

COR FASD Working Group Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2023

Present: Alice Bellavance (BISNO) – Chair, Jenny Leadbeater (CMHA Thunder Bay), Alexis Trapenier (Children’s Centre of Thunder Bay), Chandralal Majuwana (CMHA Kenora), Taylor Sundin (CMHA Kenora), Claire Thiessen (CMHA Thunder Bay)

1. Welcome, Introductions and Land Acknowledgement
 - Alice welcomed the group, facilitated introductions and presented a land acknowledgement
2. Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes
 - The group approved the agenda and previous meeting minutes
3. Design Day Report Discussion
 - The Rainy River OHT have endorsed this work and will assist with writing of document
 - Thunder Bay OHT have put names of agencies forward including: Matawa, Diane Walker from CCTB but still waiting to hear back from several organizations
 - There was a recognition of the struggles of these individuals starting in childhood
 - TBDSSAB has put out RFS for supportive and transitional housing which is due at the end of June – Alice will be submitting for capital funds as are other groups. CHAT will likely submit something. Looking at the development of tiny homes villages to address the encampments. Currently have 66 people in encampments. Agencies need to be asking those living in encampments if they would be interested in living in a tiny home village. Many individuals who were housed before winter have been returning to being un-housed because they don’t feel safe. This sparked the idea of tiny home village during the design day report discussion.
 - Recognition that capital funding is good, but we also need the support dollars to get it off the ground
 - Environmental and staffing security would be required to avoid infiltration, so individuals can feel safe
 - Upcoming meeting on June 15th about the tiny home village idea – updates to come
 - Alice will be meeting with an architect and 807 Management to flush out details. Also working with real estate agent to locate rural property.
 - Kenora Rainy River Community Living - they wanted to provide feedback into design day document but haven’t heard back from them yet.
 - Many of the individuals profiled at the design day meeting have experienced childhood trauma, and many likely have undiagnosed FASD. Need to highlight neurodiversity in the proposal – especially since many also become ABI clients
 - Similar types of profiles are prevalent in the East as well
 - NW Regional Specialized Services Network – coaches from RISE suggest meeting with OHT’s from NE. Alice met with some who identified similar profiles.
 - Mental health Act targets any disease or disorder of the mind, which includes dementia, FASD, etc... but psychiatrists often refuse to take on these clients

- Justice system is also not an appropriate place for individuals struggling with mental health or neural diversity
 - Lack of highly structured, secure program for these high risk individuals
4. May 8 NW Regional Specialized services network Meeting updates.
- Sent info to OHT's to receive input (All Nations Health)
5. Next steps
- No new updates on updating the definition of brain injury to include FASD
Jenny: any research we can undertake as a committee?
 - Alexis is willing to take on some research. Alice – in western Canada, in the education act they include FASD and ABI as exceptionalities. Considered interchangeable. Alice has written Ministry of Education in the past. Only 7 exceptionalities in province of Ontario – 'attention' was taken out. Children with more than one are deemed 'multiple' exceptionality with the primary highlighted.
 - 4% of Canadians – underreported due to stigma and lack of access.
 - It would be great to know how Canada's FASD rates compare to other countries. This could help support our argument.
 - ABI and FASD treatment plans are often interchangeable – could look into this
 - Would have to take on the WHO and ministry of health to have FASD included in ABI
 - What is the prevalence of FASD in Canada vs other countries?
 - Affected by stigma – underreported
 - Claire will research comparative prevalence between other countries
6. Next Meeting Date
- The NWCOR is going through a restructuring and summer will be busy – next meeting should be around beginning of October - October 4 10:00 am EST. Jenny will send out invite