

# Advancing Our Youth

## Meeting Minutes for 2-7-02

Place: Davis room at Centennial Hall

Time: 1:30-3pm

Attendees: Steve Bradshaw, Betty Henning, Aryeh Levenson, Betsy Carter, Grace Brooks, Louise Brady, Andrea Hammond, David Sliefert, Diane Climo, Althea Buckingham

Notified that they are unable to attend: Camielle Call-Tarbet, Dick Wilson

Guests: Ritchie Sonner, DFYS- S.E. Regional Director

Have minimum quorum of 5 voting members.

Motion to accept agenda as amended was accepted by group vv (voice vote). Adjusted agenda included in meeting minutes below.

### Old Business

1. Approve meeting minutes from January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002 retreat
  - Group unanimously approved meeting minutes by vv.
2. Draft letter of invitation to AK Mental Health Board to hold Sitka meeting- Aryeh Levenson
  - Aryeh informed the group that the AMHB chose to have their meeting in Ketchikan this year.
3. Brief explanation of what the structure of re-joining AOY/CTC will look like- David Sliefert
  - David provided a brief history of the relationship of AOY & CTC and its current relationship. It was agreed at the January 10 retreat that AOY and CTC would re-join as a single group. David will be serve as the interim AOY Director and will facilitate AOY meetings and be the single point of entry for all flexible funding requests.
  - AOY has recently worked on their vision, mission and goals for the upcoming year. The CTC process is to assist communities in the creation of a comprehensive strategic plan as the end product. So rather than continue both (AOY/CTC) processes separately, with the same individuals attending double meetings, it was agreed that the two would re-join and work towards completing the CTC process and serve as the executive board for the CTC program.
  - As part of the re-joining process the vision, mission and goals of each process are to be combined. The group unanimously agreed to have a committee of individuals involved with both AOY and CTC to come up with a recommendation for the larger group. The visioning work group members are: Aryeh Levenson, Betty Henning, Althea Buckingham (though she may be gone before committee meets), David Sliefert and Andrea Thomas. David will coordinate and notify committee members of time and place.
4. Mission statement, goals and objectives of AOY – David Sliefert
  - See explanation under #3 above
5. Strategic Plan for calendar year 2002 – David Sliefert
  - See explanation under #3 above
6. Flexible Funding protocol (Family Focus group) – David Sliefert
  - It was agreed that David Sliefert would serve as the single point of entry for all flexible funding requests. David informed the group that he met with city administrator Tony Zimmer regarding the funds the city is holding in an account, which has \$17, 248.94 remaining. Tony reassured me that the city plans to continue

to serve as the banker for AOY requests. Tony gave his support to the group's work and plans to be an active player. Dave Wolfe the city's finance officer will be the city contact for requests.

- David will amend the protocol to reflect changes and present to the group at next meeting.
  - We discussed the nominal number of requests received and reasons for the low numbers. We have funds that are not being utilized and yet know we have needs out in the community that are going unmet. There are several reasons for the lack of requests (i.e. lack of consistent advertising or exposure to community, educating public on availability of funds and how they qualify, and ongoing education of key community groups).
  - Need to increase exposure: Louise suggested, that we do outreach to community schools, tutors, and other places where at risk youth exist. It was also suggested that Center for Community be included (David informed the group that CFC has a representative, Tracy Hodges), public assistance Degla Hit and Haven House, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Problem Corner, Sentinel and on the web (Sitka.com, City's web page, etc.). David informed the group that he did a brief video PSA with Dan Etulain regarding the flexible funding account, but doesn't know when it will be shown.
  - David informed the group that he spoke with the Ministerial Alliance and they formed a youth committee made up of three youth pastors/ministers to represent them in AOY/CTC. Other natural connections
  - It is essential that we prove ourselves worthy of these funds to the agencies and groups that kicked in money. At this time, most felt that it was unreasonable to consider asking for additional funds, but the group is concerned that the perception isn't positive at this time.
  - It was agreed that the brochures needed to be redone to include clearer language that was helpful to the group in making good decisions about requests. Those volunteering to be on brochure work group are Grace Brooks, David Sliefert, and Betsy Carter (David will also notify Pat Alexander, since she was on the previous brochure committee). David will coordinate and notify committee members of time and place.
7. Update on FAS grant to be written – Aryeh Levenson
- Aryeh informed the group that SEARHC would be the lead agency for getting the FAS grant. Using the school district was considered, but the state said they couldn't. They are in the process of completing the writing of the grant and have written in AOY Director position, which would provide sustainability for the group, since the CTC grant ends June 30th. RFP is due by the end of February. The FAS group is scheduled to attend training in Seattle in three weeks.
8. Letter to representative Peggy Wilson- Aryeh Levenson
- Aryeh asked the group's permission to send Representative Wilson the drafted letter he wrote on behalf of AOY group for the purpose of educating her on what we are doing in Sitka. There was some discussion regarding updating the vision and goals to represent the combined vision and goals we are presently working on. Aryeh presented the letter as informational to educate our representative and increase the group's exposure. David suggested that we schedule some time to meet with Ms. Wilson when she is in town the next time. We also agreed to add her aide, Rory Schneeberger to the groups email list. The group unanimously agreed to send the letter as is to Representative Wilson.

### New Business:

1. DFYS presentation, Ritchie Sonner (DFYS Regional Manager), on the transition plans of local office (Q & A).
  - Ritchie informed the group of the transition plans for the local DFYS office, which are to hire an admin position and Social Worker IV who will oversee all operations of the office. We were informed that two other front line staff would continue to work in the office. She reassured the group that she and DFYS are willing to work with the community and be apart of this collaboration in order to improve the communication and public perception. Ritchie made herself available by giving out her phone number and informing the group that she or Jefty would be in Sitka every other week or so, until a supervisor is hired for the office. DFYS is considering having community representatives sit on the hiring committee for the position and Ritchie will let us know when a decision is made. Several members volunteered to sit on hiring committee.
2. Future meeting (either in March or April) to present data collected from CTC work groups.
  - David informed the group that the CTC process was starting to collect data to be tabulated for the upcoming training. When most of the data is handed in, then each work group will present their findings to the AOY group. The date is yet to be determined, but likely will be scheduled in 4-6 weeks.
3. Safestart Initiative update
  - Andrea Hammond introduced herself as the Safestart Initiative Coordinator and informed the group of upcoming trainings that are scheduled for March 1 & 2<sup>nd</sup> and encouraged the attendance of the group to participate. The training is free and pamphlets were handed out to the group, as well as 3-4 posters to put up in key agencies.
4. Diversity Training- Louise Brady
  - Louise informed the group of an upcoming Diversity Training for Trainers that is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> from 8-4:30pm at the Centennial Hall. STA is bringing up several prominent speakers (i.e. from Berkley, etc.) to train individuals in the community. They are looking for about 20 attendees for the day long training of trainers with preference given to individuals that will be able to train in the community. Interested persons may contact Louise.
5. Adjourn
  - Group unanimously agreed to adjourn at 3:10pm.