

Alaska FASD Partnership
Wednesday, August 14, 2019 – FINAL MINUTES

I. Introductions

PJ Hatfield-Bauer (Seaview Community Services), Hope Finkelstein (Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS), FASD Program), Lanny Mommsen (Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education (GCDSE)), Michael Baldwin (Trust), Jenn Wagaman (Alaska Center for Children and Adults), Mike Jeffery (Retired Superior Court Judge, Utqiagvik), Teri Tibbett (Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse).

II. Agenda. Approved.

III. Minutes from June 12, 2019. Approved.

III. Legislative Update

Teri gave an update on budget items the Partnership has been tracking. Two bills passed during the second special session:

[SB 2002](#) contains capital items and funds the provisions in this session's crime bill HB 49, and provides for a "reverse sweep" that restores monies to various functioning state funds. The governor signed it on August 9 with vetoes to several items of interest to the Partnership, including -\$10 million for statewide addiction treatment facilities that would have added 200 additional treatment beds, and -\$3.6 million to the Homeless Assistance Program that provides funding for homeless services, including emergency shelters, food banks, homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, and more.

[HB 2001](#) contains items in the operating, mental health and supplemental budgets, including language for a \$1,600 PFD. This bill has not yet been signed. It contains the following items we are tracking: Medicaid Services and Adult Preventative Dental, Senior Benefits Program, Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grants, Human Services Community Matching Grant (for resources to homeless shelters and food banks in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Mat-Su), Community Initiative Matching Grants (for resources to homeless shelters and food banks throughout Alaska), Early Learning Programs (that provide opportunities for early identification and intervention for children with disabilities and behavior challenges), Nome Youth Facility, Therapeutic Courts, Public Defender Agency, Alaska Civil Legal Services Fund, and Office of Public Advocacy.

IV. FASD Awareness Day/Month

Table tents in restaurants. The Partnership has sponsored this campaign on September 9 for 10 years. Table tents and posters have been printed this year with updated verbiage and design. Teri asked for volunteers to distribute tents in their community: Mike and PJ.

A Google Docs FASD Awareness Month Calendar will be embedded into the Partnership's webpage showing September awareness events statewide.

[*Moment to Moment: Teens Growing Up with FASDs*](#) Film showings will happen in Anchorage, Mat-Su, Juneau, and possibly Fairbanks, throughout September, sponsored by Alaska Center for FASD, with funding from the DHSS FASD Program. The Juneau showing will also be sponsored by the Juneau FASD Community, Alaska FASD Partnership, and possibly Juneau Youth Services. Mike expressed interest in a showing in Utqiagvik and suggested reaching out to Monica Charles in Bethel for a showing there. A discussion followed questioning the film's focus on weaknesses, rather than strengths. Jenn mentioned another film about FASD, [*Finding Hope*](#).

Fairbanks will start a "**Charting Group**" in September for discussing behaviors and creating accommodations as a follow-up to ACCA's *FASD Into Action* training. It will launch on September 1 and run through December, and be held at the Alaska Center for Resource Families' Fairbanks office.

A **Social Media Campaign** to post events and activities throughout September will be hosted by GCDSE. The council is also requesting an FASD Awareness Day proclamation from the Governor's office.

DHSS is updating the **online "FASD Awareness Month Resource Kit"** on their website www.fasd.alaska.gov — to include "unpacking" the items inside the kit (it wasn't getting much traffic) and make them more accessible; update current content; and add links to stakeholder awareness month webpages. Hope will use this time of year to do an annual review of DHSS's online FASD resources. She requested steering committee members send her their suggestions for additional resources soon for inclusion on the updated site.

V. Member Updates

Mike J. – Attended the Whitecrow FASD family camp at a retreat center in Soldotna, funded in part by DHSS, with the following highlights: 30 people (including 10 children) attended; young adults with FASD served as counselors who entertain the kids during the day while the parents attend training and discussions with FASD facilitators (Kee Warner and Deb Evensen); other people who have attended Whitecrow camps in the past also attended, including Mike Jeffery, Audrey Sunnyboy, Mary Burke, Matt, and Jaden Burke. Staff meetings occur while families have quiet time; six healthy meals are served each day with strict guidelines (no sugar). Hope added that the Kenai Peninsula was chosen to host the Whitecrow camp this year because it has a high level of community readiness with strong community assets and connections with the school district, Office of Children's Services, legal system, and consultation with Deb Evensen; they are hoping build and replicate it elsewhere in Alaska.

Jenn – Working with Hope and local experts to create an educational framework for FASD training, including identifying baseline information we already have and developing a broad framework for moving forward. They are working with people involved in FASD and other community stakeholders with the goal of identifying what's needed.

Hope – The DHSS FASD Program is funding ACCA's effort to coordinate the educational framework and has contracted the UAA College of Health Professor Travis Hedwig to document the Kenai Peninsula community framework for FASD. DHSS is also providing funding support for the Alaska Center for FASD's film showings of Moment to Moment around the state.

Lanny – The statewide 5-year planning workgroup will have a telephone check-in on August 27 and a day-long meeting on October 2; also working on a UAA Masters of Public Health Meet & Greet table to invite students who have to do a practicum project and literature review to consider an FASD project. She's requesting ideas for FASD projects to present at the table.

Teri – Working with other stakeholders to establish a statewide FASD & Justice Workgroup that feeds into other statewide efforts to address FASD in Alaska's legal system, including a possible pilot program in DOC to screen and serve people with FASD in the state's correctional system; also participates in other statewide efforts to serve justice-involved Alaskans with behavioral health needs, ensuring receive appropriate support and services. Hope recommended an FASD ECHO online community that brings practitioners together as a group to look at a case studies, that includes taking systems (family, community supports, criminal justice systems) through a lens of youth transitioning into adulthood to address aging out of services. Meghan Clark at UAA has the contract. The Outreach & Engagement Workgroup of the Governor's 5-year planning group is finalizing their 2018-19 action items, which included gathering an exhaustive stack of past and present FASD materials, vetting them for relevancy and posting in a resources kit on the state's FASD webpage www.fasd.alaska.gov; started an editable conference calendar for identifying venues to present FASD information; engaged advocates to educate policymakers about issues impacting people with FASD; and identified past and present trainers for recruiting new participants in the 5-year planning effort. Next steps for 2019-20 include establishing a process for evaluating materials, outreach strategies, and community readiness among target audiences; fine-tuning FASD outreach materials; establishing sites for distributing the materials;

creating a statewide speakers' bureau; updating informational totes and advocacy materials; promoting FASD awareness in schools; developing a "pitch" for recruiting advocates; and identifying agencies to recruit from.

VI. Announcements

GCSDE Inclusive Play Date at Muldoon Playground, ice cream fun and games, 12-1pm on Sept. 9.

Hope will be on KNBA Radio on September 7 at 9am to talk about FASD.

VII. Next meeting: Wednesday, September 11, 2019.