

Advancing Our Youth Meeting Minutes for 12-5-02

Place: Centennial Hall- Rousseau Room

Time: 1:30-2:45pm

Attendees: Stephen Warren, Curt Ledford, Steve Bradshaw, Kate McKinley-West, Dick Wilson, Andrea Thomas, Althea Buckingham, Melanie Reif, Jodie Totten, Dan Etulain, Camielle Call, Rory Schneeberger, Walleen Whitson, Patricia Resch, Louise Brady, and David Sliefert.

Notified that they would not be able to attend: Betty Henning

Old Business

1. Approve meeting minutes from November 7th, 2002 meeting
2. Flexible Funding Account: A) Account balance 5,342.32, B) Follow up regarding letter requesting \$1,000 funding from community agencies for FY 03—David informed the group that he has received either a check or verbal notification regarding commitments for the account. Camielle (ICS) informed the group that ICS board will meet in January for final confirmation, but she is optimistic that it will go through. Youth Advocates of Sitka informed me that they are trying to figure out how to contribute this year. Litia of Planned Parenthood said that it is unlikely that they will be able to contribute to the account, but she will pass the request along. It was a good opportunity to inform PP of the resource that the flexible funding account may be to families that they work with.
3. Update on DFYS position- No change. Draft of letter to be sent to state contacts. Grace/David –The group approved of a letter with some minor changes to be sent out to local, state and federal representatives and department heads regarding the low priority the Sitka DFYS office has been given regarding staffing issues. The group agreed that David will send out letter on behalf of AOY and he will email each member a copy of the letter, so that each individual or agency can cut n' paste and the letter on their agency letterhead and send out. The more letters we send out, the greater chance of change.
4. Nomination of community representatives for AOY board. Before we voted, the group discussed the reasons for having a board and moving the collaborative process forward. It was acknowledge that we may not like the process of voting on advisory board members, but it has been an effective tool to move things forward. David encouraged all group members to bring ideas that may help us move forward. The group voted for two community representatives, Melanie Reif and Rena Baty. David will contact Rena and inform her of the expectations.
5. "Sitka's Promise for our youth" interview series update. Looking to interview all the providers who serve youth in the community. David/Dan Etulain---Dan informed the group that the shows will likely be televised on a regular basis starting this new year. David informed the group that we have completed four sessions thus far. Other groups to consider are Youth Court (Vicky Fellingham) and United Forces (Ellen Frankenstein). David asked that Dan or himself be notified of any other groups that should be considered.

6. AOY celebration date is set for February 6th from 12:00-2:45pm, which is our normal monthly meeting time.
7. Update on Big Brothers/Sisters position. Barbara Morse filled the position.

New Business:

1. Re-visioning AOY's purpose. David summarized what we did last January at the AOY retreat and expressed that AOY's vision may not be clear to the group. It is important that AOY represent what the community sees as its goals, which may need to be revised to meet the expectations of the group. The lack of a clear vision may affect the way we perceive our role or purpose as part of AOY. The group agreed that we needed to clarify what our purpose is and that addressing our goals, not our vision, is where we should start. We briefly discussed having a facilitator, but the group unanimously agreed to have Steve Bradshaw and David coordinate/facilitate the retreat. Any thoughts should be forwarded to David regarding retreat.
2. Teen Center: Jodie Totten of Youth Advisory Commission (YAC)---Jodie spoke to the group about what the YAC group is working on. Students and community members are working together to garner support for a teen center and she invited anyone interested to join the group. Interested individuals are to contact Jodie or myself (David).
3. Youth Representatives: David spoke about the glaring lack of youth representatives as part of AOY and the entire group agreed to expand the advisory board to include two youth representative seats. David will work the school, Steve Bradshaw to identify students that we may consider for our next month's meeting.
4. Agency News: Opportunity for providers and/or community members to update the group on new programs or staff, changes, grants, etc.
 1. Melanie Reif informed the group that there is a section of books and videos in the library that promote positive relationships between parents and children.
 2. Andrea Thomas updated the group on a regional "Media Campaign" (counter advertising) that David and Seven Circles are working on with other Southeast agencies in Juneau, Ketchikan and Petersburg. Pre and post phone surveys will be done at the beginning of the year and results will be tabulated.
 3. Dick Wilson updated the group on a plan called "True North" to eliminate out of state placements to institutions or hospitals in the lower 48 states. In 1993 we (Alaska) had "0" kids in out of state placement. Presently over 400 kids are placed out of state. David stated that a typically annual amount for a youth in an institution can be \$75,000 or greater. Dick expressed concern that the trend has steadily increased in the past ten years and is seeking solutions to maintain more kids within the state and communities of Alaska.
5. Next scheduled AOY meeting is our annual retreat on **January 16th at 12:00-4 pm** at the Sitka School District conference room. Lunch will be catered to this event.

*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.