



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of  
Health and Social Services

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES  
& SPECIAL EDUCATION  
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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

September 8, 2015  
3-4:30pm

**CALL TO ORDER**

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Michael Jeffrey, Aileen McInnis, Anna Attla, Clayton Holland, Deb Evensen, Donna Graham, Barb Chambers, Jeanne Gerhart-Cyrus, Trish Smith, Christie Reinhardt, Teri Tibbett, Jenn Wagaman, Donna Graham, PJ Hatfield-Bauer, Maureen Harwood, Britteny Howell.

**PARTNER UPDATES**

FASDx Services – Barb Chambers

100 people waiting for diagnosis right now, 9 month wait. The AWARE program is looking for 20 people for evaluation. Mindfulness software training for people with FASD. FASDs has had 3 people volunteer in the required age group (13-18 years old).

AK Center for Children & Adults - Jenn Wagaman

Fairbanks had no AWARE volunteers in the right age group. They have a few spots open in their upcoming FASD training.

**OLD BUSINESS**

### **Presentation from SDS on Medicaid and other Changes**

Maureen Harwood spoke about the SDS unit for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD unit). Due to budget cuts, the division is reducing the number of people they draw off the IDD waiver waitlist from 200 per year to 50 per year. Right now there are 700+ people on the waitlist, approx. 500 are kids. Of those in out-of-state institutions, there are 14 on waivers and 3 are DD eligible. She informs the group that there are only 5 qualifying diagnoses for the IDD waiver, but with possible changes to the 1915 I and k plans, we might get greater inclusion. SDS has hired a contractor to create a system that would include FASD and other groups, like dementia based more on functionality than diagnosis. This will need to be balanced with budget cuts, cannot expand eligibility without finding ways to limit the program and save money. Program needs to be sustainable, as the Medicaid waiver is not sustainable right now. The contractor is forming an implementation committee. We have people on the waiver in API, but cannot use that money in that institution. The IDD system is not for crises, it is supposed to be for long term care. These cuts result in prioritizing crises.

### **State Board of Education**

Christie Reinhardt mentions that she and Britteny will be attending the state board of education meetings in Sitka, where they will be discussing changing the DEED regulations so that MD, DO, PA, and advanced nurse practitioners can diagnose OHI/FASD. It had been pulled from the June agenda, since then there has been pushback from doctors. The new board of ed documents add FASD to the list of OHIs, but also specify that only advanced nurse practitioners who focus on psychiatry or family practice can diagnose for FASD. This does not address ADHD and ignores that FASD diagnosis is within the scope of practice for advanced nurse practitioners with other foci and training (i.g. pediatrics). Christie is organizing stakeholder input and public testimony for September 17 @ 8:35am to call in to the board meeting. Please contact her, as she needs testimony!

### **FASD Awareness Day Events Around the State**

Teri Tibbett

Table tents promotion in 8 communities for FASD awareness day tomorrow.

Michael Jeffrey

Barrow is doing the table tents this year in 5 venues, with posters up around town. They are also recording a radio show on FASD. Is excited that the school in Nome is putting on a 2-day FASD Into Action Training.

Jeanne Gerhart-Cyrus

Will be at ABIN meeting in Kotzebue next week. Lots going on around Kiana for FASD day. Final score video in high school, poster contest and acronym contest, community forum on FASD at 3:30, awareness walk in the shape of a number 9, Can't Not Won't, prizes for participants, 3 venues for table tents.

Deb Evensen & Clayton Holland

Kenai school district on 9/9 letter to principal. High school read about FASD day and the impact of alcohol on fetus, includes resources, posters.

Deb & PJ Hatfield-Bauer

In Seward, a grassroots effort with the diagnostic team, school sponsored parent support groups in Kenai, Homer, and Seward. Grandparenting group in Nikiski. There is a planned support group in Seward tomorrow, we're making mocktails for moms, a newspaper will be reporting on it.

Brittney Howell

Anchorage event now includes First Lady Governor Walker to read the executive proclamation and offer comments, a line-up of 7 self-advocate and family member speakers, several providers, administrators, and Mayor Ethan Berkowitz, who will also read a proclamation and offer comments. The event is at the Anchorage School District atrium from 4:30-7:30pm and will be covered by 3 tv news stations with interviews with our speakers. We are also participating in the table tent promotion, and putting up hundreds of wooden stick figures in the library lawn to commemorate the number of Alaskans who experience FASD.

Jenn Wagaman

Fairbanks will have a radio station interview, doing the table tents in several restaurants, and a representative from the Governor's office will be reading the proclamation at the Fairbanks FASD event.

### **Date & Time of Next Meeting**

Tuesday October 13, 2015 @ 3-4:30pm.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 pm

*Creating Change That Improves the Lives of Alaskans with Disabilities*

