BLAIR DRUG AND ALCOHOL PARTNERSHIPS
Empowering Healthy Lifestyles

Blair Drug and Alcohol Partnerships Advisory Meeting
Location: Blair Drug and Alcohol Partnership Conference Room G
September 24th, 2026

1. **Welcome and Introductions: Notes on pages** (Clark)
2. **Review of August 27th, 2026 Minutes: Pages** (Clark)
3. **Additions to the Agenda:** (Clark)
4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** (Clark)
5. **Presentation:** Sam Calhoun, FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
6. **Partnership Action Items/Discussion: See Notes** (Clark)
   Treatment Needs Assessment listening session
7. **Coalition Planning/Committee Reports: See Notes** (Amanda)
8. **BDAP Grants and Programs updates: See Notes** (Judy)
9. **Partner Updates:** Opportunity for Partners to update (Judy)
10. **Other: Next meeting: Thursday, October 22nd, 2026**

Thank you to all our partners for your support of the coalition!

Blair Drug and Alcohol Partnership Advisory Meeting-Agenda NOTES
September 24th, 2026

Welcome/Introductions:

Review of the Minutes: August 27th 2026 minutes
Action Item: Recommendation to approve the August 27th 2026 minutes

Presentation: Sam Calhoun, FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Partnership Action Items/Discussion: Treatment Needs Assessment

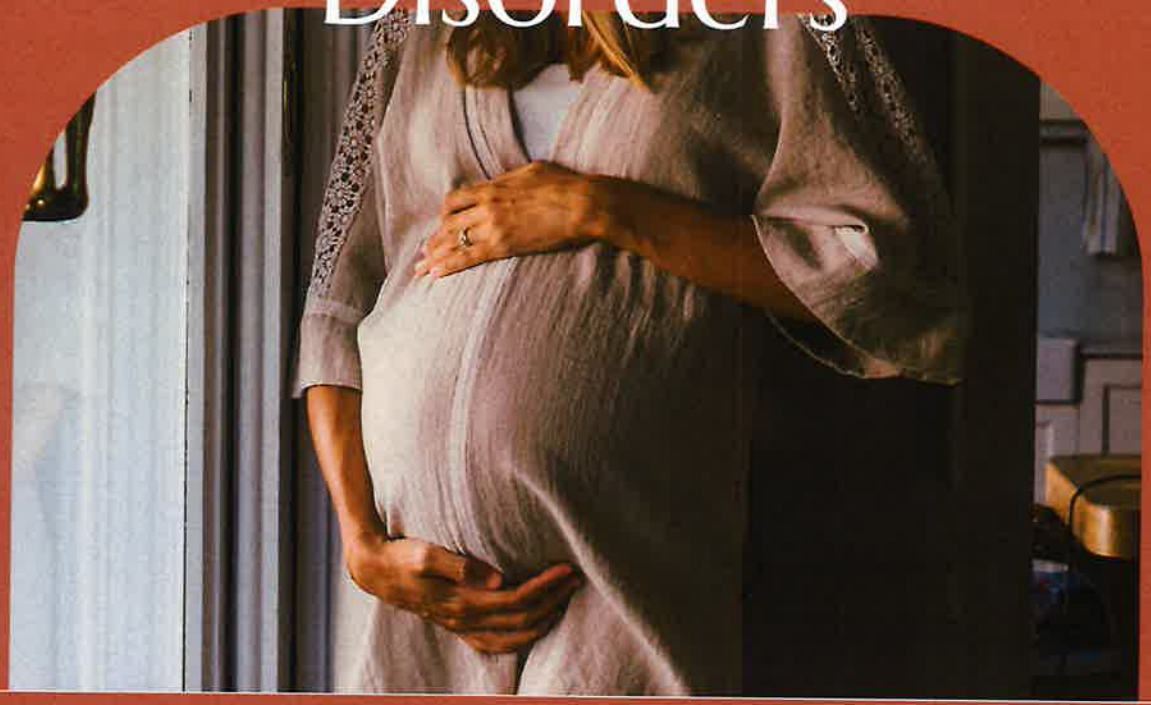
Budget update: We received our 26-27 allocation letter for a total of 2.9 million. This only provides for State Opioid Response (SOR) funds through 9/29/2026. We should receive an additional allocation for SOR funds effective 10/1/2026. This allocation letter may not be received until mid-October. We completed our closing for the fiscal year effective 8/31/2026. We have invoice for the funds through September and have received several payments.

Coalition Planning/Committee Reports: (Briana)
CPDUD- working on sticker shock, planning ahead for the distribution Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk for the super bowl, and continues to help/work on the park signage project
Youth League- planning for upcoming trunk or treat (10/19) and has started to plan for the winter party. November/December fundraiser -
Education- meeting to discuss future of Education
Rise for Recovery- open mic September 11th was not as well attended but was reported normal, next open mic is Dec 9th, Recovery Advocacy Day was September 15th bus trip to Harrisburg – took approximately 20 individuals to the event. Planning for the Recovery Gala (Masquerade Ball) on October 24th at the Altoona Grand Hotel is in full swing. The Gala is our main fund raiser for a recovery center in Blair County. We are still looking for sponsors for the event. Sponsorship form and basket donation is attached to the email for the meeting. If you can't sponsor, please consider a basket to donate for our silent auction. Both are due no later than September 29th. Tickets need to be bought by October 9, 2026. We also hope that our partnership members will join us for an evening of food, music and fun!
We have developed a sub committee to beginning developing a business plan for the recovery center.

Corporation Planning:
PREP Grant: No new updates. Grant ends 9/29/2026. They have extended our contract with them through the end of September for the CRS and data collection through February 2027.
Opioid Settlement Funds: Re-entry Women's grant/in prison medicated assisted treatment (MAT) /Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Group: Contract has been signed by the commissioners for the second year of funding. We are applying for additional grants which are due October 9th.
Children Youth and Families Discussion: We have seen an increase in referrals from CYFS. This includes youth being referred for assessments and coordination in care. We have worked with their management to set up time slots to allow for level of care assessment at their office.
PA Traffic Injury Prevention Project: Ongoing:
Trauma Informed Organization-The Continuous Quality Improvement Team has made recommendation to management to develop baseline trainings and specialty training (department specific) as one of its first goals. It will be looking at this with human resources to develop a hiring orientation training package and the job specific package by fall of 2026.
Treatment Needs Assessment: We are in the process of doing listening session with the public and key informants. We will be taking part of the partnership meeting to get feedback from our partnership members. In addition we have developed a survey to help collect data on the information requested in the needs assessment.

Next Meeting is scheduled for October 22nd at 12:30pm

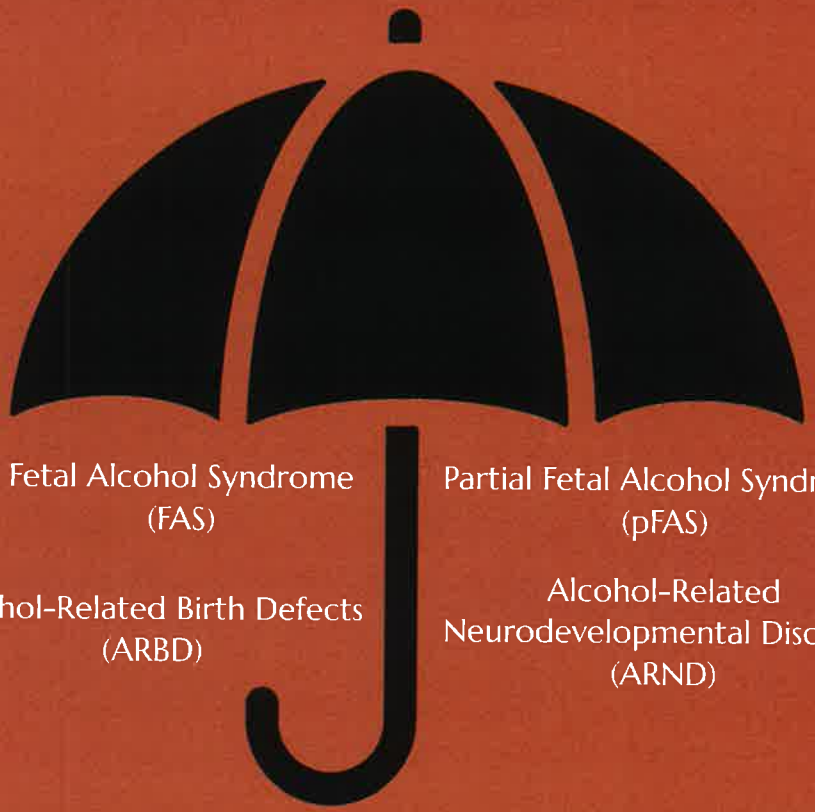
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders



Presented by
Blair Drug and
Alcohol
Partnerships

Understanding FASD

- An "umbrella term" that includes a wide range of effects that can occur in a person whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy
- Effects may be physical, mental, behavioral, and/or cognitive
- Lifelong implications, but therapy and support is highly beneficial



Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)	Most severe	• Growth deficiencies • Distinctive facial features • Central nervous system (CNS) abnormalities
Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (pFAS)	Less severe	• Some prenatal alcohol exposure • Some features of FAS
Alcohol-Related Birth Defects (ARBD)	Most physical	• Congenital abnormalities • Heart, kidney, bone, vision, and hearing problems
Alcohol-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND)	Most common	• Brain and nervous system • Intellectual disabilities • Learning/behavioral problems • Nerve/brain abnormalities

*More than 400 conditions co-occur (National Organization for FASD, 2025)

Causes of FASD

- Caused by prenatal exposure to alcohol
- Alcohol consumed by a pregnant woman can pass through the placenta and affect the developing fetus
- Alcohol exposure can harm the normal development of cells in the fetus, affecting both brain and body development.

*Not every baby born to a woman who consumes alcohol during pregnancy will be born with FASD, but anytime a pregnant woman consumes alcohol there is a possibility that her child will develop FASD

- The Surgeon General's warning against drinking during pregnancy didn't come to the US until 1981
- Prior to the 1970s, drinking was not uncommon during pregnancy and some doctors recommended it
- Research began in the 1970's to investigate the effects of alcohol on babies
- There is no known safe amount of alcohol to consume during pregnancy!

A study analyzing 2015–2018 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health reported::

~ 1 in 10 (9.8%) pregnant women report current alcohol use

~ 1 in 22 (4.5%) pregnant women report binge drinking

Alcohol use is highest within the first trimester of, with ~ 1 in 5 (19.6%) currently using and 1 in 10 (10.5%) binge drinking

~ 40% of pregnant women who report current drinking also report using one or more other substances—most commonly tobacco and marijuana

(Understanding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, 2023)

Diagnosing and Identifying FASD

Only trained individuals can and should diagnose

Prenatal Alcohol Exposure

- Requires documentation by the mother regarding alcohol consumption during pregnancy
- Medical records, self-report, or reliable sources

Facial Features

- Not present in all cases, but certainly considered
- Smooth philtrum, thin upper lip, small eye openings

Neurodevelopmental Deficits

- Assess brain function, including memory, learning, attention, social skills, and problem solving
- Neuroimaging, neuropsychological assessments, and behavioral tests

Growth Deficits

- Low birth weight, small head circumference, shorter than average height, trouble gaining weight, delayed gross motor development

Key Considerations

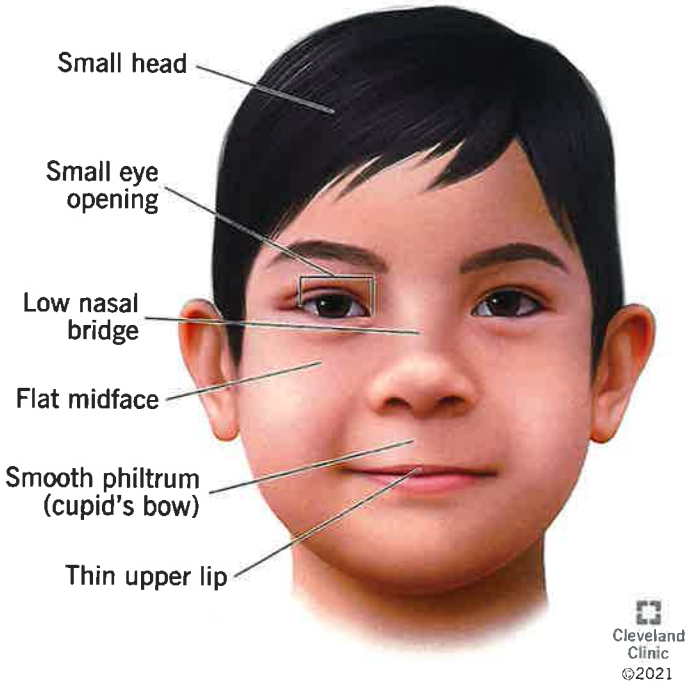
- FASD is a range of conditions
- No single test exists to diagnose FASD
- Early intervention helps
- Individuals can benefit from various therapies

(Understanding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, 2023)

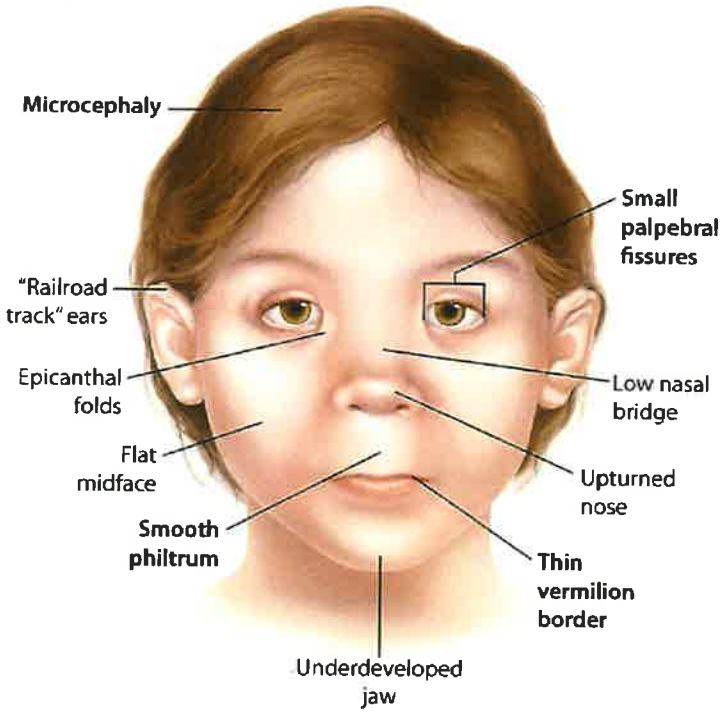
"Around half of all people with FASD have ADHD, 62% have vision impairment (a rate more than 30 times higher than the general population), 58% have hearing problems (more than 100 times higher than the general population), 83% have speech and language delays, and 91% suffer from impulsivity and inappropriate behavior."

Mukherjee and Cook (2016), quoting Popova et al.

Fetal alcohol syndrome



Fetal alcohol syndrome



People with FASD May Have Difficulty in These Areas

Learning and memory

Understanding and following directions

Switching attention between tasks

Controlling emotions and impulsivity

Communicating and developing social skills

Experiencing depression and anxiety

Daily life skills, like feeding, bathing, counting money, telling time, and minding personal safety

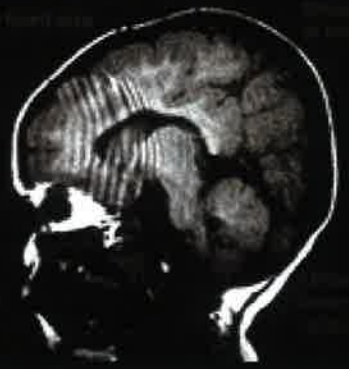
(Understanding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, 2023)

6-Week Old Baby
Normal Brain

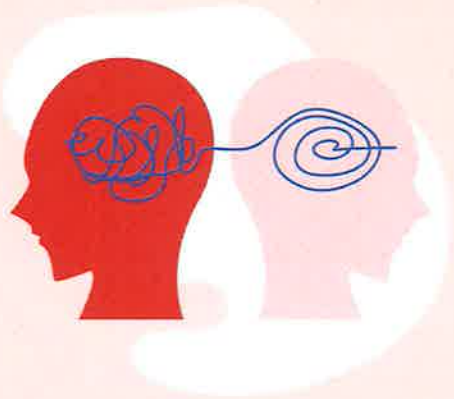
6-Week Old Baby
"Fetal Alcohol Syndrome" Brain

Child's Brain Unexposed to Alcohol

Child's Brain after
Prenatal Exposure to Alcohol



Interventions and Treatments



1. Prenatal nutritional supplements for pregnant women and postnatal supplements for their children
2. Learning and behavioral interventions to help improve cognition, daily life skills, and impulsive behavior
3. School-based approaches focused on specialized teaching strategies and computer-based games
4. Mobile health apps and other interventions that support families and caregivers to assist them in caring for children with FASD

(Understanding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, 2023)

Questions?

BLAIR DRUG AND ALCOHOL PARTNERSHIPS

Empowering Healthy Lifestyles

Thank you!

Contact us! (814)-381-0921

References

Chen, H. (2012). Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. *Atlas of Genetic Diagnosis and Counseling,* 823-829. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4614-1037-9_91.

Diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. (2003). The Canadian Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Review, 12(3), 81–86. https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2582739/.

National Organization for FASD. (2025). https://nationalfasd.org.uk/.

Understanding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. (2023). *National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.* https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/brochures-and-fact-sheets/understanding-fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorders.

Blair Drug and Alcohol Partnership Advisory Meeting-Agenda MINUTES
August 27th, 2026

Welcome/Introductions:
Voting Members in Person: *Holly O'Connor, Clark Sheehe*
Voting Members on Zoom: *Brendan Moran*
Voting Members Absent with notice:
Voting Members Absent without notice: *Joshua Hayes, Lawrence Fisher, Kylie Wisor, Tricia Johnson, Joshua Hayes*
Non-Voting Members in person: *Katanna Yohn, Judy Rosser, Natasha Teeter,*
Non-Voting Members on Zoom: *Marcee Petrarca*

Review of the Minutes: June 25th 2026 minutes
Action Item: Recommendation to approve the June 25th 2026 minutes
Action Item: Brendan Moran made a motion to approve the June minutes as presented. Marcee Petrarca seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all voting members present.

Presentation: Community Scan (Katanna) – *Katanna Yohn from BDAP Prevention team presented findings on the community scan they did. See attached power point and packet.*

Partnership Action Items/Discussion: *NONE*

Budget update: We have received a letter from the Department of Drug and alcohol Programs with proposed allocations for our contract for the beginning of the 26/27 fiscal year. The actual allocation letter will not be released until a final budget has been approved. As of today, the budget has not been approved.

Coalition Planning/Committee Reports: (Briana)
CPDUD- working on dates to distribute Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk sticker shock (football season)
Youth League-, curve game was well attended in July, and Delgrosso trip in August, planning trunk or treat
Education- meeting with Judy and Amanda about future of Education
Rise for Recovery- open mic night in July was attended well, next open mic September 11th, Recover Advocacy Day is September 15th bus trip to Harrisburg, Recovery Gala on October 24th at the Altoona Grand Hotel, working on the funding for a recovery center in Blair County.

Corporation Planning:
PREP Grant: No new updates. Grant ends 9/29/2026. They have requested an extension.
Opioid Settlement Funds: Re-entry Women's grant/in prison medicated assisted treatment (MAT) /Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Group: We have received the opioid settlement funds for the service provided between July 1 2025 and the end of the fiscal year June 30th, 2026. We have been approved for a second year of funding and are awaiting instructions/contract amendment form the county.
Children Youth and Families Discussion: We have seen an increase in referrals from CYFS. This includes youth being referred for assessments and coordination in care.
PA Traffic Injury Prevention Project: Ongoing: We received the car seats in January 2026.
Trauma Informed Organization-The Continuous Quality Improvement Team has made recommendation to management to develop baseline trainings and specialty training (department specific) as one of its first goals. It will be looking at this with human resources to develop a hiring orientation training package and the job specific package by fall of 2026.
Treatment Needs Assessment: We are awaiting the approval of the first phase of this process. Next phase will include focus groups and key stakeholder interviews.

Blair Drug and Alcohol Partnership Advisory Meeting-Agenda MINUTES
August 27th, 2026

Partner Updates: *Pyramid: Natasha advised that they have implemented a new protocol for 7O-H and Kratom withdrawal's that are coming into detox.*

No other partner updates at this time.

Next Meeting is scheduled for September 24th at 12:30pm