

Alaska FASD Partnership
Wednesday, April 10, 2019 – FINAL MINUTES

I. Introductions – Barb Chambers (FASDx, parent navigator), Shannon Cross-Azbill (DJJ), Jenny Weisshaupt (AMHB-ABADA), Lanny Mommsen (GCDSE), Hope Finkelstein (DHSS FASD Program Manager), Mike Baldwin (Alaska Mental Health Trust), PJ Hatfield (Infant Learning), Deb Evensen (FASD Consultant), Clayton Holland (Kenai Peninsula School District), Teri Tibbett (AMHB-ABADA).

II. Member Updates

Barb Chambers – Reported that through the International Rotary program several Alaskans are in Australia discussing and advocating for FASD issues. Includes Marilyn Pierce-Bulger, Mike Jeffery, Tami Eller, Monica Charles, and Dr. Fitzpatrick (pediatrician). Barb also reported the number of referrals for diagnosis are down at their clinic. Noticing lots of babies are testing positive for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), but clinicians/doctors are not testing as much for alcohol, possibly because of the attention on opioids. The Alaska Center for FASD is running a teen support group with a strong core group, volunteer effort (board members staffing it), board is working on implementing some strategic planning.

Clayton Holland – Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) continues to implement FASD training, parent groups, changing school culture, FASD-informed, and leading the state in comprehensive services as model for other districts. NOTE: DEED (Don Enoch) has a “Disproportionality Report” which includes numbers related to discipline, long term suspension, and expulsion. Kenai’s numbers are way down.

Hope Finkelstein – Addressing resources and programmatic issues, and a variety of projects, one of which is to document what’s happening in KPBSD. Also, coordinating a Whitecrow Camp in Homer for six families, to include leadership development. Also, curriculum development for schools, messaging, prevention, action, trauma, data collection. The state’s FASD website has been updated, go to: www.fasd.alaska.gov.

Shannon Cross-Azbill – The Governor’s budget proposes closing the Nome Youth Facility, but the \$2 million was restored in the House Finance version. Next year DJJ is hoping to provide training specifically related to FASD for DJJ workers, focusing first on the northern facilities (Nome, Bethel, Fairbanks), followed by expansion to the other facilities. Will include training the trainers.

PJ Hatfield – Working with Infant Learning in Seward and seeing a lot of NAS in newborns. Noted that KPBSD has offered FASD training for parents (beyond just teachers and school staff) and parents are really pleased with this. At an early childhood conference last week, there were presentations on NAS.

Mike Baldwin – Trust is continuing with FASD media campaign, “Let’s Talk FASD,” and some new projects. On the Trust website, search for FASD for materials. Also, google: Let’s Talk FASD to review additional materials, including a guide for healthcare providers: www.letstalkfasdak.org.

Teri Tibbett – Updated on efforts of the boards, including legislative advocacy, criminal justice reforms, Medicaid (1115 Waiver, etc.), and trauma-informed schools.

Deb Evensen – Gave update on KPBSD parent groups, and the openness of the district to address FASD.

III. Legislative Update, Priorities

Teri offered an overview of legislative priorities (see 2019 Legislative Priorities document). Medicaid is at the top of the list of Governor’s proposed cuts because it will have deep impacts to our folks, but other cuts need advocacy too: homeless programs, Alaska Civil Legal Services, early childhood programs, and adult public assistance. The group approved the list of bills and budget items for advocacy. Teri will finalize the document and send it out to folks, with a request to contact their legislators on the items they care about.

IV. Letter of Support for SB 52

A draft letter of support for SB 52 related to Title 4 (alcohol laws) rewrite, was discussed and approved. Jenn Wagaman will sign it under the title “Acting Chair.”

V. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 8, 2019.