

**Northwest Regional HSJCC**  
**FASD/Justice System Working Group Minutes**  
Wed, Dec 6th 2023  
9:00am – 10:00 am CST/10:00am – 11:00 am EST

Present: Alice Bellavance (BISNO), Taylor Sundin (CMHA Kenora), Sherry Baum (Community Living), Braiden Leischow (Firefly), Claire Thiessen (CMHA Thunder Bay), Alexandria Gosselin (Firefly), Micaela Mclsaac (CMHA Kenora), Chandralal Majuwana (CMHA Kenora), Terri Dimini (Youth Probation), Sara Dias (CMHA Kenora)

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

- Alice provided a land acknowledgement and Jenny introduced new members.

**2. Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes**

- Agenda and minutes approved.

**3. Design Day/Supportive Housing updates**

- Alice provided the following update: TBDSSAB will be making a recommendation in the next fiscal year which will require approval from Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Will likely be looking at partial funding for the proposal submitted by BISNO for 30 unit/specialized housing complex in rural setting. Consultants are currently looking into potential costs of land purchase, demolition, physical operations (eg utilities). Ontario Health will be approached about an operating budget (eg. Staffing). Will also require specialized positions including nursing, psychiatry, and security. Will require consultation about creating 12 units falling under Schedule 1 facility guidelines. Consultation with the Indigenous community and First Nations organizations is also critical.

**4. Recap from CANFASD Conference in Saskatchewan ([https://canfasd.ca/wp-content/uploads/publications/Conference-Program\\_3Nov2023-1.pdf](https://canfasd.ca/wp-content/uploads/publications/Conference-Program_3Nov2023-1.pdf))**

- Sherry informed it was a great conference. 7 employees from Community Living Sioux Lookout/Dryden were able to attend. Highlights include:
  - BC Youth Justice are conducting research on a new FASD screening tool and toolkit. Screening is currently mandatory in BC. Sherry will share with this group once the toolkit is launched.
  - The first FASD court has been developed in Manitoba – similar to mental Health court. Sherry will share slides from sessions she went to.

- First FASD court in Canada was developed in Manitoba and the presiding judge was at the conference. This is similar to mental health court. It was difficult to get it going because the process is a lot slower/thorough. Sherry will share whatever resources and notes she has to the group.
- Presentation on the benefits of going through an FASD diagnosis as an adult – research on the difference between those who went through the diagnosis vs those who did not. Training available for free through FASD One.
- Another group connected to FASD One provided overview of training provided about diagnostic process in Ontario. This is available free online through their website (<https://fasdontario.ca/news/fasd-assessment-team-training-free-course-start-nov-2023/>)

#### 5. FASD One provincial conference updates – Sherry

- FASD1 consulted with many groups and a decision was made to create an online conference with multiple sectors. Jeanie from FASD1 and Alice will be part of a working group which needs to organize prior to end of March due of funding. Currently seeking justice system representation and those with research experience. Might be seeking panelists as well.
- 10 years ago FASD1 put out call to action to MPP's – where are we now? The gov't made some investments but they were disjointed. There is no cohesive connection province wide. Working group will help identify what is missing
- Previously PHAC held conferences but hasn't received any new funding for this. The working group will reach out to PHAC to see if they can contribute.
- Sherry informed there are children's CAPC programs in Sioux Lookout but that FASD program was not sustainable. Was originally told it couldn't be transferred to Firefly but have now received approval to do so
- If anyone from this working group is interested in joining the FASD1 led working group please contact Sherry.

#### 6. FASD Info-graph and Briefing note on Alcohol profits and healthcare burden – Claire

- FASD info graphic completed and circulated
- Briefing note looks at how we market substance of alcohol in Ontario and provides an overview of some of the profits of LCBO, where this goes and some of the alcohol associated costs in the province. This may help inform some of the work we do.

- Questions/comments:
- How to get this to broader community and politicians? Where does this go now? What could be added to the briefing note.
- Jenny provided update about court changes occurring on Thunder Bay. RTD data in the region shows Alcohol as consistent Top 3 Risk Factor.
- Sherry – funds from LCBO could be used for prevention and treatment. Lots of money in health and justice – Currently on OHT radar– frequent flyers of ER use and MH. Individuals with FASD fall into this category. Gov’t needs this data.
- Claire to add info on the burdens of alcohol on Justice System. Claire looking into numbers of people with FASD in corrections. Only small number have received diagnosis.
- Discussion about stigma and sensitivity – need to ensure cultural sensitivity

#### 7. Communications, Advocacy and Education Strategies- All

- Jenny to invite Jason Indian to speak at next meeting about considerations of FASD education and communication within First Nation communities
- How can we better engage indigenous organizations in these conversations?
- Chandralal – we should research some legal requirements – (eg. cigarettes/cancer or Advocacy for pregnancy mothers using alcohol)
- Alice – PSA’s and radio – needs to be embedded on social media, and in schools sexual health education.
- Jenny – breakdown misnomer of drinking during pregnancy
- Sherry – FASD1 has campaign coming out in the new year – had to be vetted through Public Health because they are paying for it. Cartoon/animations. They are connected to federal (Nancy Poole). Best practices.
- Claire – sexual health and education program – tree planting programs, risky sexual behavior.
- No coordinated approach to campaigns in Ontario – different pockets everywhere
- Our group can act as advisory group to other campaigns.
- It would be good to investigate other provincial coordinated strategies. There was a scan done in each province. CANFASD should be involved as well.

#### 8. Next Steps

- Additional research FASD/ABI definition

- Research – additional brain damage from trauma of individuals with FASD
- F/u with Jason Indian to speak to some consideration of First Nations perspectives
- CSWB recently had forum on ACIS – expanded to include intergenerational impact. Rationalized trauma and community violence. Intersectionality with trauma and impacts of COVID. Compounds complexity of how to support them.

9. Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

- Wed, Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 10am EST