



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

FASD Workgroup

LOCATION

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education
3601 C Street, Suite 740
Anchorage, Alaska

July 1, 2014
3-4:30pm

Attendees:

Aileen McInnis, Anna Attla, Alex Edwards, Barb Chambers, Travis Hedwig, Trish Smith, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus (Chair), Christie Reinhardt (Staff)

CALL TO ORDER

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus called the meeting to order from her vacation home in Maine.

ROLL CALL

Christie.

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Jeanne welcomed the group and announced she had no internet but was coping.

OLD BUSINESS

Jeanne has started her new job as Star Coordinator.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **DD Eligibility:**

a. **Service Home:**

The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Registration and Review (IDRR) Workgroup had its first meeting in June. Jeanne is now a part of this group as well as Art Delaune. The purpose of the Workgroup is to review the waitlist (IDRR) and eligibility process to see if it can be more streamlined and/or if it needs updating. This is anticipated to be a one-two year project.

There was also more discussion about incorporating a scoring mechanism for vulnerability in DD assessment.

b. Educational Services:

- FASD: Eight Magic Keys- Discussion of this video and how it is now available on the web at the Anchorage School District TV channel. There are also handouts available.
- There was a meeting of the Special Education Service Agency (SESA) board on June 6th. At this meeting a SESA Workgroup on FASD was formed. The members are Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Cassidy Jones (DEED) Terese Kashi, Jack Walsh and Patrick Pallai. One of the projects discussed by the group was to have David Tarcy survey teachers across the state to get a baseline about their knowledge of FASD. Future plans would expand this survey to other school staff and parents.

c. Birth through Life Supports, Accommodations and Services:

- Stone Soup Group, CHD and others (including Travis) held an exploratory meeting to discuss the formation of a respite network. It Takes a Village AK. The roll out of this opportunity is slated to be at the Stone Soup Group picnic on August 1. Rather than calling it respite the focus is more on shared “supported recreation and volunteerism”. The framework of this will be to initiate a network where families can get connected to other families and share activities like hiking or fishing and build relationships outside of formal paid cares. There is another meeting scheduled for July 19. The project needs seed money. There was a discussion about background checks and also about giving tools for dealing with challenging behaviors. The initiative is going to look at Big Brothers/Big Sisters which does training with its volunteers a

- a. **Prevention of Secondary Disabilities:** Prevention- Pregnancy tests in bars. The general outlook about this

2. **Self-Advocacy:** (SAFA Chapter) Jeanne read Christie’s update on a SAFA Chapter. In short, Alaska has non-monetary support at the national level, but will not be able to contribute funds for the foreseeable future. Anna stated that the Washington, DC meeting was very good and that a plan was made, but it is now time for the plan to be updated, especially with the court system, as they have a hard time helping those with FASD. (Youth in FASD Workgroup) Jeanne told the Workgroup that she spoke with an individual (Eliza) from AYFN during the Into Action meeting in Anchorage and she is very interested in reinventing the old Youth in FASD Workgroup. Jeanne will be in touch with her and Teri Tibbett will offer staff support. The goal is to invite and gather individuals who are interested in FASD. (Substance Abuse Treatment for Individuals with FASDs) Jeanne stated that, if accommodations were provided firsthand, substance abuse could be avoided.
3. **FASD Media Campaign:** There is \$500,000 in the FY15 Trust budget as of July 1, 2014 for a public campaign on raising the awareness of FASD and combating FASD stigma. The scope is not defined yet.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

What are some action items for raising awareness on FASD and reducing the stigma (i.e. dropping off brochures, etc.)?

Check out the SAMSA website on FASD readiness and order brochures: Tip #51 on FASD Prevention, Intervention and Treatment.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm, with the next meeting to be held on July 1, 2014 from 3-4:30pm.

Creating Change That Improves the Lives of People with Disabilities