

Michigan FASD Task Force Meeting Minutes, February 19, 2014

Present: Vern Soden, Betsy Soden, Roy Yapple, Shelly Bania, Ted Wybrecht, Barbara Wybrecht, Ann Carrellas, Carolyn Morado, Helene Mayleben, Joan Ehrhardt, Jackie Wood, Mike Tobias, Gilliam Bentley, Shelly Bania, Mary Browning, Alicia McAndrews (guest speaker from Easter Seals), Carol Cole, Charlyss Ray

On the phone: Charisse Cossu-Kowalski, Mary Schalk, and Ann Hern

Next Meeting dates:

The meeting was convened with welcome and introductions by Ann Carrellas at 10AM at the Michigan Primary Care Association in Lansing, Michigan.

Ann led the task force in a review of the FASD Task Force action plan contents with a focus on what is justice related.

Mary Fouchon provided information on her work with the Washtenaw County Jail working with youth there.

Mary Schalk requested that anyone making a training presentation with impact on large systems (court, DHS, MDCH) should provide her with a copy of the presentation and information on dates of presentation and number of training attendees.

Ann distributed a copy of the Journal of Psychiatry and Law Vol 39, No. 1, Spring 2011 to highlight issues of criminal justice and those with FASD.

Ann distributed a copy of the Forensic Assessment of FASD.

Barb Wybrecht discussed her work with the International Coordinating Committing FASD (ICCFASD) Work Group on Justice. This group focuses on juvenile and adult justice issues including the issues that individuals with FASD face in the justice system. After Barb's presentation, the task force formed its own workgroup with plans to meet by teleconference on 14 March 2014 from 1030-1200 (see below). Barb noted that it is estimated that 25% of youth in the criminal justice system appear on the spectrum compared with 10-15% of foster care children. Barb, who has worked extensively with juvenile justice stakeholders in Kent County noted that it is often difficult to get court staff to training unless the training is free. She has plans to train 30 probation officers in three free sessions.

Alicia McAndrews provided a presentation on initiatives by Easter Seals including her work on clinical intervention in the home and use of the FAS prescreen. Alicia works closely with four other agencies through CMH in Kent County

The NOFAS/MCFARES Update was tabled.

Ann discussed plans for the Task Force to participate in a Juvenile Justice Conference with the Child Care Fund in August.

Ann discussed issues for adults with FASD and the Juvenile and Criminal Justice Systems. A workgroup was formed consisting of: Barb Wybrecht., Ann Carrellas, Mary Browning., Roy Yapple., Helene Mayleben., Jackie Wood, Vern Soden, Ann Hern, Betsy Soden. Ann will ask Connie Black-Pond if she wants to participate. Ann led a brainstorming session by the Task Force and the following issues were developed:

- o Identification of those who have FASD.
- o Protocol for referring someone for a screening and diagnosis.
- o People with FASD are vulnerable as perpetrators and victims in their interactions with justice systems.
- o Parents are not allowed to advocate with their adult son or daughter with the police or their attorneys.
- o Individuals need cognitive supports which are not understood/part of providing representation.
- o Culpability relative to disability.
- o Believing people with DD/FASD.
- o In the time before the individual meets with their court appointed attorney they may consent/confess to things they should not.
- o Identity theft of a person with an FASD.
- o Parents are not allowed to be part of interviews.
- o Public defenders are uneducated about FASD and talking with and advising individuals.
- o Peer victimization, person who is "set up to do the crime".
- o Court works as one size fits all.

Actions that could be taken

- o Juvenile competency and alternative sentencing.
- o Educate public defenders, judges, police about FASD.
- o Easy accessible information about court and justice systems on line, webinars.
- o Identify judges conferences we could present at
- o Get the information out

Shelly Bania discussed draft budget plans to cut SAMSHA FASD Center for Excellence Funding by 90% (from \$9.8 Million) and urged Task Force members to sign on to her petition on www.Change.org in an effort to convince senior leadership to restore this funding to the budget.

Shelly reported that the September 2013 FASD Conference funds had \$1572 remaining which would stay with CARE of Southeast Michigan.

Mary Browning expressed concern with a 60% reduction in funding for the Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative (MPRI) and efforts to reverse the cut.

February is Birth Defects Prevention Month. The Michigan Genetics Resource Center, Migrc.org has issued a template with additional information on increases in opiate use during pregnancy.

The meeting adjourned at 1PM.

Submitted by Roy Yapple
12 March 2014