

Central Alberta FASD Network



Annual General Meeting



2020

Executive Directors Report

Our 2019/2020 year has been full of exciting changes and transitions, as well as challenges in the face of the pandemic. In my second year as Executive Director for the Central Alberta FASD Network, I have had the privilege to work with a dedicated Board of Directors who have worked diligently and been exceptionally supportive. I am thrilled that the board is committed to a vision of a staffing and programming plan that solidifies a team approach, while being mindful of the benefits of change and innovation.

We continue to be grateful to our contracted organizations for their contribution to supporting those impacted by FASD in Central Alberta, and to our Diagnostic Team for providing dedicated hours to assessment and diagnosis services for our clients. Our clients are at the very heart of the Central Alberta FASD Network, and it is with gratitude that we serve them.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The past year was devoted to revitalizing our board member compliment. We focused on recruiting individuals that combined targeted skill sets with a dedication to raising awareness of FASD, and a willingness to advocate to remove the stigma often associated with this disability. We will continue to recruit board members throughout 2020/2021 to complete our full board commitment. The board is particularly interested and motivated to diversify the membership with a focus on enlisting additional Indigenous members. Also, we are delighted to announce the Indigenous subcommittee of the board, led by our board chair and joined by additional members and employees of the Network.

STRATEGIC PLANNING and FUNDING

Of note is the 2019/2020 development of the Network's strategic planning process that will coincide with the Government of Alberta Cross Ministry's Strategic and Operational Plan. The plan corresponds with the encouraging news that the provincial system of FASD Networks have been granted a three-year funding agreement for 2020 - 2023.

CLIENTS

The positive impact on the communities we serve in Central Alberta is felt in every interaction we have with our clients, and the testimonials we hear from individuals and communities impacted by FASD. In 2018/2019 our unique client count was 412 and by the second quarter ending October 31, 2020 we have a unique client count of 736. Although the tremendous growth in numbers is in part due to a more detailed reporting strategy, we have also grown both our internal employee numbers, and contracted agencies, as well as increased the number of completed FASD assessments.

ASSESSMENT AND DIAGNOSIS – FASD DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

In 2019/2020 our Clinic Coordinator successfully led the Red Deer Clinic Team in completing 18 adult and youth assessments. Still only in quarter two of 2020/2021, we have already completed 37 combined assessments in our Red Deer Clinic Office. We are also pleased to expand our team to include a Clinic Assistant. We are happy to announce that the 2020 spring pilot of a diagnostic clinic in the O'Chiese and Sunchild reserves, prompted the proposition for a Clinic Team specific to the West Country. Still in the planning stages, a West Country team would remove some of the barriers that prevent individuals living in this area of Central Alberta, from accessing timely assessment and diagnosis services. In 2019/2020 we were also able to initiate a pilot program in Drumheller, Bowden and Red Deer Remand Institutions to provide education, awareness, support and assessment and diagnosis in these institutions. Although the onset of the Covid pandemic ceased our ability to provide in person services and complete the assessments that were started in the spring of 2020, we remain dedicated to following through with our initiative in the future once the institutions re-open to the public.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SUPPORT

Although the pandemic altered the way we provide services, it did not stop our staff and contracted agencies from interacting with our clients and communities.

We employed appropriate PPE, hygiene protocols, and social distancing parameters, in order to continue to provide services. Further, we utilized social media platforms, telephone contacts and video access, through zoom and web ex, to continue in-person connections.

2019/2020 also realized the creation of Caregiver Support Groups, an FASD Life Skill Group and an FASD Monthly Support Group, all providing a means of expanding our services.

CORRECTIONS

We commenced new partnerships and a commitment to the concept of restorative practices, with the FASD Youth Restorative Justice Intervention Program. Partnering with our Corrections Coordinator and the Red Deer RCMP, the Crown and a Better Way Restorative Consulting, we have started the pilot project to address the needs of individuals with FASD involved in the criminal justice system. We are interested in growing this program to encompass adults and provide opportunities for training in restorative practices throughout Central Alberta.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS and FUNDRAISING

Perhaps one of our principal accomplishments this year was related to community awareness, and the launch of our social media and fundraising campaigns, led by our Community Prevention and Education Coordinator. We received our charity status, began developing partnerships with businesses and groups who participate in third-party fundraising events, purchased donation items, and have two events planned over the next few months, The Giving Tree event for November/December and The Jail and Bail event planned for February 2021. This is the first time the Central Alberta FASD Network has attempted to raise programming dollars via fundraising and third-party events. This is a great opportunity to invest in the growth of the Network and increase our ability to provide services to our clients and communities.

Additionally, we have provided multiple free, and fee for service, education opportunities over zoom and social media that were widely attended and included individuals from all over Canada and internationally. In the planning stages are additional in depth, fee for service, training and learning opportunities intended for roll out in 2021.

Our 2020 International FASD Day was a great success, albeit held over zoom, and still managed remarkable attendance numbers, and the highest number of Champion Award Nominees the Network has ever seen.

As we look to 2021, please join us as we move forward, crossing into new areas of programming, renewing longstanding relationships, and fostering new partnerships

November 23, 2020
10:00am via Zoom

Attendance

Board Members:

Jason Sansregret, Chad Erickson, Derek Turner,
Misty Dionne, Kerry Lowe

Network Staff:

Julie Nanson-Ashton, Marijke Besaw, Allyssa Deheer,
Chris Chabot, Janel Dodd, Tammy Predovic,
Nikki Whitehead, Mikaela Kykkanen,

Regrets: Penny Ure (Board Member)

Welcome and call to order: by Julie Nanson-Ashton at 10:05am

Review of Agenda and Additions

No additions to the agenda

Acceptance of 2019 AGM Minutes

Motioned by Chad Erickson

Seconded by Misty Dionne

Review of Executive Director's Report

- Julie expressed appreciation and gratitude to the board, Network and clinic team.
- The last year was devoted to revitalizing the Network's board member compliment and will to continue to recruit board members throughout 2020-21 to complete a full board commitment.
- Announcement of an Indigenous subcommittee of the board led by the board chair and joined by additional members and employees of the Network.
- A more detailed reporting strategy, growth in internal employee numbers, contracted agencies and completed assessments have increased the unique client count significantly.
- Services have continued during the COVID pandemic using appropriate PPE and a shift to online group supports and education opportunities.
- The Network, together with the Red Deer RCMP, the Crown, and A Better Way Restorative Consulting started a pilot project to address the needs of individuals with FASD involved in the criminal justice system; the FASD Youth Restorative Justice Intervention Program.
- A large focus of the last year has been on raising community awareness through the launch of social media and fundraising campaigns.

Acceptance of the Executive Director's Report

Motioned by Jason Sansregret

Seconded by Kerry Lowe

Acceptance of Audited Financial Report 2019-2020

This board has previously reviewed and accepted this report

Motioned by Misty Dionne

Seconded by Derek Turner

Appointment of Auditor - Swainson Alexander LLP

Julie recommended staying with the same accounting firm as utilized in previous years.

Motioned by Misty Dionne

Seconded by Derek Turner

Status of Board positions

- Jason Sansregret, *Chair*
- Chad Erickson, *Vice-Chair*
- Derek Turner, *Treasurer*
- Penny Ure, *Director at Large*
- Misty Dionne, *Director at Large*
- Kerry Lowe, *Director at Large*
- Marijke Besaw, *Secretary*
 - Julie recommended to continue with Marijke in the role of secretary, this was agreed upon by the board.

Closing

The floor was opened to questions and comments, none were brought forward.

Julie expressed gratitude to the internal Network team regarding their dedication and support.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23am.

Board members convened for a board meeting post-AGM.