

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FASD STATE COORDINATORS

State Updates, May 2009

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

Arizona, Teresa Kellerman

- The Department of Health continues to implement the subcontract for the brief intervention project. Over 400 women have been screened at multiple sites around the State.
- The Task Force is:
 - Looking at the possibility of legislation to change the wording on warning signs at point of sale to be more informative.
 - Considering a proposition to increase alcohol tax.
 - Submitting a report to the governor on task force-related activities in Arizona, including the FASD Center subcontract for early intervention, Pregnant Pause events, the Navajo Nation projects, the Web site, and all the activities of the Fetal Alcohol Resource Center.
- Dr. Chris Cunniff is applying for the CDC grant on surveillance, with collaboration between the University of Arizona and the FAS Community Resource Center.
- Cindy Beckett facilitates a new support group in Flagstaff.
- Ms. Beckett coordinated Arizona's first Pregnant Pause event on FASD Awareness Day 2008 and designed a template that can be used by other communities around the State for the next Awareness Day.
- Ms. Kellerman:
 - Is getting a tag for the FAS Arizona Web site added to the latest NOFAS PSA to put into the rotation of charity PSAs on cable networks throughout Arizona.
 - Is working with Ms. Beckett to continue statewide trainings on FASDs to improve outcomes through appropriate intervention strategies for affected individuals.
 - Continues to facilitate family support groups in Tucson and will start a group in Phoenix this summer.
 - Continues screening individuals of all ages for possible FASDs to facilitate referrals for diagnostic evaluations.
 - Continues to maintain Web sites: www.fasarizona.com, www.fasday.com, and www.fascrc.com, which includes the FASD News Blog. Over 2,000 people visit the Web site every day.

Florida, Felisha Dickey, MSW, MPA

- Continued diagnostic and intervention services through The Florida Center located in Sarasota, Florida.
- Continued to provide training throughout the State and disseminate FAS awareness materials.
- Continued Northrop Grumman Diagnostic and Intervention Project by the Child Guidance Center located in Jacksonville, Florida.
- Coordinating an effort to provide diagnostic presentation and referral services in Key West, Florida.
- Interagency Action Group continues to meet quarterly. Next meeting June 1, 2009.
- Planning a statewide Distance Learning Training on FASD through Department of Health, Children's Medical Services in collaboration with Florida State University, which is anticipated to occur June 2009.

Kansas, Joseph Kotsch, RN, MS

- The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Manual has been updated following peer review and is now out for a medical review. FASD resources that were included in this edition of the MCH Manual were presented as part of a MCH Manual Tour presentation at the annual Kansas Governor's Conference on Public Health earlier this month. The proposed release date for the MCH Manual is June 2009.
- Awareness activities regarding FASD prevention and alcohol use prevention (especially in childhood) continue to be provided through technical assistance activities to MCH Program grantees and partnering agencies, participation in health education conferences, and the Children & Families Section's ZIPS newsletter at the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE).
- The Kansas Perinatal Council remains in transition as it combines its members/functions with those of the Kansas Child and Adolescent Health Council. The larger group will be tasked with addressing the needs of the entire MCH population in an advisory capacity to KDHE. Therefore, progress remains at a standstill toward working on writing a set of guidelines for how perinatal health professionals should handle cases where women have been identified as users of alcohol or other substances during pregnancy and related child placement issues.

Massachusetts, Enid Watson, MDiv

FASD Prevention Efforts in Massachusetts

- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral for Treatment (SBIRT) in:
 - Community health centers for women of childbearing age and adolescents (MA FASD State Coordinator is trainer for this project).
 - Hospitals, emergency departments, and colleges for all populations.
 - Social service agencies for deaf and hard of hearing clients (MA FASD State Coordinator is trainer for this project).

Pregnancy

- Massachusetts Department of Public Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse Services convenes an interdisciplinary Pregnancy Task Force to assure that treatment services meet national and State standards of care; pregnant women receive priority care; and FASD prevention is included across disciplines. The MA FASD State Coordinator has just joined this committee so that FASD-related issues will be represented.
- The MA FASD State Coordinator is on the planning committee for the Substance-Exposed Newborn Symposium sponsored by the National Abandoned Infants Assistance Resource Center to be held in June 2010.
- Implementing the CAPTA Requirements to Identify and Serve Substance-Exposed Newborns (SENs) and their Families.
 - MA FASD State Coordinator is the Project Director for this federal demonstration project, a collaboration between birth hospitals, child welfare, Early Intervention (Part C), and substance use disorder treatment programs; the Peer Recovery Intervention Model is used with mothers of SENs to engage them in services and provide support.
 - State and national dissemination includes FASD prevention and identification information and resources.

FASD Identification and Intervention

- A multi-disciplinary group of providers at Children's Hospital, Boston, MA is preparing to meet to develop potential FASD interventions. The MA FASD State Coordinator will participate in this endeavor.
- Three regional trainings on *Adapting Motivational Interviewing for Individuals with an FASD or Other Cognitive Deficits*, presented by Dan Dubovsky, are scheduled for October 2009.
- The MA FASD State Coordinator acts as the central referral resource for families affected by FASD.

FASD Task Force

- Although the State would like to form a task force, the current fiscal crisis in the State, with resultant layoffs and furloughs, makes this unrealistic at this time. A decision was made to invite the State Coordinator to participate in the Pregnancy Task Force (see above) to keep FASD issues on the table.

Michigan, Cheryl Lauber, DPA, MSN, RN

- The State Task Force meets quarterly. They are:
 - Updating the 5-year strategic plan implemented in 2006.
 - Promoting more work on goals through action teams that meet more often.
 - Working on engaging a "cheerleader" for each major goal.
 - Drafting by-laws, which may be helpful for identifying what the group is to outsiders.
- Working on identifying a speaker's bureau.
- Working on updating the FAS Web site.
 - More parents seem to be using the site to find contacts. Need more parent information and other contacts, may be organized by region or county.

- Considering an interactive place for screening for FASD and for women at-risk.
- Looking at asking the Prevention Network to allow us to partner for raising awareness.
- The CDC cooperative agreement for prevention, linking to services and surveillance in Wayne County is completing its work by collaborating on several manuscripts for publication. The prevention project assessed 1,916 women for eligibility; of those, 404 participated: 77 received the individual Motivational Interviewing (MI) strategy and 327 received self-guided change materials. The self-guided change was successful in reducing the risk of an alcohol-exposed pregnancy in 80 percent of the women. The MI strategy was successful in reducing the risk in over 90 percent of the women.
- The Parent-Child Assistance Program, now operating in Southwest Michigan has 28 women enrolled who drank during a recent pregnancy. Each of these women receives intensive home visiting and care management with knowledgeable peers. The goal is to prevent another alcohol-exposed pregnancy and to improve their life trajectory to be successful women and mothers.
- The State will be applying for the CDC Prevention cooperative agreement using Project CHOICES in STD clinics in Southeast Michigan. We will also be applying for the CDC FAS Surveillance cooperative agreement to do active surveillance across Michigan using FASSNet.
- A new round of grants for local community intervention projects was just awarded. Ten communities will be doing a variety of projects focusing on FAS prevention with childbearing age women, diagnosis and linking with services for children with FASD and intervention with adults with FASD.

Mississippi, Trisha Hinson, MEd, CMHT

- MS AC-FASD (our State FASD task force) continues to meet monthly. We've recently added a representative from the MS Department of Education's Special Education unit in addition to the existing MS DOE representative from their Health Schools area. MS AC-FASD is helping complete the draft of the revised FASD State plan to meet the May deadline for the new 3-year plan to be complete.
- Beginning in May, the FASD State Coordinator will begin conducting regular FASD education and awareness sessions with the participants in one of our State's A&D residential treatment facilities. Over time, we plan to groom a staff person at the facility to assume this responsibility.
- We are working with NOFAS in coordinating efforts for FASD screening through several of the Primary Health Care clinics in the State. We are hoping to use this as a means of establishing a long-term relationship with these clinics for expanding our ability to serve individuals with FASD in our State.
- As of the end of March 2009, the Mississippi FASD Screening, Diagnostic and Intervention project with NGC had screened 432 children ages birth to 7 to see if there were indications that would warrant an FASD diagnostic evaluation.

- Several FASD objectives have been included in the MS Department of Mental Health's new 5-year Strategic Plan, which will guide the overall function of MDMH for the next 5 years.
- Exhibited for the third consecutive year at the annual conference of the Mississippi Chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. As a result of this effort, we have been invited to present FASD information to the participants in the University of Mississippi Maternal–Fetal Medicine Fellowship Program.

New Jersey, Elizabeth Dahms, MS, RNC

- The Perinatal Addiction Prevention Project has three major goals: (1) to provide professional and public education, (2) to encourage all prenatal providers to screen their patients for substance use/abuse, and (3) to develop a network of available resources to aid pregnant substance abusing women. The screening form that is used in NJ is the 4P's Plus. In 2008, approximately 28 percent of the pregnant women were screened for ATOD use.
- The multiagency FASD and other Perinatal Addictions Task Force meets quarterly.
- The FASD Task Force is currently sponsoring a public education campaign to inform women of the possible consequences of drinking alcohol during pregnancy. This subcommittee has developed two new ads: one on alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and one that focuses on child safety. Data are being collected to assess the efficacy of the public education campaign. However, it is difficult to determine the long-term outcome, defined as a decrease in the incidence of FASD.
- UMDNJ-NJ Medical School houses the NJ FASD Education and Research Center which provides training to physicians, medical students, other allied health professionals and the juvenile and adult justice systems about FASD. Additionally, the NJ Certification Board now requires all CADCs to be educated about FASD as part of the certification process. This mandate should result in addictions professionals who work with pregnant women to relate the possible impact of alcohol exposure to clients.
- The New Jersey Web site for resources and information about FASD is beintheknownj.org.

New York, Margo Singer, MPA

- Continuing the Northrop Grumman Project CHOICES subcontract with our women's services treatment providers in NYC. We have just selected three new providers to participate, including two outpatient programs. The FASD Prevention Task Force, which oversees the subcontract, met via phone on April 16th.
- Dan Dubovsky, the Center's FASD Specialist, conducted five regional FASD trainings for mental health professionals across the State in late March–early April. Trainings were held on Long Island and in New York City, Albany, Syracuse, and Buffalo. This was co-sponsored by OASAS, the NYS Office of Mental Health, and the Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors. Over 300 professionals attended from many disciplines. We will be examining the participant evaluations and determining next steps.

- In April, our NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) approved \$80,000 of their funding (federal) for a statewide association to conduct regional FASD trainings across the State; this initiative will be rolled out in 2010. In May, the New York State ACOG chapter will be releasing their DDPC-funded FASD awareness campaign oriented to female patients seeking OB/GYN care in their offices across the State.
- We are finalizing the results of our first-ever statewide FASD Poster contest and will be publicizing them in a press release to call attention to the national Alcohol and Drug-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week in early May. The contest was targeted to kids in grades 6-12. We will be turning the three winning selections into one poster that will be disseminated statewide. Unfortunately, we had fewer schools participating, as compared to past poster efforts (that were more broadly focused on substance abuse prevention or alcohol awareness), so we will be evaluating our efforts to see what we might do differently next time. However, as this was grant-funded we are not confident that we will be able to replicate this effort next year.
- In May we will be completing our last regional training for the Healthy Families NY home-visiting programs in downstate NY on FASD and Motivational Interviewing. Approximately 100 front-line staff and their supervisors are expected to attend over the course of the 2 days.

Pennsylvania, Kathy Jo Stence, CAC

FASD Awareness Week, 9/7–13/09:

- Planning activities for awareness events to be conducted across the State.
 - Governor Rendell will be making an Awareness Week Proclamation again.
 - Working at holding a kickoff event at a local hospital (possibly within the OB/GYN Department).
 - Have two State universities participating this year: Bloomsburg State and Indiana University of PA.
 - Hope to continue annual events:
 - Awareness ribbons campaign to be distributed throughout PA via county partners, treatment providers, prevention providers, etc.
 - Baby bottle distribution campaign: Distribution of baby bottles stuffed with FASD information at 41 OB/GYN clinics and crisis pregnancy centers in 29 counties.
- The FASD Task Force:
 - Is meeting quarterly to provide some direction/oversight to the State Plan implementation.
 - Is looking into establishing an “FASD Champion of the Year Award” for an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to FASD awareness, prevention, and treatment. To be awarded Awareness Week 2009.
 - Subcommittees, including the Awareness Committee, are meeting to help plan Awareness Week Activities.

- Is taking steps toward having every Single County Authority conduct awareness activities—a State Plan action step. We have incorporated this language into the Block Grant contracts/agreements for 2010. Hopefully, the addition will remain beyond the various levels of the approval process.

South Dakota, Robin Erz

- Have received guidance regarding question number 7, the tolerance question. Reviewed guidance and distributed it to our sites.
- Have a new Project Coordinator on the team, Austin Winberg from the University of South Dakota Center for Disabilities.

Texas, Carolyn Smith, MSSW

- CHOICES intervention services provided to 162 females in 8 months at four substance abuse treatment centers.
- Presented FASD Awareness training to 25 social workers and 13 teachers during the reporting period.
- Preparing for second option year of Project CHOICES implementation by releasing a request for application and reviewing proposals.
- Two training events targeting substance abuse professionals who work with women who may have FASD or be at risk for alcohol-exposed pregnancy were held.
- Test launch on April 27, 2009 of online training for professionals who work with children with developmental disabilities. *Understanding FASD & Intervention Strategies for Children* will be officially launched in early May 2009.
- FASD Prevention Task Force met in March.
- Continuing plans to raise awareness on 9.9.9 for FASD Day.
- Making preparations for a FASD conference in September where Dr. Larry Burd will be the featured speaker.
- Agency will partially underwrite a 3-hour presentation by Dr. Ira Chasnoff on FASD at the ATTACH conference in October in San Antonio. See URL for more details <http://www.attach.org/2009conference.pdf>.

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

- 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.
- During the first DC Healthy Start Conference: “Building Healthier Communities Through the Power of Effective Networking” a photo novella “Building Healthier Communities” was released that focused on the risks associated with perinatal alcohol use.
- On May 8th, a citywide health promotion campaign will be launched. It will include information about the risks associated with perinatal alcohol use.

Washington, Sue Green, MPA

DASA

End of December Governor’s FY 2009 supplemental budget stated to reduce and eliminate some programs (almost everything FASD related along with other DASA programs and projects). With HB 1694, some of the funding was restored, to include the UW FASDPN and Parent Trust. PCAP and Safe Babies Safe Moms were not touched in any of the cut recommendations. We lost FAS*FRI, NOFAS Washington, Iceberg Newsletter, the two crisis nurseries (King and Yakima). Funding to adult residential and outpatient services was originally reduced with the Governor’s FY 2009 supplemental budget directive, then partially restored, and eventually totally restored with HB 1694. Unsure what the forecast later this month will bring—if any other changes will be made. Unsure of the 09-11 budget as well. Due to travel restrictions, Sue Green will not be going to the Building FASD State Systems Meeting in May. She has been on the planning committee for the event. Ms. Green makes reports on FASD issues/events to the other NAFSC members on a quarterly basis. (NOTE: If you have anything, you would like Ms. Green to report, please let her know.)

NOFAS WA

- DASA funding cut; continuing support groups.
- No camp this year; will be doing a camp in England in this year. Julie Gelo recently presented in England.
- Having FASD conference Friday, May 22 at the Everett PUD—\$50 registration, room for 300 attendees.

DCFS Bremerton

- Getting additional time for Carolyn Hartness as part of the grant developing a network; working on a training with Dr. Connor and Judge Wartnick.
- One-day intervention and identification of children in the community.

- Trying to get community folks involved in the training (law enforcement, JRA, etc); Carolyn is continuing training in the community; working on a grant for support, education and training.
- Looking at Peninsula-based, rather than county-based.
- Trying to get Legislators involved; working with Harrison Hospital to work with Dr Streissguth; a lot of momentum in the community. Carolyn is going to Australia in June to train some Aboriginal groups.

Blogging

- Looking at different ways to involve the public, by possibly adding a blog to the Web site. Need to determine the time commitment for a blog.