**Update of Anchorage School District Activities for FASD-FY11**

**(March 10, 2011)**

This year the ASD continues to support teachers, parents and students in the following ways:

1. **FASD Committee:** In its second year, this committee meets monthly to discuss the needs of the district in the area of FASD. This committee consists of special education teachers, teacher consultants and related services providers from both elementary and secondary levels. It is chaired by the elementary special education director, Doug Gray. Also several of the members having adopted children with FASD lend the parent perspective on this topic.

1. **FASD School Contacts:** The FASD Committee followed up with their recommendation from last year to identify and train a FASD School Contact (SC) person for each elementary and secondary school in the ASD. The SCs are intended to be the “point of contact” in the school and keep up with the FASD resources that include a FASD Teacher Toolkit containing books and misc. resources. The School Contacts also participated in a one-day training by FASD Consultant, Deb Evensen. Participants were given a notebook of resources that cover the following ten topics:

* Role/Responsibilities as a School Contact
* Understanding FASD
* FASD Behaviors & Characteristics
* Helping Teachers Understand Behaviors
* Baker’s Dozen & 8 Magic Keys
* Academic Interventions & Accommodations
* Helpful Handouts & Brochures
* Resource Lists & Websites
* Powerpoint Presentations
* Misc.

This notebook is intended to be a work in progress with current information and resources added to each topic area over time. To make sharing of information easier, a member of the committee, Barb Loutrel, created a “Moodle” (a web based learning environment in which documents can be posted and shared) that is accessible to all ASD employees. All of the contents of the SC notebook are posted in PDF format for easy downloading and sharing. Some of the SCs are already using powerpoint presentations to inservice their school staff.

1. **Additional resources:**

* **The ASD STEP Center:** The ASD Special Education department has funded the purchase of books and media on the topic of FASD. They are available for check-out from the STEP Center, a disability information and resource center for the ASD.
* **ASD Tube:** There are several training videos that were produced by ASD on the topic of FASD:
  + FASD 101 (the updated State of AK curriculum)
  + Advanced Topics in FASD (a panel discussion of 12 topics including diagnosis, perspectives from elementary, middle school and high school, modifications & accommodations, and a parent perspective)

1. **Support for schools:** Students diagnosed with FASD are supported in the schools much the same as any student with a disability. Each school has a student intervention team that screens new referrals. These teams have access to the FASD School Contact for information and resources. The teams discuss interventions and strategies to improve student success in the classroom and school. In some cases the teams need further expertise in certain disability areas such as autism, ADD/ADHD or in this case, FASD. In those instances the teams may include the Special Education Teacher Consultants who have all participated in an advanced FASD training by Deb Evensen and are well versed on the subject of FASD. Also there are four teacher consultants who are on the FASD Committee and are available to assist teams. In some cases Deb Evensen has met with teams involving students with extreme behaviors associated with FASD.
2. **Parent Support:** Deb Evensen and school psychologist, Todd Robicheaux, started a parent support group for the Whaley Center. The STEP Center also consults with parents to help them find information and resources. Stone Soup Group, a local agency, also supports parents of children with FASD.
3. **Trainings:** In addition to the ASD Tube online trainings, Deb Evensen has provided the following face-to-face trainings for ASD staff this year:

* ASD cross-district training in August: “Behavior: Willful or Not?”
* Oct. TA Roundtable: “1, 2, 3…Not Out: Helping High Risk Students Learn Successful Behavior Skills Before They Strike Out”
* Teachers: School Contact Trainings (Nov., Dec., April)
* TPD Mentoring Training (Nov.):
* Whaley staff: UAA class (spring): “Advanced Topics in FASD”
* Begich staff & others: UAA class (spring): **“**There’s More Than Meets the Eye: Real Success for Students with FASD”
* Totem Conference for TAs: FASD 101 & 201 by Karren Johnson, State of AK certified trainer

1. **Community & Agency Collaboration:**

* The ASD STEP Center manager, Barb Loutrel, represents the ASD on the Anchorage Council for FASD. She assisted in the “None 4 Nine” FASD Awareness Day display at the Loussac Library on Sept. 9, 2010. The ASD School Board also acknowledged this day and the Mayor’s proclamation in a board memo.
* The STEP Center includes community information related to FASD in their newsletters (*Parent Connect* & *AK Connect*) and on the AK Family Directory calendar of events.

1. **Prevention:** The ASD Health & Physical Education Dept. addresses FASD in the K-6th grades through their curriculum called “The Great Body Shop”. In middle school 8th grade FASD is covered in the mandatory health class. Currently, in high school the topic of FASD is only covered in elective classes: Family & Consumer Science (formerly Home Economics), Child Development, Healthy Life Skills, Impact, and possibly in the Genetics class.

**Additional Information from the FASD Committee:** The ASD does not diagnose FASD. Further, FASD is not a special education eligibility category. However, the FASD committee recognizes that there are many children in the district who may have FASD but do not have the diagnosis. Also, there are many children who have other brain-based disorders such as Traumatic Brain Injury. The tools and resources that the committee is providing to schools should help teams explore strategies and interventions for all students and improve outcomes.