

## **Advancing Our Youth Meeting Minutes for 10-3-02**

Place: Centennial Hall- Rousseau Room

Time: 1:30-2:45pm

Attendees: Charlotte Kimber, Betsy Carter, Tom Clarke, Mealnie Reif, Curt Ledford, Randy Hughey, Dick Wilson, Steve Bradshaw, Althea Buckingham, Janie Hogue, Laurie Orbeck-Erickson, Diane Climo, Mike Rodman, Dan Etulain, Scott McAdams, Camielle Call, Holly Wells, Rory Schneeberger, Linda Selvig, Tony Zimmer, Walleen Whitson, Louise Brady, Mike Schlins, Nancy LeClerc-Davidson and David Sliefert.

Notified that they would not be able to attend: Grace Brooks, Pat Alexander and Priscilla Peele

### Old Business

1. Meeting minutes from August 1<sup>st</sup> & September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002 were accepted by group. They are posted on the AOY website for viewing.
2. Work group reports:
  - A. Family Focus MOA- Attached hand-out was provided to inform the group how the Family Focus group deals with confidentiality.
  - B. Representation and Voting Group- Continuation of discussion from last month when the AOY group approved of Flexible Funding portion. Presented other half of proposal (attached) to add two more community representatives to the AOY board. The group unanimously agreed to give voting privileges to organizations that contribute to AOY, as well as having three community representatives that will be nominated by the group. The donor amount is agreed upon by the AOY group and this year's donor request is \$1,000. Each voting organization or member is given two votes each to help alleviate conflicts between larger organizations that have more than one person attending or unique collaborative giving situations like DFYS and DJJ, where each organization is given one vote each.
3. Flexible Funding Account: A) Account balance, B) Brief history of flexible funding account, C) Family Focus and Voting, D) Concerns regarding expenditures for school and/or community activities, E) Follow up regarding letter requesting \$1,000 funding from community agencies for FY 03.

A) The present amount in the account is \$5965.07. Pre-approved funds that have not been utilized is \$577.80 making the remaining amount \$5387.27.

B) David provided a brief history of the flexible funding account. Before the flexible funding account began, the concern about service gaps in the community was an on-going discussion that helped persuade the group to create a flexible funding account. The initial intent of the fund was to cover expenses that were not currently covered in the community such as, transportation to/from a doctor's appointment, paying for needed assessments or paying for car repairs for a family with children with emotional or serious behavioral issues. In the beginning, a nominal number of

requests were received, which is likely due to the lack of a sustained public relations campaign. The group decided to expand the criteria to be able to serve a wider array of "needs" with priority given to those with serious emotional/behavioral issues. The change in criteria included any youth or family in need that has a child under the age of 21.

C) Already discussed under number 2 work group reports.

D) The use of flexible funds was initially for youth under the age of 21 with serious emotional or behavioral issues that required assistance that was not already available in the community. Since the criteria was changed and opened up to any family in need with priority given to those situations where serious emotional and behavioral issues, the number of requests has steadily rose. Recently, the number of school activity requests has come to the group.

E) David has been following up with organizations regarding the funding letter request for \$1,000. He asked that organizations contact him regarding their decision to commit funds. The school board unanimously approved of the \$1000 donation. Sitka CHARR is the only organization to provide a check for the account.

4. Update on DFYS positions- Laurie Orbeck-Erickson, supervisor from Nome is working in the office to provide short-term relief. She is a candidate for the supervisor position in Sitka.

#### New Business:

1. Early Learning Program (ELP)-Melanie Reif & Charlotte Alexander

Updated the group on programs & services Center for Community offers for ages birth to six (i.e. assessment, training, home visits and teaching). Teach Your Children Well radio series starts this Saturday at 9:15am. Content can be found at [www.teachyourchildrenwell.info](http://www.teachyourchildrenwell.info). Stress Reducing Strategies for Families- a series of presentations for families/professionals of children ages' birth to six is scheduled for Thursday October 24<sup>th</sup> from 12-5 pm at Centennial Hall.

2. "Sitka's Promise for our youth" interviews series with anyone that provides services to youth in the community. David/Dan Etulain proposed a video series of community services called "Sitka's promise." Organizations or groups will be interviewed each week and asked a series of questions (Q. What are you doing for youth and what will you do for youth in 2003? How do you know what you do works? etc.). Several organizations and agencies will be contacted in the next month.
3. Agency News: Opportunity for providers and/or community members to update the group on new programs or staff, changes, grants, etc. (Ask to be put on list).
  - Curt Ledford reminded the group of new program starting at Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary called "Parenting through the Drug Free Years" to start next week. He asks that anyone who knows families of teens that may be interested to refer them to Community Schools.

- Camielle Call informed the group that October is Mental Health Awareness month and that Islands Counseling will be doing depression/anxiety screening for the community.
- Janie Hogue introduced herself as the new Executive Director of Sitka Prevention and Treatment Services and shared some of her background with the group. She has been in prevention and drug/alcohol treatment for the past 15 years.

4. Next scheduled AOY meeting will be **November 7th at 1:30pm** at Centennial Hall.

\*If you would like to be added to the email list let me know. If there are others that I may have missed on email list, please let me know. We want to continue to broaden community representation.

\*Attached or continued as part of this document are the contributor's list, Voting and Representation Group proposal and Confidentiality Group proposal.

## **2001-2002 Contributors**

**\*Recognized organizations with voting privileges.**

- \*Sitka School District**
- \*Sitka Tribe of Alaska**
- \*Sitka Police Department**
- \*Division of Juvenile Justice**
- \*Division of Family and Youth Services**
- \*Islands Counseling Services**
- \*Haa Toowoo Naakw Hit (SEARHC)**
- \*Sitkans Against Family Violence**
- \*Sitka Prevention and Treatment Services**
- Alaska Court System**
- City and Borough of Sitka**
- NAMI (National Alliance for Mentally Ill)**
- Sitka CHARR**

## Voting and Representation Group

Group met on August 21<sup>st</sup> at Naa Toowo Naakw Hit'

Attendees: Camielle Call-Tarbet, Betty Henning, Andrea Thomas and David Sliefert

Goal: To develop proposal to present to the larger AOY group that equitably recognizes financial contributors, better defines protocol for voting on issues and encourages community involvement.

		How it is done	Proposed change
<b>*Advancing Our Youth</b>	<b>Membership</b>	Organizations that contribute the specified amount to AOY receive a seat on the coalition's advisory board.	Human service organizations that contribute the specified amount to AOY receive a seat on the coalition's advisory board. Other groups or organizations that contribute monies will be acknowledged in advertisements (brochures, website, etc.) but will not sit on advisory board (ex. CHARR).
	<b>Community Representation</b>	One seat is reserved for a community representative.	Three community representative seats are recommended to better represent and increase involvement from the greater community. Voting privileges are given for all issues other than "flexible funding account." How to fill seats equitably is yet to be determined.
	<b>**Voting</b>	All organizations that contribute the specified amount to AOY receive voting privileges on all coalition issues.	Two votes for each are recommended since some contributions are done together. DFYS and DJJ pool their funds for the funding account. Human services organizations will receive <b>two votes</b> for all other coalition issues.
<b>Flexible Funding Account</b>	<b>Family Focus</b>	Any organization that attends Family Focus, which is usually youth & family serving organizations, receives a vote regarding funding requests. One agency may get several votes on a single request.	Each organization that contributes specified amount will receive <b>two votes</b> for issues related to the flexible funding account. Input from all the members of FF is encouraged and helps to make well rounded decisions, but ultimate decisions rest on contributing agencies.
	<b>Emergency Requests</b>	Any organization that attends Family Focus receives a vote regarding funding requests. One agency may get several votes on a single request.	Each organization that contributes specified amount will receive <b>two votes</b> for issues related to the flexible funding account. Each representative agency gets two votes each. Input from all the members of FF is encouraged and helps to make well rounded decisions, but ultimate decisions rest on contributing agencies.

\*Advancing Our Youth (AOY) is a coalition of service agencies and community representatives. Communities That Care (CTC) was a program or tool that the AOY coalition utilized to develop a comprehensive community prevention plan.

\*\*We discussed the importance of coming to agreement as a group for all decisions, then as is necessary to request a vote. Voting is a tool that is used to keep the process moving forward to meet the mission of AOY.

## Confidentiality Group

Group met on August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Naa Toowo Naakw Hit'

Attendees: Smokey Beare-Spencer, Tom Clarke, Betsy Carter and David Sliefert

Presented to Family Focus group on September 12<sup>th</sup>. It was well-received and good discussion followed. Questions that were asked were: How much information should be shared and what type or content is appropriate to share in to equitably discern requests. We agreed that the information shared should be related to the request and that it is our professional and ethically responsibilities to maintain this standard. Specific individual or family requests should not be discussed openly outside of the Family Focus group. Releases are for 90 days only.

Goal: To define the issues of confidentiality that affect the manner in which agencies and individuals interact on the behalf of children and families during Family Focus meetings.

The following displays the different purposes and uses of Family Focus and defines the roles and expectation for situations that may be discussed.

### **Difference between when Family Focus discusses a child/family versus when an Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) is called.**

	<b>Family Focus</b>	<b>MDT</b>
<b>How initiated</b>	Any agency can bring a child or family to the group for input.	DFYS initiated and facilitated.
<b>Consent</b>	Parental consent is required unless no identifying information is provided. Agency requesting to discuss family must have completed Releases of Information forms filled out for all participating agencies.	Does not require parental consent.
<b>Purpose</b>	Case management, identifying available resources and coordination of services.  Inform other agencies about changes in personnel, services or other miscellaneous items.	To assist in the investigation through consultations regarding situation.
<b>Law</b>	Each member is legally and ethically bound as human service workers to act in accordance with state, federal and their specific agency requirements regarding exchanging information.	Section 47.14.300 of state regulations explains MDT in detail.