

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION**

**FASD Workgroup
Minutes**

LOCATION

**Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference**

**Meeting Date
April 19, 2016
3:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus – Chair
Jill Burkert – Co-chair
Aileen McInnis
Alex Edwards
Barbara Chambers
Betsy Chivers
Michael Jeffery
Chris Fraczek
Tori Shanklin
Meghan Clark

Staff:

Britteny Howell

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 3:02 p.m.
ROLL CALL

PARTNER UPDATES

Anchorage FASD Council

Meghan Clark reported that the Anchorage FASD Council began to meet again in January of this year. She reported that the Center for Human Development chose to fund 20 percent of a full-time position for the FASD projects. The FASD Council is working on the following activities:

- Preparations for the Fascinating Family Camp held in July
- Working on a resource guide for the Anchorage Bowl
- Making preparations for the 9/9 FASD Awareness event

Meghan Clark stated that in regards to the 9/9 event, in an effort to capture the lifespan more broadly and to align with the goals of the Alaska FASD Partnership, the FASD Council is focusing on the theme of transition.

FASD Partnership

No update was available from the FASD Partnership.

DIAGNOSTIC TEAM UPDATES

FASDx Services

Barbara Chambers reported that the diagnostic team is continuing to complete 9 to 12 diagnoses a month. They are also beginning to put together data of the different breakdowns of the years that the team has been in operation in an effort to have solid data to be able to impact systems change. Barbara reported that based on the OCS numbers, 2,919 youths are in custody, and it is estimated that 10 percent of those youth in custody have an FASD, which is 291. The current teams are serving a maximum of approximately 150 youth a year. The teams are strategizing on how to start conversations to improve the flow of diagnoses, which will lead to how to get early intervention services for those individuals who have been diagnosed.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus asked if the FASD team diagnoses are limited to children. Barbara Chambers explained that they have approximately 23 team members in the Anchorage community, including medical health professionals from Southcentral Foundation, and all of their providers are pediatric. She further noted that the process for adults is difficult in the sense that it's hard to ensure that they are going to get through the process if there's not an assigned guardian for the adult. She stated that the focus is on individuals birth to 18.

Alaska Center for Children and Adults

No update from the Alaska Center for Children and Adults was available for the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Council & Medicaid Updates

Brittney Howell reported that she and Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reached out to Representative Ivy Sponhholz and asked her to participate in the FASD Workgroup meetings, and she responded back that she is very interested in joining the workgroup and will be present at the next meeting.

Brittney Howell reported that in regards to a Medicaid update, FASD being covered on the Medicaid waiver is not going to happen. The 1115 waiver specifically refers to the redesign of the behavioral health system, and the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare are going to allocate funds under the 1115 waiver to redesign the behavioral health system. That funding doesn't come through Senior and Disabilities Services, it goes to a different division, and DBH will be designing the system. Since the Council is considered to be outside of the behavioral health system, it may not be involved in the process. The 1115 waiver could potentially serve individuals with FASDs after they have a behavioral health diagnosis, after they are adults, and after they are in the system.

Brittney Howell stated that in the last FASD Workgroup meeting, Teri Tibbett suggested that children with FASD would get covered under this new waiver, and it does not look like that will be the case. Teri also said that the waiver system would disappear, but that is also not the case. The

waiver system will not be going away, but the State will be adding two new components called the 1915 (i) and the 1915 (k). The 1915 (c) waiver, which is in place right now, covers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It will not cover children with FASD unless they have some sort of co-occurring condition that would be classified as an I/DD. The 1915 (i) will cover people with Alzheimer's and related dementias, and will not cover individuals with a FASD unless they have a co-occurring condition. The 1915 (k) is a funding mechanism so that the State of Alaska can pay less for the I/DD 1915 (c) waiver. Britteny reiterated that it does not appear that there will not be new coverage for individuals with FASD under the redesigned Medicaid system, as it must be "cost neutral" to CMS.

9/9 Event Planning and Updates

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus opened the floor to the workgroup members for ideas related to the 9/9 events. Barbara Chambers commented that she would like to see an emphasis on promoting prevention prior to the actual FASD Awareness Day. Other recommendations included:

- Reaching out to WCFH and other agencies for information on their current activities that are focused on prevention.
- Collecting data resources related to the benefits of supports and accommodations.
- Gathering a list of current data resources related to diagnoses and outcomes.
- Getting stories from self-advocates and families.

OTHER

Barb Chambers recommended inviting Amanda Metivier to the workgroup meeting. Amanda works within the foster care system, and Barbara believes that partnering with that system would be beneficial in the effort to develop self-advocates and access individual's stories.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The FASD Workgroup is scheduled to meet June 14, 2016 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Britteny Howell noted that the FASD Workgroup is not scheduled

to meet in May because of the full Council meeting, and they will not meet in July because of summer break.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.