

Community Impact Report 2024-2025



SOUTH
ALBERTA
FASD
NETWORK

Table of Contents

Message from the South Alberta FASD Network Chair	1
Message from Network Coordinators	2
Our Network	3
FASD Awareness and Community Engagement Activities	9
The Prevention Conversation: a Shared Responsibility	12
Lethbridge Family Services - Assessment & Diagnosis	14
Recovery Alberta First Steps	15
McMan First Nations PCAP Program	16
McMan FASD Lifespan Program.....	17
Peak Justice Initiative Program	18
Peak Fund Management Program	19
Lethbridge Police Youth Justice Program.....	20
WRaP 2.0 FASD Coaching Partnership Project.....	21



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The South Alberta FASD Network acknowledges that we are gathered on the lands of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains and pay respect to the Blackfoot people past, present and future while recognizing and respecting their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship to the land. The region is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta.

FASD stands for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. It is a lifelong disability that affects the brain and body of people who were exposed to alcohol in the womb. Each person with FASD has both strengths and challenges and will need special supports to help them succeed with many different parts of their daily lives.

Message from the South Alberta FASD Network Chair

It is indeed an honor and privilege to be The Chair of The South Alberta FASD Network. Thank you for your confidence in me to facilitate this role.

The South Alberta FASD Network continues to be recognized provincially and nationally as a leader in the field of FASD in fostering new approaches and supporting our existing programs.

I am impressed with our contracted agencies, the Leadership Team members, our General Network membership, and our identified partners with their positive attitudes of cooperation, collaboration and accomplishment in serving the individuals living with FASD and their families in our Network catchment area. It takes commitment of partnerships, respect, trust and collaboration to get the work done! Your support and dedication to the work you do is exemplary – and is certainly noticed and appreciated. You should be very proud of reaching your identified agency and Network stated outcomes, as seen in The Community Impact Report for 2024-2025. Well done.

Without increased funding to support agency work and activity for many years, and increased demands of more clients with more complex needs, we have continued to be a strong Network.

We have learned how to work smarter, with more creativity – despite limitations. In 2024-2025 there were many staff changes in our agencies and more/new challenges. The South Alberta FASD Network contracted agencies once again rose above the issues and supported the individuals living with an FASD, their families and care givers with care, concern, dignity and respect.

I would like to thank H  l  ne Wirzba for the time she has spent with the South Alberta FASD Network as their Evaluation Consultant and wish her well in her upcoming retirement.

I thank the South Alberta FASD Network Leadership Team for their dedicated commitment and guidance in helping us reach the identified Network goals, as well as Cheryl Gilmore and Debbie Deak, our Network Co- Coordinators, for keeping the business side of the Network updated and on track.

With all your knowledge, commitment, and dedication the South Alberta FASD Network is ready for 2025-2026 and beyond.

Respectively submitted,
Hazel Mitchell
Chair, South Alberta FASD Network

Message from Network Coordinators

Due to the cooperation and collaboration among contracted agencies and community partners, the Network has once again achieved or exceeded expected outcomes. This accomplishment could not have happened without dedicated and committed staff who go above and beyond to support individuals with FASD within our region.

The Leadership Team continues to be strengthened by the diversity in its membership. Collectively, the agencies, Ministries and community partners who form the Leadership Team provide expertise in guiding the Network.

Network Successes and Innovations:

- Our partnership with the Southeast Alberta FASD Network in jointly contracting an FASD Instructional Coach for the WRaP 2.0 FASD Coaching Partnership Project has produced results that have furthered the relationships between our Network and the Kainai Nation.
- The Network continues its partnership with Lethbridge Housing Authority (LHA) by having one of the Co-coordinators attend the weekly Coordinated Access Round Table (CART) meetings facilitated by LHA. These meetings are intended to serve the most vulnerable residents in Lethbridge with access to housing. Additionally, a number of community agencies/ Ministries attend these meetings resulting in collaboration and unity amongst its members. In turn, LHA sends representatives to Collective Wisdom and has representation on the Network Leadership Team.
- 2024-2025 was another successful year for The FASD Prevention Conversation Initiative with 399 persons receiving training and 1,786 persons reached through community development initiatives.
- Monthly Collective Wisdom meetings provided a forum for front-line service providers of both funded agencies and community agencies to case plan for complex clients.
- Network members and others in the community had access to a breadth of professional learning opportunities.
- The September and Christmas Awareness and Prevention Campaigns were a success.
- A partnership with Lethbridge Family Services and the Angel Tree Campaign resulted in the Network supporting 74 referred families with \$100.00 gift cards for groceries and 124 children receiving gift bundles. Ninety-two adult clients who do not have children also received \$25.00 gift cards for groceries.
- Together, assessment & diagnosis and support programs funded through the Network reached 279 individuals and families.

Respectively Submitted
Cheryl Gilmore and Debbie Deak
Network Coordinators, South Alberta FASD Network



Our Network

We believe in connecting.

Our Network connects individuals & families to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) supports in South Alberta.

Vision

To the community served by the South Alberta FASD Network, we deliver a comprehensive and coordinated regional response to FASD across the lifespan and a continuum of services respectful of individual, family, culture and community diversity.

Mission

The South Alberta FASD Network aims to increase regional capacity by enhancing existing FASD services and developing new services in four primary areas: awareness, prevention, assessment and diagnosis, and supports for individuals and caregivers.

Service Area

The region serves more than 157,000 residents, covering nearly 26,000 square kilometers in the southwestern corner of Alberta.

Nearly half of the residents live in Lethbridge, its largest community, with the remaining scattered throughout more than 40 other towns, villages, and surrounding rural areas.

The region also includes two reserves of the Blackfoot People: the North Peigan (Piikani) and the Blood (Kainai) Nations.



Service Partners

In 2024-2025, the following organizations connected with the South Alberta FASD Network to deliver high-quality FASD-informed services.



Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services
Disability Initiatives, Disability Supports
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder



Recovery Alberta
First Steps PCAP



Lethbridge Family Services
DaCapo Disability Services
FASD Assessment and Diagnostic Services



McMan Youth, Family and Community Support Services
Association, South Region
FASD Lifespan Program
Pincher Creek First Nations PCAP



Peak Support Services
Justice Initiative and Fund Management Programs



Lethbridge Police Services
FASD Youth Justice Project



"Alone we can do so little; together we can
do so much." -Helen Keller

— Thank You —

Agencies and Programs Supporting Individuals with FASD

We acknowledge the many programs and services supporting individuals with FASD and their caregivers, in partnership with the FASD Service Network, such as:

5th on 5th Youth Services	Alberta Justice	AISH
Alberta Health Services (including Addiction & Mental Health, Better Beginning, Children's Allied Health, Chinook Regional Hospital, ID Clinic)		
Alberta Correctional Services	Alberta Works	Boys and Girls Club
Bringing The Spirit Home Detox	Blood Tribe	City of Lethbridge
Lethbridge Housing Authority	City of Lethbridge Outreach Team & Coordinated Access	
Building Safer Communities	Children and Family Services	Crown Prosecutors
Fresh Start – Lethbridge	Lethbridge Police Services	DOT Team
Family Centre	Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD)	
Holy Spirit School Division	Foothills Detox Centre / Addiction Services	
Inni Healing House	Gang Exit Community Outreach Services (GECOS)	
Interfaith Food Bank Program	Landers Treatment Centre	Legal Aide
Lethbridge Correctional Centre	Lethbridge Polytechnic	Lethbridge School District #51
Lethbridge Recovery Centre	Making Connections	Napi Friendship Association
Piikani Children's Services	Native Counselling Services of Alberta	
Piikani Employment Services	Mobile Addictions Outreach Initiative (MAOI)	
Piikani Nation	Opokaa'sin Early Intervention Society	
Kainai Nation	Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD)	
Blood Tribe Health Department	Piikani Housing and Social Development	
John Howard Society	Poundmakers	Pregnancy Care Centre
Probation - Corrections	Public School Districts	Quest
RCMP	Streets Alive Mission	Training Inc.
University of Lethbridge	University of Calgary	Women's Shelters
Wood's Homes	YWCA	Youth and Adult Shelters

We thank the many volunteers and donors who, through their time and energy and financial resources, support our community outreach programs.

Leadership Team and Membership

The South Alberta FASD Network is governed by a Leadership Team which oversees the Policies, Procedures and Network operations. The Leadership Team is comprised of representatives from Network funded agencies. Other agencies and Ministries involved with individuals affected by FASD are also represented on the Leadership Team. These include but are not limited to, representatives from public school districts, Community and Social Services, Alberta Mental Health, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Justice, the Solicitor General, Lethbridge Housing Authority, the City of Lethbridge, Indigenous and Métis organizations, and members of the community. Network members represent organizations and individuals who have a keen interest in FASD.

In 2024-2025, the Network hosted one Annual General Meeting, three General Network Meetings, and seven Network Leadership Meetings.

The Network is represented at the Coordinated Access Round Table (CART) facilitated by Lethbridge Housing Authority, the Lethbridge Indigenous Sharing Network (LISN), and the Kainai Interagency Meetings.

The Network is committed to professional development of its members. As a result, the AGM and Network Meetings all included a learning component.

The Co-coordinator met with each funded agency during the fall and spring compliance meetings. Together, they reviewed and updated the program logic models, strategies outcomes, and data collection tools to ensure alignment with the Network business plan. The evaluator collects, collates, and disseminates survey data twice a year.



Collective Wisdom Meetings

Collective Wisdom Meetings provide an opportunity for cooperative and collaborative consultation amongst agencies providing services to individuals with complex needs. 10 Collective Wisdom Meetings took place in 2024-2025, with an average of 16 professionals per session.



Christmas Gifts for Clients

We are grateful for the ongoing support and generosity of businesses and private sponsors who contribute to assisting individuals with/possibly with FASD and their families. Together, they raised over \$10,000 towards our Christmas gift campaign.

The South Alberta FASD Network partnered again with the Lethbridge Family Services Angel Tree Christmas Campaign to have gift bundles and \$100 grocery gift cards given to 73 families and 122 children served through our funded agencies.

For the first time, 68 adult clients (who do not have children) also received \$25.00 gift cards for groceries.



Challenges and concerns

The challenges that are common across the agencies include: financial resources, access to housing, the opioid crisis and the significant loss of life with respect to clients and their extended families, the growing complexity of issues, especially in the violence spectrum, access to health and mental health/addiction services, and an increase in the number of individuals needing services.

Knowledge Dissemination and Training

General Network Meetings, the AGM and Lunch & Learn sessions included learning opportunities focusing on regional services and supports as well as best practice in working with individuals affected by FASD. Overall, 212 individuals engaged in professional learning facilitated by the South Alberta FASD Network this year.

- Agency representatives' presentation: Learnings from the FASD Conference
- City of Lethbridge Safer Community Initiative
- Ribbon Rouge Foundation presentation
- The Wonder Nook presentation
- Lethbridge Police Services The WATCH and PACT (police and crisis team)
- Family Centre programming and Hub services
- John Howard Society review of services
- LPS Vulnerable Persons Registry

Beyond the sessions delivered by the Network Prevention Conversation Facilitator, funded agencies reported 22 FASD training/ education initiatives.

- The two justice programs offered 8 FASD justice-related training events for professionals and community volunteers.
- PEAK facilitated 1 in-house training sessions for their new employees.
- LFS hosted 5 education sessions for caregivers.
- Recovery Alberta delivered 6 presentations regarding services to agencies across Southern Alberta.
- McMan delivered 2 presentations to other agencies regarding referral pathways.
- In total, the training sessions reached 197 individuals (160 professionals, 37 caregivers).
- In addition, the two justice programs delivered a presentation at the FASD United International Research Conference on Adolescents & Adults with 350 in attendance.

Trainees completed 84 surveys.

- 100% reported that the topic was relevant to them, they finished having a better understanding of FASD and obtained information that would help them care for and support individuals affected by FASD.
- Over 95% were confident or somewhat confident in applying what they learned into their life/ job.
- Over 90% felt they obtained new information about resources and services available in the community for individuals affected by FASD.

“Wonderful presentation with lots of valuable information, and many great real-life examples included!”

“Excellent duet... effective and relatable... genuine and experienced...doable model.”

“Great training full of learning experience.”



FASD Awareness and Community Engagement Activities

The South Alberta FASD Network is grateful to the Advertising Communication and Promotion's Committee, comprised of 13 members from the Network Leadership Team, funded agencies' staff, and community members, who oversee the awareness and community development activities.

CanFASD provided direction for Networks to follow in implementing the September Awareness and Prevention Campaigns. Key to their plans were the following:

- Incorporating as much as possible of the "Red Shoes Rock" promotion
- Lighting up a monument or location in your area in red lights on September 9th
- Basing the campaign on "Everyone Plays a Part"

Highlights of the September 2024 Campaign:

- More than 80 restaurants, bars and pubs that sell liquor **across the region** were approached to use the Network coasters, decals, and display our poster at their respective establishments.
- Community events were hosted by agency staff and community members (wearing red running shoes and t-shirts with the "Red Shoes Rock" logo) on:
 - September 10th and 17th at the Crossings Library – approximately 300 students came to our location each time and engaged in group or individual conversations
 - A parent of children who had been assessed through the LFS FASD Assessment and Diagnostic Clinic wished to be a part of meeting with students and having conversations about FASD. She was a tremendous asset to our team! Additionally, she took our pens and posters and distributed them in her community of Magrath. A student who had been diagnosed through the Clinic also joined the team.
 - September 21st at WOTS (Word on the Street) Festival – At least 100 conversations were held with attendees, focused on impacting understanding of the prevention of prenatal alcohol exposure. More than 400 individuals attended the Network's display.
 - September 25th the Network hosted a table at Lethbridge Polytechnic's Student Support Fair – 8 staff hosted this event with approximately 350 conversations reported.
- City Hall was lit up in red on September 9th.
- 5 City of Lethbridge buses, the Water Tower Digital Superboard, the U of L Curved Screen and a Digital Superboard displayed Network graphics from August 22nd until the end of September



- Ads were placed in the Leisure Guide and ran at the Movie Mill throughout late August and all of September.
- 2000 condoms in Network covers displaying messaging of FASD awareness, were delivered to the University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge College and Bringing the Spirit Home Detox Center.
- The PCF (Prevention Conversation Facilitator) spoke at the Piikani FASD Awareness Day.
- A new community partner, SACLA, supported the Network in distributing information regarding the September Campaign – several of their employees wore red shoes on September 9th.
- Posters and Briefing Notes were distributed to attendees at CART Meetings for display.
- AGLC September Campaign promotional items were received and distributed at the events.
- The sale of coffee packaged in one-pound bags that displayed the Network name and logo continued due to the ongoing commitment of members of the Leadership Team.
- Verona Tail Feathers, Blood Tribe Health and Wellness, created a display in the foyer of their building which incorporated messaging and materials for the September Campaign.
- Verona also distributed the Network posters throughout the community of Standoff.



Highlights of the Christmas Campaign:

- The Network's social media sites displayed messaging focused on supporting pregnant women to be alcohol-free during the season.
- 5 City of Lethbridge buses and billboards displayed similar messaging.
- The Network Christmas poster was placed in the November and December publications of the Leisure Guide and ran at the Movie Mill.
- **12 Days of Mocktails Campaign:** During the month of December, the Network promoted the province-wide campaign which encouraged everyone to support healthy pregnancies by choosing alcohol-free alternatives during the holiday season.

Christmas Gifts for Clients

The Network is a registered charity and as such, is grateful for the ongoing support and generosity of businesses and private sponsors who contributed more than \$10,000.00 to assisting individuals with/possibly with FASD and their families. New businesses became donors in 2024.



The South Alberta FASD Network again partnered with the Lethbridge Family Services Angel Tree Christmas Campaign to have gift bundles given to 124 children and \$100 grocery gift cards given to 74 families served through our funded agencies. The Network supported 92 adult clients who do not have children by providing them with \$25.00 gift cards for groceries.

Agency Contributions

Beyond the events organized by the Network, funded agencies contributed to FASD awareness across the region.

- McMan Lifespan and PCAP programs participated in 8 community organized events that touched over 1,000 community members.
- Youth Justice took part in and assisted with 6 community events and youth related initiatives.

CanFASD

September is

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Awareness Month

Wear your red shoes #RedShoesRock

visit fasmnth.ca for more information

SOUTH ALBERTA FASD NETWORK
www.safnd.ca

The Prevention Conversation: a Shared Responsibility

The FASD Prevention Conversation equips professionals and members of the general public with the knowledge and skills needed to engage in non-judgmental conversations about alcohol, pregnancy, and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Reach:

- The South Alberta Prevention Conversation Facilitator offered 16 professional development sessions, training 191 professionals, 160 post-secondary students, and 48 others (members of the general public and mixed audiences.).
- As in previous years, the Prevention Conversation Facilitator facilitated training sessions on the Kainai and Piikani Nations, at the University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge Polytechnic, and community agencies in Lethbridge. New in 2024-2025 were opportunities to facilitate learning about FASD with members of a religious community, SACLA, and an agency which provides support to children in care.

Outcomes:

- 77% of trainees completed a survey.
- The percentage of respondents self-rating:
 - **their knowledge and understanding of FASD** as fairly extensive or excellent increased from 41% to 100%.
 - **their understanding of the risks associated with alcohol use during pregnancy** as fairly extensive or excellent increased from 26% to 98%.
 - **their knowledge, skills and confidence to discuss alcohol use with adults and intervene if necessary** as fairly extensive or excellent increased from 12% to 87%.
 - **Their knowledge, skills and confidence to discuss alcohol use and sex with adolescents and intervene if necessary** as fairly extensive or excellent increased from 13% to 85%.
- The Network Evaluator reported that “professional and short survey results are above provincial averages in all areas.”
- 98% of respondents intended to incorporate what they learned in their practice/work.

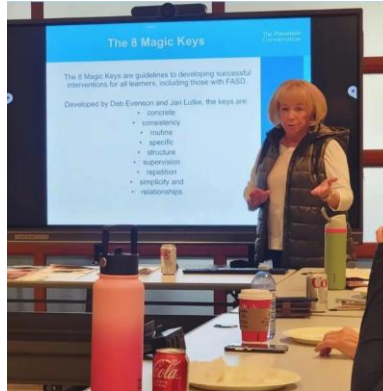


“Thank you for this presentation. The presenter (Debbie) did a wonderful job at being holistic and inclusive in her discussion on FASD. I feel I took lots from this

and would love to help spread the awareness on this very important topic, in my everyday life and the job I am going to pursue.”

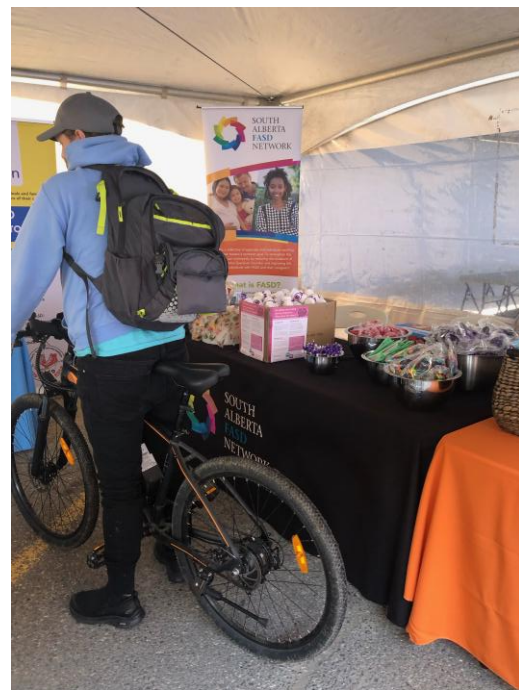
“Thank you for your time to come out and educate us as "future" nurses! This is a topic I've heard about but was not informed on to this extent!

“I appreciate the thoroughness of the discussion and the resources available beyond the lecture. I hope that more classes in schools get the opportunity to hear about FASD.”



"Very informative! I had limited amounts of info before and now have lots of info that I could teach others. Thank you Debbie!"

"This was a sensational presentation! I didn't know about FASD before this event. It's very helpful! Thank you!"



Lethbridge Family Services - Assessment & Diagnosis

The process of diagnosis for FASD includes confirmation of prenatal alcohol exposure, assessment in 10 different brain domains as outlined in the Diagnostic Guidelines, and collection of current, historical and physical information regarding the individual. Diagnostic services are completed by a multi-disciplinary team whose members include a physician/pediatrician, psychologist, speech language pathologist, occupational therapist (when deemed necessary) and other professionals, depending on the age of the individual.

Assessment and diagnostic services may or may not lead to a confirmed diagnosis of FASD.

An FASD diagnosis may not be immediately available, in cases where a child is too young to be diagnosed, there is not enough existing information, there are not three assessed domains in the significantly impaired range and/or the clinical team feels further assessment is required by additional professionals.

Reach

- Lethbridge Family Services (LFS) completed 27 pediatric assessments and 12 adult assessments.
- LFS offered follow support to 40 adults and to the families of 95 children who received an FASD diagnosis. This includes sharing information on FASD-informed strategies, connection to community services, self-care and caregiver support.

Outcomes

Survey results indicate high level of satisfaction of clients and caregivers with their overall experience with the clinic and the level of respect they felt throughout the clinic process. Caregivers and clients felt they understood FASD better and the recommendations would be useful in the future. This demonstrates that the staff are professional, knowledgeable, caring, and thorough in providing support throughout the process.

“Organization and consistency was amazing.”

“Everything is awesome...”

“Services have been great...” The clinic support person is “an amazing person and good support.”

The clinic support person “has been a God-send. Always available. Super helpful... so thankful we have supports finally.”

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER CLINIC PROCESS



Recovery Alberta First Steps

The First Steps Parent-Child Assistance Program (PCAP) connects with individuals in Lethbridge and area who are experiencing difficulties with substance use and related issues to develop or maintain healthy changes pre and post pregnancy. This voluntary program supports individuals in the following areas:

- Provide support to reduce alcohol and/or substance use.
- Finding individual strengths and building on those strengths.
- Increasing connections through belonging and purpose
- Increasing community connections,
- Reflecting and recognizing skills used through previous challenges.
- Providing support with legal and custody concerns.
- Sharing information on family planning.
- Setting goals that are achievable.
- Sharing current information so each participant can make the best decisions for themselves and their families.
- Referrals to appropriate supports for each participant.

Reach:

- The First Steps program worked with 78 unique participants.
- Of those, 17 were in their first year of the program and 61 were continued participants.

Outcomes:

- Participants expressed high levels of satisfaction with the program (safety, honesty, and culture & spirituality).
- In Period 2 (October 2024 – March 2025) 80% of participants were abstinent from alcohol, and 87% reported using a method of birth control or maintaining abstinence from all substances, thus preventing future alcohol-exposed pregnancies.
- Services accessed most often were health services and a family doctor, community services, and counselling. 88% of participants who accessed counselling also formed supportive social connections.



“I have a worker that believes in me and helps me believe in myself.”

“My life is completely different now than when I came into the program...I can’t even tell you how much it has changed.”

“I have new housing in a brand-new building for me and my children for the first time in my life and am back in school.”



McMan First Nations PCAP Program

The Parent-Child Assistance Program (PCAP) based in Pincher Creek provides support to Indigenous individuals who report alcohol and/or drugs abuse; are living a high-risk lifestyle and at risk of having a child with FASD. This is moving towards PCAP best practice in preventing unwanted pregnancies with the child at risk of prenatal exposure to substance use. Cultural components, such as The Medicine Wheel, are included in individualized service as per participants' preferences.

The goals of the program can include:

- Prevention of future alcohol or drug exposed children.
- Effective family planning.
- Drug & alcohol treatment.
- Stable housing.
- Children living within their own families.
- Effective childcare and connecting to community services.

Reach:

- The McMan PCAP program worked with 19 unique participants.
- Services most often accessed were medical care, basic needs services, community services, and finding supportive social connections.

Outcomes:



- 100% of participants reported 100% satisfaction for being respected, valued and safe, having choice/ voice with goals and services plans, and being more connected to natural supports.
- 100% of participants felt the program demonstrated respect for and understanding of their culture and spirituality.
- 66% of participants were using a method of birth control or maintaining abstinence from all substances, thus preventing future alcohol-exposed pregnancies.
- 52% of participants were able to secure stable housing.

"For both of my pregnancies you are the only person I can trust to support me"

"You don't judge me when I tell you things, I've never had that before"

"The program saved my life"

"I know PCAP is always there for me"



McMan FASD Lifespan Program

The McMan Lifespan Program provides intensive case management with wrap-around supports and systems navigation to individuals 16 years of age or older, with/ possibly with FASD, and who do not qualify for PDD services. The program helps to ensure a seamless transition from youth to adulthood, and ongoing supports throughout their lifespans. Services provided may include mentorship and life skills development, building natural supports, advocacy, system navigation, and education and information on FASD.

The Caregivers' Support Program provides short-term services to caregivers of individuals with/possibly with FASD, in accessing appropriate resources, building natural support, advocacy, education and mentoring on FASD-informed strategies to promote enduring and effective care within the family unit.



Reach:

- The Lifespan program worked with 57 individuals and the Caregiver's support program with 16 caregivers.

Outcomes:

- Participants expressed high levels of satisfaction with the program including feeling respected, valued, and safe, and having choice/ voice with goals and service plans.
- The priority areas for connecting Lifespan participants to services included health, housing, mental health, funding/ income, life skills, and social skills.
- The most important priorities addressed by the Caregiver support program were emotional wellbeing, boundaries and behaviours, and keeping their family safe.
- 100% of participants reported growth in knowledge about FASD.

A positive change in my life since attending the program:

“Way more independent than before.”

“Been able to attend and try different resources and get healthy.”

“Feeling more positive about the future, achieving my goals.”

The Caregiver Support Program has helped me:

“Be able to get the services I need for my kids.”

“Be more honest about what is really going on in our lives so I can get the appropriate help and resources.”



Peak Justice Initiative Program

The focus of the Peak Justice Initiative Program is to provide direct and indirect court/justice support to persons with/possibly with an FASD diagnosis who are dealing with legal matters. This includes:

- Attending court to advocate for appropriate and meaningful outcomes, and provide support and guidance to the client and their caregiver during the court/legal process.
 - Sharing FASD resources and information with professionals within the justice system.
 - Preparing individualized case or court plans based on clients' strengths and needs.
 - Providing short-term consultation, guidance and information about the justice system and connect them/their support workers with applicable resources.
 - Providing case management for individuals who require more intensive and longer-term involvement.

Reach:

- The Adult Justice Program worked with 27 unique participants.

Outcomes:

- Over 85% of participants expressed feeling respected, valued and safe, and over 80% found it helpful to be in the program.
- Individuals who engaged in the consultation process indicated increased knowledge of their options, understanding of the court process and how to access more support.
- The most important areas the program helped participants address included legal matters, community services, housing, addictions, and money matters.



“I like that she will translate information into a plain language that I can understand.”

“I was able to stay out of jail for a long time...since working with both FASD informed programs, I have made significant changes to my life and this has resulted in no jail time.”

“I have stayed out of jail and been able to maintain a place to live this year! I had been struggling with homelessness for the past 15 years...I really enjoy having a safe, warm place to live.”



Peak Fund Management Program

The PEAK Fund Management program provides direct or indirect supports to individuals with/possibly with an FASD diagnosis to manage and budget their money. Funds Administration promotes stability in an individual's life through support with managing the client's income. This may include supporting the client with budgeting money, creating a savings plan, setting up third party payment for rent and other bills, assistance with paying bills, assistance with grocery shopping, communicating with AISH and/or other stakeholders on the individual's behalf and filing taxes. An agreement between the client and the service provider is completed. This agreement outlines the scope of practice and the roles and responsibilities between of the individual and the organization. The fund administrator also support the client in opening a bank account with a local financial institution.

Reach:

- The Funds Administration Program worked with 25 unique participants.

Outcomes:



- Over 95% of participants expressed they felt respected, valued and safe with the agency “always” or “most of the time” and had choice/voice in their goals.
- 89% of the participants indicated they achieved their goals.
- Services most often accessed were assistance with money, budgeting and financial supports, supports with addiction challenges, housing, and access to community services.

Positive changes clients expressed since being in the program:
“A place to live. Have food and stuff I need.”

“Staying away from trouble.”

“No new charges and staying more sober.”

“Better understanding of what needs to be paid and how to budget.”

“Knowing that my money is safe. I have been able to save, get clean and sober and am now staying in a hotel and working on getting a home.”



Lethbridge Police Youth Justice Program

The Youth Justice Program is a partnership between the South Alberta FASD Network and the Lethbridge City Police. It was created to increase awareness and management of FASD within the Youth Justice System. The purpose of the program is to influence change in the criminal justice system through mentorship, education, and training about FASD and related effects.

Main objectives:

- Influence case management for youth affected by FASD
- Divert youth from the system (where appropriate)
- Make recommendations to the court
- Identify high-risk youth and their families and connect them with appropriate services and supports
- Provide community and justice system advocacy for families, schools and service partners

Reach:

- The Lethbridge Policy Youth Justice Program worked with 18 unique participants,
- The program assisted 46 additional individuals with short term interventions.
- The program addressed 129 information requests for support from other individuals/professional with short-term justice-related matters.
- In partnership with Peak Adult Justice, 8 training sessions were delivered to individuals within justice or preparing to be in the justice system.
- The Youth Justice officer facilitates regular collaborative meetings between the Youth Crown Prosecutor and youth-related community agencies, such as the monthly High Risk Youth Meetings, the Youth Diversion Summit in Calgary, and Students of Concern meetings.

Outcomes:



- 84% of participants felt good about their encounter with the Youth Justice officer.
- 98% of participants believed that the interaction was helpful.



WRaP 2.0 FASD Coaching Partnership Project

The WRaP 2.0 FASD Coaching Partnership Project is a five-year provincial project (2021-2026). The service delivery model is designed to enhance educators' capacity in meeting the unique needs of students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

WRaP 2.0 consists of three parts:

- **Tailored Professional Development:** A comprehensive training program equips educators with the latest research and evidence-based strategies for supporting students with FASD. From understanding the neurobiology of FASD to implementing effective accommodations and modifications, educators gain the knowledge and skills needed to make a positive impact on students' lives.
- **Personalized Coaching:** Participating educators can connect with an experienced FASD coach who will provide individualized guidance and support. These coaches are well-versed in FASD and can offer practical strategies tailored to specific classroom and student needs. Together, educators and the Coach will develop customized plans to optimize learning outcomes and address any challenges that arise.
- **Sustainable Support:** The program will build long-term capacity within schools and communities. By equipping educators with the necessary skills, knowledge, and ongoing support, the WRaP 2.0 FASD Coaching Partnership Project promotes sustainable change that extends beyond the program's duration. The program will empower educators to become leaders in fostering inclusive environments for students with FASD.

The two FASD Networks in the south, South Alberta FASD Network and Southeast Alberta FASD Network, combined their WRaP 2.0 allocation to contract one FASD Instructional Coach who covers both target areas.

Over the first three and a half years of the project, the Coach engaged with 12 unique school authorities and 24 unique schools. Project Reach: (1) 36 professional learning sessions (2) 49 coaching/ case consultations. In total, the project reached 918 education professionals.

122 professionals completed a survey following a professional development event during the year. Over 97% of participants reported that the presentation was relevant to their work and that they intend to incorporate what was learned in how they support students with a diagnosis of FASD or possible FASD. All of them reported an increase in knowledge, skills and confidence, regarding FASD and strategies.

