contest, and stick figures planted in the lawn in front of Lusaac Library, as past activities that could be revisited.

Teri reported distributing to seven restaurants, about 185 tables, in Juneau. She was out of town in the weeks before Sept. 9 and was unable to plan ahead this year, so approached the restaurants on the morning of Sept. 9, all of whom were willing to participate.

Next year suggestions: Start earlier, expand effort to rural areas, encompass the whole month, update media materials, request funding from Trust for updating media materials, include other forms of communications besides paper products, such as apps, and keep tents up longer than one day.

V. Additional members. Teri suggested inviting Sandy Fiscus and Alex Pastorino, from Juneau, to join the steering committee, to offer more Southeast presence, increase communication and input from the Juneau diagnostic team, and invite a person with FASD to be part of the group. Approved, without objection.

VI. Professional Membership Updates (GCDSE 5-Year Plan, Alaska Center for FASD, diagnostic teams)

Alaska Center for FASD. Marilyn reported the board is continuing to meet, have heard from IRS about their non-profit status and are expecting word about that soon, their strategic planning will coincide with the GCDSE's strategic planning, looking for leadership and involvement, family support will be a central focus because of the acute need, each board member has particular interest and expertise which will play into their direction, looking for financial support, interest areas include behavioral health, prevention, education, adults, criminal justice, families, early recognition and intervention.

Marilyn reported on the diagnostic teams, who are now working with Hope Finkelstein program coordinator for the FASD diagnostic teams and case management, Juneau is dealing with some issues, Sitka has a new coordinator with an addiction counseling background, Nome is not responding, need to connect with them.

Discussion about FASD case management followed. Hope Finkelstein is hoping to work on a redesign of the case management program. Of the original \$300,000 in the DHSS budget for FASD case management, all but \$58,800 was reabsorbed into their budget due to non-expenditure. Interested people should contact Hope. Marilyn suggested the diagnostic teams are not set up to provide the transitional piece after diagnosis, which needs to be addressed, possibly through the FASD case management program.

GCDSE 5-year plan. Lanny reported that the group had its first meeting two weeks ago, went over goals, mission, vision, core values and have decided on five priority areas: prevention, screening and diagnosis, early intervention and education, systems transformation and navigation, community outreach & education. The group is currently identifying priority areas and first steps. October 4 is the next meeting, all day in Anchorage, to continue finalizing strategic plan, followed by regular meetings to discuss what's been accomplished, and other input, and to update efforts.

VII. Supporting efforts of GCDSE and Alaska Center for FASD

How can the Partnership support these efforts? Partnership can write letters, steering team members can offer input and wisdom about best practices, what would be the best role for the non-profit, support building natural capacity with peer support and navigation, speaker's bureau, etc. Collective wisdom of work needs to be harnessed and focused to see a systems shift.

VIII. Member Updates

Jenn reported ACCA will be doing "FASD Into Action" in October; a parent offered funding for to keep swim nights ongoing.

Alex reported they're entering year four of their work related to reaching nurses and providing them with more effective ways to reach women about drinking alcohol during pregnancy, this is the final year for that.

Jeanne reported their Brain conference happened last weekend and was successful. Those present included, DJJ, behavioral health therapists, school folks from Norton Sound and Northwest Arctic, nurses, and more. Brain injury clinic will happen in the spring in Kotzebue, Anchorage, and Utgiagvik (Barrow). People requested more follow-up and Jeanne asked them to tell their supervisors, to inspire it to happen.

Mike Baldwin reported the Trust has grant funding for projects if people are interested in applying, also there is advocacy opportunity for public comment before the Trustees (3-5 minutes, by phone or in person) at the Trust's public meetings.

Teri reported the Whitecrow Camp and LIFE Sessions training in Juneau was successful. The 4-day training for professionals was followed by a 5-day camp for families and professionals. A highlight of the training

was co-presenter Ken's strength as a person with FASD offering his wisdom and anecdotal experiences alongside the precepts that Kee offered. A highlight of the camp was watching a couple of the families' initial frustrations transform into epiphanies and hope over the course of the week. The organizers, Sandy Fiscus and Margaret Vrolyk, have created a foundation for annual camps. Teri also reported on the legislative advocacy trainings that the Trust and partner advisory boards sponsor every fall. This year trainings will happen in Anchorage, Mat-Su, Fairbanks, Juneau, Bethel, Kenai/Soldotna, and Ketchikan.

IX. Announcements

Mike is happy to see the momentum taking off and thanked everyone for their participation.

Next Regular Meeting: October 11, 2017 cancelled