

Advancing Our Youth Meeting Minutes for 3-6-03

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), Stephen Warren (AFTK, ANHB), Barb Morse (Big Brothers/Sisters), Althea Buckingham (Commission on Health Needs and Community Services), Dick Wilson (NAMI), Louise Brady (STA-Safe Start), Andrea Thomas (SEARHC-Seven Circles), Dyan Bessette (Neurodevelopmental Clinic), Tom Clarke (DJJ), Grace Brooks (SAFV), Mike Schlins (Workforce Development), Betty Henning (Christian Science Church), Betsy Carter (SEARHC-Clinic II), Aryeh Levenson (SEARHC- Clinic II), Nancy LeClerc-Davidson (SPATS), Camielle Call (Islands Counseling), Steve Bradshaw (School District) and David Sliefert (AOY).

Old Business

1. Approve meeting minutes from February 6, 2003.
2. Flexible Funding Account Update: A) Account balance is \$12,803.59; an additional amount of \$1,000 has yet to be received that would bring the total to \$13,803.59, according to city records. B) Three requests were handed in this past month.
3. Celebration notes: Thanks to the celebration committee (Dan Etulain, Betty Henning, Althea Buckingham) for all their efforts. Good eats, good prizes and many wonderful thoughts were expressed. Also, a great picture in the paper depicting coalition veterans. Many new faces attended for the first time and expressed an appreciation for what the coalition is about and what is going to do. Other comments, added that they thought the event went over well and was a good celebration for the coalition. Grace was the lucky winner of the "gameboy" drawing prize.
4. DFYS hires Supervisor for the Sitka Office, Margery Pentland. David read Ritchie Sonner's email informing us about Margery and stated that she will be receiving training for several weeks out of town, but should be able to attend next month's AOY meeting.
5. Grant Update: Presently David and Curt Ledford are writing grant for "Drug Free Communities Support program" that is due March 11th. This grant supports what the coalition would like to continue to do. It requires an active coalition and is 100% match. Creativity was challenged, but presently we identified nearly \$80,000 in matching funds. The grant was initially presented to Sitka Prevention and Treatment Services, but due to the requirement of applicants to be registered as a federally entity in order to receive administration grant fees, greatly limited which organizations qualified. Community Schools appeared to be a likely choice since the main project, Too Good For Drugs, would be implemented in the school district. The grant will fund one-third to one-half of a prevention coordinator position in order to maintain the coalition and perform needed activities related to the grant.
6. Work Group Updates: David identified volunteers that will meet this month to work on "objectives and action steps" and present them to the group this at next month's meeting. Goal One & Two groups will formulate objectives and action steps to present to the coalition next month.
 1. AOY Goal One (Pat Alexander, Rena Baty, Althea Buckingham, Melanie Reif, Dick Wilson and David)
 2. AOY Goal Two (Curt Ledford, Dick Wilson, Andrea Thomas and David)

3. Youth Involvement group (Rena Baty, Jodie Totten, Mike Schlins, Rodney Campbell and David) will meet this month to identify methods to increase youth involvement.

New Business:

1. MUGS project. AOY mugs will be given out to youth nominated for their work in the community work and for adults who have contributed to the lives of Sitka's youth in a special way. Dan Etulain will record a television spot. This is an opportunity to acknowledge volunteers and other youth and adults in the community for their efforts, while increasing the awareness of the coalition. Besides, the MUGS are cool looking and everyone will want one.
2. Grant Input- Dorothy Shepard, Sheldon Jackson College, asked for the group's input and support for a service learning grant they are hoping to receive. The grant will help increase opportunities for students to receive valuable experience working within agencies, while providing some assistance to those same agencies. She requested input through community forums at Sheldon Jackson to brainstorm ideas for the grant.
3. Agency News: Opportunity for providers and/or community members to update the group on new programs or staff, changes, grants, etc.
 1. Camielle Call (ICS) informed the group of new staff at Islands Counseling Services. The new Community Support Program Director is Rohn Gorman and Children's Program Director, Phyllis Horvath.
 2. Pat Alexander sent me an email to read on her behalf informing the group that she has accepted a position with SEARHC hospital as their new Administrative Services Director. We wish her well and will miss her presence at our meetings.
4. Next scheduled AOY meeting will be **April 3rd at 1:30pm** at Centennial Hall.