

Advancing Our Youth Minutes for 4-3-03

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

Attendees: Carol Music (CFC), Dan Etulain (North Star TV), Barb Morse (Big Brothers/Sisters), Melanie Reif (Community Rep), Althea Buckingham (Commission on Health Needs and Community Services), Louise Brady (STA-Safe Start), Dyan Bessette (Neurodevelopmental Clinic), Deb Knaff (SAFV), Mike Schlins (Workforce Development), Betsy Carter (SEARHC-Clinic II), Fran Sani (CFC), Aryeh Levenson (SEARHC- Clinic II), Janie Popour-Hogue (SPATS), Lindsey Parent (SPATS), Patti MacPike (Islands Counseling), Kate McGinley-West (SPATS), Steve Bradshaw (School District) and David Sliefert (AOY).

Old Business

1. Approve meeting minutes from March 6, 2003.
2. Flexible Funding Account Update: A) Account balance. B) Number of request this past month.
3. Welcome new DFYS Supervisor Margery Pentland. Presently receiving additional training, but will be here next meeting.
4. Grant Update: The "Drug Free Communities Support program" grant was due March 11th. David & Curt completed the document with plenty of time to spare and filed it electronically. It took approximately 4-6 seconds to reach Washington, D.C.---cool huh! Thank you Curt for all your time and effort! A copy of the narrative portion of the grant will be posted on the internet for all to view. David provided an overview of the grant, stating that the main thrust of it was to pay for part-time Community Coordinator position and for an instructor position within the schools to teach the Too Good For Drugs curriculum to students in grades 5-9. The Student Assistance workers at the middle and high schools will instruct grades 6 and 9.
5. Work Group Updates:
 1. AOY Goal One (Pat Alexander, Rena Baty, Althea Buckingham, Melanie Reif, Dick Wilson and David)
 2. AOY Goal Two (Curt Ledford, Andrea Thomas and David) work groups will meet this month to formulate objectives and action steps to present to the coalition next month.

AOY group agreed to accept goals, objectives and action steps as is and to allow till the end of the following week for comments, then if none, the document is accepted as is and will be posted on the AOY website.

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.

The work group shared thoughts from previous meeting. Added two names interested to be on this committee, Patti MacPike and Melanie Reif. We wanted broad representation from a variety of youth voices from different groups in the community. We brainstormed ways to get more youth input and considered holding a town hall type meeting or similar event. We saw this as an on-going issue and hoped that some type of structure may be developed by the youth as a means to

get their input. Another person expressed the need for kids on the edge to have a voice in this forum. The group appeared to recognize the daunting task of attaining input from all the various groups and individual youth in the community. We discussed holding the AOY meetings at different times and at different locations, such as the middle and high schools. Due to the significant difficulty it was to identify and agree on a meeting time in the past, makes it difficult for some of long-term members to go through this process again.

Steve Bradshaw mentioned that he would like the AOY group or possibly another agency or person to teach a class at the high school next year. Steve stated that this could be done by a single person or organized by the AOY group or other. A group of interested individuals/organizations was identified (Patti MacPike, Betsy Carter, Dyan Bessette, Melanie Reif and Mike Schlins). Steve and David will work identify a time in the future to meet and discuss ideas that the school would consider.

6. MUGS not Drugs project, kicked off this past month. 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 videotaped a television spot that has been shown numerous times. The group is encouraged to get the word out and nominate youth and adults for the 100 mugs give-away. No volunteers will be needed to identify legitimate applicants, the group gave full authority, without reprisal(?), to the Prevention Coordinator. Mike S. expressed that he would like to see more people recognized in the community for their volunteer efforts. David stated, that the mugs were originally purchased to increase the awareness of the AOY coalition in the community. The mugs project was a brainstorm that would serve as a media campaign, while also increasing public awareness.

New Business:

1. 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).
 1. Neurodevelopmental Clinic- Dyan updated the group on the progress of the clinic, which was going quite well. She is in the process of applying for grants and increasing the number of individuals assessed each month. She asked for a few volunteers to provide input as to how the clinic is doing in the community. She asked for letters of support from agencies.
 2. SPATS new staff. Lindsey Parent is the newest clinical director of the agency.
 3. SAFV informed the group of the Candlelight Vigil that will be occurring this month.
2. Next scheduled AOY meeting will be **May 1st 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.