

**Town Hall and Legislator Visit Talking Points
Fall 2011**

Goals

Raise awareness of the issue of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD).
Establish relationships with state legislators and community leaders.

Outline for Speaking

1. Introduce yourself
2. Identify the issue in which you are concerned [Ex. I would like to talk briefly about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). Did you know that about 8,500 babies are born each year with prenatal alcohol exposure? That's more than Autism and Down Syndrome combined. (Source: SAMHSA 2006)]
3. Briefly share how your life has been impacted by FASD. Highlight a few impactful points that describe your family. [Keep story to a few minutes, write down ahead of time.]
4. Share your ideas for what would improve life for individuals and families living with FASD. Here are a few examples of priority areas for MOFAS and the statewide FASD community:
 - a. Establish consistent early childhood screening for prenatal alcohol exposure when developmental delays are present in order to improve outcomes for school readiness.
 - b. Implement universal maternal alcohol screening of pregnant women in order to ensure that women have the healthiest pregnancy possible and receive appropriate supports in they are struggling with chemical dependency.
 - c. Ensure that there is statewide access and capacity for FASD diagnosis.
 - d. Ensure that there is adequate training and education for professionals who work with children and adults with an FASD so that they understand the complexity of the disability.
5. Thank the legislators and policymakers for taking the time to come today and listen to our stories.