

Advancing Our Youth Annual Retreat Minutes for 1-16-03

The group met Thursday from 12:30-4 pm in Exhibit Room of Centennial Hall.

Attendees: Jodie Totten (Youth Advisory Commission), Curt Ledford (Community Schools), Pat Alexander (STA- Social Services), Rick Petersen (Community Schools), Stan Filler (CHARR), Stephen Warren (AFTK, ANHB), Barb Morse (Big Brothers/Sisters), Althea Buckingham (Commission on Health Needs and Community Services), Dick Wilson (NAMI), Rena Baty (Parent Advocate), Janice Huls (SEARHC- Tobacco Prevention), Roby Littlefield (Dog Pt. Family Recovery Camp), Louis Brady (STA-Safe Start), Andrea Thomas (SEARHC-Seven Circles), Melanie Reif (Community Member), Jean Frank (Turning Point), Christopher Growney (SPATS & Youth In Action), Tom Clarke (DJJ), Grace Brooks (SAFV), Mike Schlins (Workforce Development), Betty Henning (Christian Science Church), Rodney Campbell (STA- Youth Coordinator), Christeen Thomas (SPATS), Betsy Carter (SEARHC-Clinic II), Aryeh Levenson (SEARHC- Clinic II), Nancy LeClerc-Davidson (SPATS), Patti MacPike (Islands Counseling), Dana Kelly (School District), Steve Bradshaw (School District) and David Sliefert (AOY).

*Coalition Evaluation Survey for all participants to complete. Nineteen of the thirty attendees completed the survey.

1. Approve meeting minutes from December 5th, 2002 meeting. Tabled until next meeting.
2. Flexible Funding Account: A) Account balance, B) Follow up regarding letter requesting \$1,000 funding from community agencies for FY O3 C) New Print-outs. Tabled until next meeting.
3. Nomination for youth representatives for AOY board. After a brief conversation regarding the merits of extending the process to broaden the pool of applicants the group agreed to move forward with two youth representatives. Both Hank LeClerc and Jodie Totten were voted in as student representatives. David will contact Hank to confirm his acceptance as a board member. In addition to the two youth representatives it was suggested that a work group be identified to seek out other youth to be apart of AOY in the future and develop potential future student representatives. Those identified to sit on work group were, Rena Baty, Jodie Totten, Mike Schlins and Rodney Campbell.
4. "Sitka's Promise for our youth" interviews series update. Looking to interview all the providers who serve youth in the community. David informed the group that he and Dan Etulain have completed four interviews.
5. AOY celebration is set for February 6th from 12:00-2:45pm. Lunch will be provided. Will include speakers and overview of how far we've come. Invite youth and community to attend.

History Lesson (David & various contributors)

1. Overview of original thoughts/ideas that formed coalition over 4 years ago. Stan Filler provided a context and history of the group that only he could give, when as the Sitka mayor over 4 years ago he invited anyone and everyone in the community that had anything to do with youth in the community to discuss concerns for our youth. He said, that 80-90 individuals attended and out of that meeting a core group of individuals stuck with it and helped form the Advancing Our Youth coalition. In the beginning, we decided to bring Dr. Eric Trupin from the University of Washington to guide us in the right direction. With about \$7,000 in monies donated from Sitka CHARR and NAMI groups we were able to cover the costs of bringing in Dr. Trupin. David briefly summarized what the group has done from our early beginning to today, stating that the group is here for anyone that has concerns for our youth and their families. AOY serves as an advisory group for many projects in the community, as a resource for agencies and citizens and

as a collaboration to come together to make decisions at the community level, versus at the agency level as to what is best for our community's youth and their families.

2. AOY and CTC (Communities That Care) process
 - a. How they fit together. David explained the difference between the two by stating that CTC process is a tool that AOY chose to use to further its usefulness as a coalition. Originally, the AOY coalition sponsored the CTC grant that was written collaboratively by Penny O'Day of SPATS with on-going input from AOY coalition. For a brief period, there was some confusion over how AOY and CTC fit together, which was clarified once and for all at last year's annual AOY retreat. The CTC process completed this past grant year, which ended in June of 2002. The outcome of this intensive planning process called CTC has provided our community
 - b. Combined goals (CTC process addressed issues primarily focused on drug/alcohol problems versus AOY's broad youth focus.) Last year at this time we agreed to combine the vision and mission statements, which were modified to represent the larger community. We agreed to limit discussion on goals and objectives since we were in the middle of the CTC planning process and agreed to adopt the comprehensive drug and alcohol plan for the community as part of the overall AOY strategic plan. The vision and mission of AOY is broad and inclusive of all youth related entities and citizens. Initially AOY was agency driven by a handful of providers who dedicated staff time each week. The coalition broadened and became more community oriented through the CTC process. David stated that he perceived a shift in the coalition's vision during the CTC process, which he surmises was due to the specific focus on drug/alcohol related issues for youth versus the broad focus the coalition sought for the entire community.

ACTION PLAN: (Steve & David)

Steve and David attempted to guide the group through goals and objectives, which Steve commented, "this is like herding cats." Although it appeared challenging at times, the group came up with many good---even great ideas to incorporate. There were many new faces to the group. Two thoughts that resonated with the group were to make the plan youth friendly and have the strategic plan flow logically from the goal => objective => action phase. GOALS discussion: We identified the need for two work groups for each goal, which would focus on word-smithing to better represent a youth focus that is simple and easy to understand, while retaining the essence or meaning of the each goal. **Each work group will synthesize the brainstorm ideas and develop a suggested goal, objectives and action plan to present to the larger group for approval before February 6th's AOY celebration.**

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES section discussion: We brainstormed ideas that we would like to include under each goal. Objectives and Activities were mixed with the responsibility on the work groups to organize these thoughts and present something to the group to adopt before the February 6th celebration.

GOAL ONE work group: Dick Wilson, Pat Alexander, Melanie Reif, Rena Baty, Althea Buckingham and David Sliefert.

GOAL TWO work group: Curt Ledford, Andrea Thomas and David Sliefert.

Advancing Our Youth

Strategic Planning BRAINSTORM 1-16-03

It is important to find what we are passionate about regarding serving the needs of youth and families in our community. What keeps us coming to the table to meet each month? How can we adjust our plan to those things that we are passionate about?

*Both goals will be tweaked to represent youth focused and community friendly word-smithing.

GOAL ONE: Increase the use of evidence-based “best practices” prevention and intervention activities in Sitka.

GOAL ONE- BRAINSTORM OBJECTIVES/ACTIVITIES:

- Promote Community Teen center
- Youth/family involvement in coming up with ideas for prevention and intervention activities
- Increase community awareness of AOY (media, school paper, etc.)
- Identify funding opportunities for group and community
- Enhance youth leadership opportunities
- Implement social skill development programs in pre-school programs
- Implementation of sustainability of TGFD and other programs.
- Hold monthly AOY mtgs. at SHS, PHS, MEHS (we provide the food)
- Opportunities to hear (or find) “unusual voices”
- Media campaign to increase community awareness of decreased drug use.
- Promote peer helpers or similar programs.
- Parenting programs for Middle/High school students.
- Increase activities to teens
- Identify and fill gaps in services
- Ensure the healthy functioning of state agencies
- Evaluate and share data with one another
- Identify current services and collaborative efforts in the community
- Enhance or expand current program for youth
- Improve MOA’s and meaningfulness of relationships.

GOAL TWO: Identify and eliminate barriers to care.

GOAL TWO- BRAINSTORM OBJECTIVES/ACTIVITIES:

- Improve positive dialogue from provider agencies and the community.
- Monthly meeting of youth serving agencies
- Agency self-report of their unmet needs
- Define interagency collaboration thru MOA’s
 - Include financial relationship!
- Sharing of services, finances to reduce barriers or gaps to care.
- Inform all youth related boards (agency boards) of what AOY is doing at the one meeting that everyone would be invited to.
- Identify those “unusual voices” of minorities to be included
- Addressing issues of racism, sexism, etc.
- Reducing stigma about accessing services
- Increase public awareness (mentoring, etc.)
- Need to decide – Target ages of youth. 14-21?

GOAL THREE IDEA:

Create goal 3 to include the drug/alcohol goals/objectives from CTC comprehensive community plan. (David and Andrea will work out sample for the group’s approval).

IDEAS TO CONSIDER FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION:

- Avenue for youth to exchange ideas (Betty)

- Form work group re: America's Promise program (Curt)

MISSION STATEMENT discussion:

While talking about what we are passionate about, the group agreed that the mission statement was not representative of what the group regards as its passion about youth. Initially, these brainstorm (from goal 3) were passion statements that the group felt represented what they would like to see in the mission statement, versus as a goal. They were:

- Improve the lives of youth
- Empowering youth to feel confident in themselves
- Empowering parents to raise healthy citizens
- Empower the community to be family focused (ex. No identified places in downtown area to change babies/toddlers)
- Separate goal for funding (since its such an important area)
- Suggestion, each person identifies three words that represent what AOY means to them, then vote on those words with the top 4-5 words selected to develop a mission statement. (Do it over the email)

My (David) poor stab at recollecting the suggested mission statement by a youth (Jodie T.):
"AOY is committed to empower Sitka's youth and their families to reach their potential."

We discussed changing the mission statement, with several individuals wanting to amend it to better represent what we were passionate about. David stated some concerns taking this on so late in the planning and wondered if was plausible to consider doing it over the email as suggested by Nancy.