

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FASD STATE COORDINATORS

### February 2009 State Updates

State Coordinators provided information on a variety of recent activities. These activities are summarized below.

#### *Arizona, Teresa Kellerman*

- Given State- and division-level budget cuts, Ms. Kellerman is awaiting word on whether her position will continue..
- No activity from the Task Force this quarter.
- Continues to:
  - Screen individuals of all ages for FASD for possible referral for diagnostic evaluations.
  - Conduct statewide trainings on FASD to improve outcomes through appropriate intervention strategies for affected individuals.
  - Facilitate family support groups.
  - Maintain [www.fasarizona.com](http://www.fasarizona.com) and [www.fascrc.com](http://www.fascrc.com) Web sites.
  - Update the FASD News Blog at [www.fascrc.com](http://www.fascrc.com).

#### *Colorado, Pamela Gillen, RN, ND, CACIII*

- Awarded the 2009 Building Evaluation Capacity for Evidence-Based Interventions mini-subcontract. Will look at changing practice behavior around screening women for alcohol use at risk drinking levels, advising, and referral.) This will include:
  - Pretest of attitudes, behaviors, and knowledge of the physicians
  - Pre-training “card study,” a tool used in clinics to measure physicians’ behavior
  - Intervention training or training and technical assistance (TA) of clinic staff
  - A repeat card study
  - Quality evaluation with clinic staff on impressions of training and TA, ability or lack of ability to change the practice behavior.Goal: to institutionalize the screening and brief intervention into the clinic’s practices.
- The Colorado Division on Behavioral Health has chosen to showcase projects in Colorado on FASD prevention, intervention, and treatment. Individuals will present on FASD; CDC Grant “Party Wise”; a stepped care intervention; State legislation as it relates to the FAS Bill; and the five years of pre- and post-training data. This data led to the application to the Service to Science Academy in hopes of creating a more rigorous evaluation with this project.
- Trainings provided include:
  - San Luis Valley clinic received pilot training on FASD prevention for the upcoming research for the Service to Science Academy. Engaged a second-year medical student in a clinical rotation to observe whether the clinic changed practice behavior following the training: they did not.

- Beth El College of Nursing and Health Sciences received training on FASD prevention, intervention, and treatment.
- Johnson and Wales University; trained a nutritionist class on FASD and prevention.
- Developmental Disabilities training on FASD.
- Colorado NOFAS; training on our Party Wise FAS-PACE project.
- Worked with a group that educated the legislature on FASD.
- Colorado House Bill 09-1139, sponsored by Rep Solano, was passed by the House unanimously but still needs to go to the Senate. The bill states that a commission will be formed by August 09 (not exact wording but—it includes parents and will look at the lack of services and access to service in the State). Hoping to increase diagnostic capacity at some point so this would be one agenda item. Have soft language that states that establishments that serve or sell alcohol will be encouraged to put up warning signs and this was supported by the beverage industry. The bill does not include or propose a funding request. I plan to produce the signs in hopes that the industry will ask for them, and will also seek out establishments to post the signs.

*Florida, Felisha Dickey, MSW, MPA*

- The Department of Health is continuing oversight of the FASD Diagnostic and Intervention Clinic contract, which also includes providing training throughout the State and disseminating FAS awareness materials. Diagnostic and Intervention Services are provided in Sarasota and Miami.
- Considering working with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, on updating alcohol warning signage and developing legislation language.
- Refreshing Interagency Action Group membership by identifying individuals and soliciting representation from Criminal Justice, Juvenile Justice, and the Native American community on the Group.
- Re-engaging Interagency Action Group members. Set 2009 quarterly meeting schedule and will set top priorities related to FASD for 2009 at meeting on March 2, 2009.
- Planning to submit TA request to FASD Center for Excellence regarding language of FASD Resource Center RFP, which failed to draw suitable interest. *This item is pending confirmation that the Department of Children and Families still has this funding available.*
- Planning to develop online Web-based FASD training for local county health department and subcontracted providers.

*Hawaii, Catherine Sorensen, DrPH*

- Awarded a SAMHSA training grant for statewide training that will take place late May-early June 2009. Focus: to increase the skills and knowledge of parents and other caregivers, and a diverse range of service providers about effective strategies and interventions to use with children and youth affected by an FASD. The audience will be diverse, and include parents, medical, social services, education criminal justice communities, etc.)

- FASD Screening Demonstration Projects. Negotiating with State Department of Education; Department of Health, Early Intervention Service; and Department of Human Services, Child Protection Services (foster care kids) to institute demonstration screening projects.
- Signage legislation. Signage legislation was introduced in the State Legislature. The Department of Health supports the intent of the bill.
- Voluntary Signage. The FASD Task Force decided to pursue warning signage activity using a voluntary approach. The FASD office developed an information packet that will be used in conjunction with sign distribution. A budget for this activity is being developed.
- Produced guides for daily living booklets for parents and other childcare providers. There are two booklets, one designed for infants and toddlers, and the second for children age 3–12. The booklet content was taken from two Canadian publications.
- Gave a presentation at the Social Norms Seminar, “Uncovering the Misperceptions About Alcohol Use,” to a military audience at the Hickam Air Force Base.

*Kansas, Joseph Kotsch, RN, MS*

- The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Health Services manual, which was updated to include FASD prevention information and resources within the sections on women’s and infants’ health, is being reviewed by various interested partners.
- Awareness activities on the issue of FASD are provided through technical assistance activities, including distribution of various informational brochures. Information was provided at statewide, health-related educational conferences and through written articles and notices of relevant events in the Maternal Child Health Program’s Zero to 21 Information Promoting Success (ZIPS) monthly newsletter.
- The Kansas Perinatal Council (KPC) is in the process of combining with the Kansas Child and Adolescent Health Council. The KPC is the advisory council on perinatal health issues to the Kansas Department of Health & Environment. KPC had been considering the formation of a subcommittee to write guidelines on how perinatal health care providers should handle women who are using alcohol or substances during pregnancy. This is also related to the issue of how to deal with child safety–placement issues related to women using substances or alcohol. However, due to the transition, this subcommittee has yet to take any substantive action.

*Massachusetts, Enid Watson*

FASD Prevention

- Ongoing work in 32 community health centers with SBIRT for women of childbearing age and adolescents.
- New collaborative State initiative to adapt SBIRT protocols for the deaf and hard of hearing general community and for those with developmental issues.
- Presented *SBIRTchc Staffing Model* at statewide SBIRT conference.
- Presented “SBIRT: Addressing Stigma in Medical Settings,” to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Perinatal Task Force.

FASD Intervention

- Spring 2009 training series to be provided by Center staff on “Adapting Motivational Interviewing Strategies for Persons with FASD or Other Cognitive Disorders,” was postponed until fall due to scheduling conflicts.
- Provided FASD training, including working with clients who may have FASD, for child welfare professionals.

General

- Participant, Planning Committee for *Building FASD State Systems Conference 2009*.

Legislative

- Massachusetts governor proposing to rescind the exemption for alcohol tax on alcohol purchased in stores. Funds from this tax would be invested in a public health prevention and wellness initiative that includes substance use issues.

*Michigan, Cheryl Lauber*

- The Michigan FASD Task Force met on February 13 and continues to meet quarterly to advise the program, share concerns, and discuss accomplishments. A major task is implementing the recently developed strategic plan. There is still a lot of work to do in action teams.
- The Michigan FASD Program is working on the following activities:
  - An RFP went out last month for planning grant money to local community agencies for projects in prevention, diagnosis, and linking services and intervention with children and adults. Grantees will be provided technical assistance to plan for an evidence-based approach and if successful will be funded for 3 subsequent years.
  - NOFAS is sponsoring two training sessions for primary care providers on FASD screening, diagnosis, and treatment. Michigan Department of Community Health is working with NOFAS on making Medicaid screening codes available for primary care in addition to substance abuse treatment agencies.
  - Several people from the task force will be attending a “Train-the-Trainer” program at the new Great Lakes Training Center in Wisconsin. The Spectrum Health FAS Diagnostic Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan is collaborating with the Training Center to improve provider education about FASD.
  - The CDC grant for FAS prevention is nearing the end of the 5-year funding period for the Project CHOICES field-testing in the City of Detroit. In brief, the project found that both individual motivational interviewing (MI) and mailed self-directed motivational materials proved successful in changing participant behavior. Women were more likely to reduce their high risk drinking and improve

- their use of birth control in response to information and brief MI sessions. The project will display a poster at the upcoming national Birth Defects Conference.
- With the resources of the CDC grant, the Michigan Department of Community Health also developed a unique surveillance methodology for determining the prevalence of FAS in Michigan. The process includes data mining, matching of existing State databases, and abstracting records for evidence of FAS criteria. The process will be documented as part of a manuscript being developed by the participating States.
  - The PCAP project, funded by SAMHSA, is operating in three counties in west Michigan. To date 12 women who are in substance abuse treatment and are pregnant or have a child less than 6 months old are enrolled and being visited by a peer case manager. The goal is to intervene with 60 women for 3 years and help them to reduce their use of alcohol and/or use effective contraception to prevent another child exposed to alcohol during pregnancy.
  - Another project funded by SAMHSA, is operating in Macomb County, a Detroit suburb. This is a local project that is providing FAS screening, diagnosis, treatment, and referral. This project is highly supported by parents and is part of a well-established program.

*Mississippi, Trisha Hinson, MEd, CMHT*

- The Mississippi AC-FASD (State FASD task force) met in January 2009 to review results of member surveys that had been completed and to compile the resulting priority goals for the revision of the Mississippi FASD State plan.
- Added an FASD module into the “MAP Team 101 Training” that is conducted periodically in the State to help train and establish new MAP Teams in the State. The FASD-enhanced MAP Team 101 was conducted in December 2008. (NOTE: MAP Teams are the State’s local system of care mechanism for children’s mental health.)
- In January, provided FASD training to a group of staff from one of the largest school districts in Mississippi.
- Developed a new PowerPoint presentation entitled “Establishing an FASD State Presence in Mississippi” and presented it to a group of clinicians with the Mississippi Primary Health Care Association in January.
- Set up our FASD exhibit at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mississippi School for A & D Professionals and at the Annual State Vocational Rehabilitation Conference.
- Assisting with planning for the upcoming 2009 BFSS Conference.
- The Mississippi FASD Screening, Diagnostic and Intervention project with NGC is mid-way through the first implementation year. Good progress is being made, especially with regard to the screening and diagnostic goals and objectives.

*New Mexico, Jerome Romero (Chair)*

- Working very hard on Peer Education Program. Have trained 12 schools so far. Students are putting up FAS posters and doing presentations.
- Five groups of Peer Educators from five different schools were in Santa Fe talking to State Legislatures about the FAS Peer Education Program.
- Attempting to establish an FASD prevention partnership with the Kiwanis.

- Preparing to present at a conference for teachers called Head to Toe. Topic will be incorporating FASD information into the classroom and developing a peer education program at their school.

*New York, Margo Singer*

- Continuing involvement with the implementation of a statewide FASD poster contest for 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders. It will culminate in May, during Alcohol- & Drug-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week. (Margo is happy to share materials with anyone who would like to do something similar.)
- Continuing with the Northrop Grumman Project CHOICES subcontract with our women's services providers in NYC. Currently soliciting new treatment providers to participate, hopefully to include some outpatient programs and providers from new geographic regions. Staff are also developing a new FASD training curriculum that focuses on the Recovering Hope DVD, and uses concepts of Motivational Interviewing in its presentation.
- Continuing work on an educational mailing this spring to mid-level clinicians in health offices to give information on FASD, alcohol screening, and brief interventions.
- Finalized plans for Dan Dubovsky, the Center's FASD Specialist, to provide five regional FASD trainings for mental health professionals across the State in late March. This will be co-sponsored by OASAS, the NYS Office of Mental Health, and the Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors.
- The FASD Interagency Workgroup continues to meet quarterly. The FASD Task Force, which oversees the Northrop Grumman subcontract, met via phone on January 15th.
- FASD was highlighted during the agency's marking of January as National Birth Defects Prevention Month. Ms. Singer co-conducted an FASD webinar with an FASD educator (Helen Weinstein in Buffalo, one of the SAMHSA FASD Field Trainers)—with over 220 persons attending from across the State.
- In January, the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council released a RFP to fund two grants for regional FASD trainings. Up to \$80,000 is available. The RFP can be found at: <http://webdev2k3.rt.oasas.state.ny.us/hps/grants/funding/NYSDDPC-FASD.cfm>
- At the end of December were notified that the major FASD organization in NYC – the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Support Network (and our local NOFAS Affiliate for Downstate NY) is suspending their operations. Their phone calls for FASD help will be referred to our Office.

*Pennsylvania, Kathy Jo Stence*

- FASD Awareness Week, 9/8–14/08 (Estimated outreach to 30,000):
  - Kickoff event (50 people in attendance), 9/8/08
    - Expo in the State Capitol Building with 12 service providers (State, support groups, SA Tx, etc) who provided literature re: their services
    - Guest speakers: Dan Dubovsky, Deputy Secretary Janice Koppelman, Dr. Renee Turchi (Philadelphia FASD-SDT Initiative)
    - Unveiling of the State FASD Action Plan, press conference

- FASD training event east/central PA, 9/9/08 (64+ in attendance) for professionals, hosted at Bloomsburg State University. Presenter: Dan Dubovsky
- FASD awareness activities on Bloomsburg Campus
  - Partnered with a sorority, a fraternity and a peer awareness group to distribute FASD information throughout the day
  - Distributed 2000 awareness ribbons
  - Had an Extra Credit Student Seminar (146 in attendance) re: FASD. Gave out FASD t-shirts
  - Community restaurant and tavern partners wore the awareness t-shirts throughout the week
- FASD training event, western PA, 9/11/08 (91 in attendance) for professionals
- Weeklong events:
  - Distributed 23,000 awareness ribbons throughout PA via 22 county partners, tx providers, prevention providers, etc.
  - Distributed 4000 baby bottles stuffed with FASD info at 41 OB/GYN clinics & Crisis Pregnancy Centers in 29 counties.
  - Printed and distributed FASD Educational Resource Manuals to Women's and Women with Children's SA Treatment Centers for use during Awareness Week and throughout the year.
- FASD Training of Trainers: Through FASD Center for Excellence trained five individuals to do training on FASD during a 2-Day TOT in October 2008.
- FASD Task Force Meeting
  - Reconvened the Task Force for the first time since unveiling the Action Plan
    - Established some subcommittees for identifying doable tasks within a stressed economy
    - Updated members on the status of the Plan and in the field of FASD
    - Established a process for distributing the Plan
  - Established and convened the first meeting of the FASD State Task Force Executive Committee to provide direction and oversight (ownership) to the Task Force. Will meet quarterly, with the second meeting scheduled at the end of the month
  - Beginning the process to establish an "FASD Champion of the Year Award" for an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to FASD awareness, prevention, treatment. To be awarded Awareness Week 2009.
  - Planning events for Awareness Week 2009.
- Serving on the BFSS Planning Committee for May 2009 meeting.
- Newly appointed to the NAFSC.

*South Dakota, Robin Erz*

- Waiting for database from Northrop Grumman to become operational in order to input data from the subcontractor site.
- Have five pilot sites up and running—screening 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the goal number at this time.
- Task force meeting, which had been rescheduled due to weather (remember this is SD) is set for February 24, 2009.

*Texas, Carolyn Smith,*

- CHOICES intervention services provided to 89 females in 5 months at four substance abuse treatment centers.
- Same sites are collaborating with the Center for Excellence to provide advanced clinical training for counselors serving females who may be affected by an FASD. Four training events are planned in the next quarter.
- Moving ahead on the development of an online training for professionals who work with children with developmental disabilities. *Understanding FASD & Intervention Strategies for Children* was reviewed by subject matter experts including adoptive and birth parents, the State children's mental health division, ECI, and the FASD Prevention Task Force.
- The biennial Legislative Report 2009 submitted to Texas Legislature and commissioners of the 13 health and human services agencies in the State. The focus of the report addresses how important substance abuse intervention is for females at risk for AEP. Recommendations to the elected officials include:
  - Adopt CHOICES as a preferred intervention in State-funded substance abuse contracts by 2009.
  - Collect data on female substance abuse treatment and outcomes by 2010.
  - Study and report on costs and methods to assess and diagnose FAS and related conditions by 2011.
  - Require State agency personnel to complete *Understanding FASD & Intervention Strategies for Children* training by 2011.
  - Implement pilots for alcohol screening and brief intervention for women in State funded health service centers by 2010.
  - Educate physicians about the rules providing for passive reporting of FAS diagnoses to DSHS birth defects surveillance unit.
  - Survey physicians, pediatricians, and family practice, about their skill and knowledge to diagnose FAS by 2010.
  - Solicit updates from Dept of Criminal Justice by 2011 on implementation of screening and brief intervention with females in their facilities.
- FASD Prevention Task Force met in December. They invited Mary J. O'Connor, PhD, to make a brief presentation on a recent publication about the psychological effects children with FASD experience.
- TOPDD is making plans to raise awareness on 9.9.9 for FASD Day.

*Washington, DC, Drena Reaves-Bey, MPA, GCPH*

State Activities: Health Education and Promotion

- The Government of the District of Columbia, Department of Health, developed "The Child Health Action Plan" (FY 08 – FY10) which includes a 2010 target to reduce by 10 percent the number of youth reporting current use of alcohol and binge drinking and to implement a public information campaign to reinforce these targets.
- During the weekly Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) workshops, participants receive information and materials about FASD.
- Health Educators provide training about FASD to pregnant women and women of childbearing age who are incarcerated.
- DC Healthy Start Nurse Case Managers: annual FASD workshops.

- DC Healthy Start MOM van: the nurse practitioner provides counseling and distributes materials to pregnant women requesting pregnancy tests.
- During April and in conjunction with National Alcohol Awareness Week, a series of workshops will be conducted for mothers and grandmothers who are in recovery.
- Developing a program for middle school students that addresses the risks associated with alcohol use.
- The Department is launching a citywide health promotion campaign about interconceptional health. The “Took Kit” will contain information about FASD and where to obtain resources.