



Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025

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- 1. In Attendance:** Lisa, Brittany, Bernie, Denise, Carleigh, Sarah, Tsion, Mariam, Sadie, Nola, Sophia, Giz, Stephanie, Barb, Tracey, Shay, Carol

As a settler living and working in Edmonton, on the sacred lands of Treaty 6 Territory, I pause to honor the rich histories, vibrant cultures, and enduring contributions of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples who have cared for this land with wisdom and resilience for countless generations.

February, the month of love, invites us to think beyond roses and chocolates and reflect on love in its most profound form—love for family, for community, and for the land that nurtures us all. It's a time to consider how love can be an act of understanding, connection, and respect.

Acknowledging this land is more than a gesture; it's a call to action. It's a reminder that reconciliation is a shared responsibility, woven into the choices we make every day—in our homes, our work, and our communities.

As we celebrate love this month, let's expand its reach. Let's honor the land's stories, cherish the wisdom it holds, and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation. True love, after all, is about care, respect, and the willingness to learn.

2. Action Follow Up – January 2025

- Action: Requested edits/adjustments to the key activities in agency LOAs need to be emailed to Lisa no later than January 31, 2025.
 - Action: Network members to complete the membership survey by January 24th, 2025.
 - Action: Sadie and Sophia to email Lisa what their justice-focused positions do and do not do.
 - Key Messages about Justice Advocates with FASS and Open Arms
 - *Building Relationships Early:* Justice Advocates may begin intake while individuals are in custody, building trust and preparing for release.
 - *Limited Transition Support:* Advocates assist with limited transition planning, such as connecting individuals to lawyers and treatment. This support complements but does not replace the planning completed by corrections staff or justice-specific programs.
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- *Coordinated Release Support*: Advocates collaborate with contacts to coordinate release pick-ups and provide ongoing court support, ensuring smoother transitions.
 - *Defined Scope of Services*: Advocates do not arrange pathways to FASD assessments while individuals are incarcerated and may not take cases already managed through parole, as these cases typically have other supports in place.

3. EFAN Business Priorities:

⇒ *Reporting*

- Quarter 4: January 1 – March 31, 2025
- ORS is due no later than 9:00 am on Friday, April 4, 2025.
- Narrative reports are due Friday, April 11, 2025.
- Unaudited Schedule Bs are due no later than April 30, 2025.
- Audited financial statements are due June 30, 2025.
- **Action: Lisa will post the LOAs up on the blog at:**
- Signed Letters of Agreement must be returned by March 14, 2025.

⇒ *Finances*

- \$20,000 contract with CanFASD: develop and publish peer reviewed article on the WRaP 2.0 project.

⇒ *Membership/confidentiality form 2025*

- **Action: Members to complete the membership form at <https://edmontonfetalalcoholnetwork.org/about/through-the-years/2025-2026/network-membership-form-2025/>**

⇒ *FASD Service Network Program Update*

- EFAN's annual report due April 30, 2025 to the GoA.
- FASD Networks are meeting quarterly with one another.
- Planning a face-to-face April 8 – 10 in Edmonton, hoping to invite different Ministers.
- GoA finalizing documents for the next 3 year grant cycle.

⇒ *FASD Frontline Collective*

- Hold the date, Tuesday, April 29, 2025 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

⇒ *Discussion on Dr. Eilason's Attendance & Lancet Paper*: Members discussed Dr. Eilason's thoughts on attending an EFAN meeting to address the Lancet paper and potential misinterpretations or inaccuracies circulating. The consensus was that the monthly Network meeting is not the most appropriate venue for this discussion. Instead, members recommended a more public format, such as a webinar or Q&A session, where peer discussion among clinicians and other stakeholders could take



place. Additionally, members look forward to public communications and messaging regarding the PINC Clinic and will continue to make referrals to the Pediatric FASD Clinic as appropriate.

4. Health Outcomes Fund Applications

- Bissell, Hope Terrace: Residents collaborate with staff to build a communal garden yearly, total cost \$3,400.
- Bissell, Hope Terrace: 111 Horseback riding lessons, total cost: \$5,000
- CSS, McDaniel Youth: Hygiene groups: total cost \$4,600
- Motion, Lisa, to approve the Healthy Outcomes Fund applications. Seconded, Mariam, carried.

5. Provincial FASD Initiatives:

⇒ *Prevention Conversation*

- EFAN had only reached 54% of its target in terms of number of presentations at the end of the 3rd quarter but exceeded its target in terms of number of participants.
- 30% of the 1,012 participants are professionals, 6% are post-secondary students and the remaining 64% are general public or mixed audiences. This is a shift from previous 4 years, where youth and general public represented less than 20% of all participants.
- Only 3% of all trainees completed a survey (compared to 33% provincially).

⇒ *WRaP 2.0*

- Year 5: February 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026.
- Exit strategy: May/June 2025: communication plan with key messages finalized and distributed to stakeholders, including FASD Networks and Alberta school authorities; Sept/Oct 2025: instructional practice (coaches); Nov 15, 2025: activity reporting deadline; Nov/Dec/Jan 2026: connecting education stakeholders to FASD Networks; Jan 31, 2026: final evaluation report, final yearend report; and April 30, 2026: Audited financial statement
- Action: Lisa will create a 'WRaP' page, with the resources on the EFAN blog, including the 'staff only' section.
- Action: Members to circulate WRaP engagement surveys:
 - Alberta educators, please consider taking ten minutes of your time to participate in a survey using the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WRaP-2024-Educator-Engagement>



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- Alberta caregivers, please consider taking ten minutes of your time to participate in a survey, using the following link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WRaP-2024-Caregiver-Engagement>

6. Network Membership Survey

- These themes reflect the strengths of EFAN as an organization while pointing to opportunities for growth, particularly in enhancing collaboration, expanding resources, and strengthening advocacy efforts:

1. *Strong Member Satisfaction*

- **Positive Feedback:** Members consistently rated their satisfaction with EFAN highly, particularly appreciating the organization's ability to keep them informed about FASD-related updates, research, and resources. Many noted that EFAN's coordination of meetings, resources, and communication fosters a supportive and informed environment.
- **High Ratings:** Across categories like meeting scheduling, engagement with topics, and communication, members consistently gave high ratings (mostly 5/5), reflecting overall satisfaction with their EFAN membership experience [?] [?].

2. *Networking and Collaboration*

- **Valued Opportunities:** Members identified the monthly meetings and the recent introduction of frontline-focused gatherings as critical for networking and knowledge sharing. These sessions provide opportunities for agencies to discuss challenges, share successes, and build stronger professional relationships.
- **Desire for Inclusion:** Suggestions included inviting additional agency representatives, such as those from justice, employment, and Indigenous-focused organizations, to broaden the scope and perspective of discussions. Expanding networking opportunities beyond the FASD-specific network was seen as a way to enhance collaboration.
- **Importance of Connection:** Members emphasized that EFAN fosters a sense of community and connection, which is particularly valued in addressing shared challenges and celebrating successes.

3. *Topics of Interest*

- **Research and Updates:** Respondents expressed a strong interest in hearing about emerging research, advancements in medical understanding, and changes in FASD-related policies. These updates help members stay informed and ensure their work aligns with current best practices.
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- **Practical Tools and Strategies:** Many members requested resources such as sensory strategies, educational tools (e.g., fidgets, noise-canceling headphones), and examples of interventions that have proven effective. They emphasized the importance of equipping members with tools to address real-world challenges.
 - **Focus on Client Stories:** Stories about client successes, challenges, and agency-related issues were frequently mentioned as some of the most engaging meeting topics. These narratives help ground discussions in practical, real-world experiences.

4. Areas for Improvement

- **Transitioning Clients:** Some members highlighted the need to improve transitions between agencies, ensuring a seamless handoff of individuals and services. This is particularly important for maintaining continuity of care and support for individuals with FASD.
- **Meeting Structure:** While many members were happy with the current scheduling, a few suggested less frequent meetings to accommodate busy schedules. Others emphasized the importance of maintaining hybrid options (in-person and virtual) to maximize accessibility for members in different regions.
- **Cross-Regional Collaboration:** Members noted opportunities to strengthen collaboration between agencies across Alberta to share resources and address systemic challenges collectively.

5. Communication

- **Highly Effective Communication:** EFAN was widely praised for its clear and consistent communication. Members appreciated the meeting minutes, updates, and reminders provided by the network. These efforts help keep everyone informed and engaged.
- **Suggestions for Improvement:** A few members recommended more proactive communication between meetings to encourage ongoing dialogue and collaboration. This could involve follow-ups on action items or the creation of a digital space for ongoing discussions (e.g., a Slack channel or similar platform).

6. Engaging in Advocacy and Awareness

- **Advocacy Gaps:** Members emphasized the need for stronger provincial and federal advocacy around FASD. While EFAN is seen as a strong voice, members feel there is room to amplify efforts, particularly in addressing systemic barriers and securing sustainable funding for FASD services.
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- Collaborative Advocacy: Many respondents highlighted the importance of collective advocacy efforts, leveraging the voices of EFAN members to influence policy and improve public awareness of FASD challenges and needs.
 - Discussion questions:
 - What steps can EFAN take to improve the transition process for individuals with FASD between agencies? Are there successful examples or best practices that could be implemented network-wide?
 - How can EFAN strengthen connections with organizations outside the current network, such as those in justice, employment, or Indigenous-focused services? What barriers need to be addressed to expand collaboration?
 - What additional tools, strategies, or resources would help you better support individuals with FASD? How can EFAN facilitate the sharing of these resources among members?
 - How can EFAN amplify its advocacy efforts to address systemic challenges at the provincial and federal levels? What role can members play in supporting these efforts collectively?
 - What strategies could EFAN use to encourage more collaboration and communication between meetings? Would platforms like Slack or shared digital spaces be helpful for ongoing engagement?
 - **Action: Members to review the following two questions and email Lisa thoughts and ideas:**
 1. **What additional tools, strategies, or resources would help you better support individuals with FASD? How can EFAN facilitate the sharing of these resources among members?**
 2. **What strategies could EFAN use to encourage more collaboration and communication between meetings? Would platforms like Slack or shared digital spaces be helpful for ongoing engagement?**
 - **Action: Lisa to write up shared recommendations and ideas on discussion questions.**
 - **Action: Lisa to examine accessibility of minutes and agendas on the blog.**

7. Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, March 4, 2025: Catholic Social Services 11405 - 163 Street
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