

## **Advancing Our Youth Minutes for 5-1-03**

The group met from 1:30-2:45pm in the Conference Room of the Sitka School District.

Attendees: Dan Etulain (North Star TV), Rena Baty (Community Rep), Hank LeClerc (Youth Rep), Diane Climo (DJJ), Stephen Warren (Tobacco Free Sitka), Dorothy Shepard (Sheldon Jackson), Betty Henning (Faith Community), Barb Morse (Big Brothers/Sisters), Melanie Reif (Community Rep), Althea Buckingham (Commission on Health Needs and Community Services), Dyan Bessette (Neurodevelopmental Clinic), Grace Brooks (SAFV), Betsy Carter (SEARHC-Clinic II), Janie Popour-Hogue (SPATS), Steve Bradshaw (School District), Rick Petersen (Compass/PALS), Rudy Jones (PALS), Micah Miller (PALS), Jerrid Sutton (PALS), Trevor Winnop (PALS), Tony Esquiro (PALS) and David Sliefert (AOY).

Several AOY members acknowledged the youth that attended the meeting. Thank you for encouraging them and making them feel comfortable.

### Old Business

1. Approve meeting minutes from April 3, 2003 with minor changes to attendees and date of next meeting.
2. Flexible Funding Account Update: A) Account balance is \$12,505. There is still another \$500 identified for a previously approved request that has yet to be completed, which would bring the actual total to **\$12,005**; this total includes a deposit of \$385 from the Yoga group (Andrea Thomas and Michelle Friedman) who graciously held a fundraiser on behalf of AOY. B) Number of requests: In March seven requests were turned in and five of the seven were approved. In April five requests were turned in and three of five were approved, while the remaining two will be presented at next week's Family Focus meeting.
3. Welcome new DFYS Supervisor Margery Pentland. Presently attending training in Florida.
4. Work Group Updates:
  1. Youth Involvement group (Rena Baty, Jodie Totten, Mike Schlins, Rodney Campbell, Melanie Reif, Patti MacPike and David) will meet this month to identify methods to increase youth involvement. We did not meet in April as was planned.

The group met once and provided an overview of ideas that were discussed to increase youth involvement at meetings and ways to get more input from "youth voices" throughout the community. David provided a brief history of AOY for the several youth in attendance. The work group suggested meeting at different times at the middle or high school to increase involvement. Suggested holding town hall type meeting in the evening (with pizza), and invite youth from various groups to get their input on what they would like to see in the community.

2. Sitka High School Youth Development Class- will meet this month (Patti MacPike, Betsy Carter, Dyan Bessette, Melanie Reif, Mike Schlins and David) to help provide ideas for the district for one of its classes.

Steve B. expressed his thoughts on what the class would look like and stated that he wanted it to be "student-driven." He said, that since he has been in Sitka he has heard high school say, "no one listens to what we say." The youth present at meeting agreed that they would like a class they would be able to express their ideas with a regular group of students and be listened to.

5. MUGS not Drugs project, 100 mugs give-away. The group is encouraged to get the word out and nominate youth and adults for the. To date about 40 applications have been received.

David informed the group that most of the nominations have been for adult volunteers. Encouraged each person to nominate youth, so that we can give away 100 mugs before the end of the school year. Dan E. suggested presenting mugs at the City Assembly meeting to increase awareness in the community.

#### 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. State Tobacco meeting summit update. Steve Warren and Dan Etulain informed the group that the state of Alaska has \$125,000 they are looking to invest in up to three pilot projects for grades 5-9. Sitka community is viewed as the most prepared and prime locations in the state to receive funds for a school-based pilot project. The project would be over a three-year period to provide stability and time needed to provide outcome data. This project would be a collaboration with the Too Good For Drugs program, already piloted this past year in the district.
  2. PALS (People Advocating for Local Skatepark) presentation. Rick Peterson & five student representatives from PALS expressed that they are trying to develop a quality skatepark for the youth and younger kids in the community. They requested our coalitions' support and would like us to advocate on their behalf. They provided a brief history of the challenges and difficulties that have occurred surrounding the skatepark and their efforts to save the facilities and change the minds of the community's decision makers. They know they have a long way to go and are doing fundraisers to raise money to purchase a \$15,000 ramp (6 in 1 ramp) and they will be painting over graffiti in the next few weeks. The City of Sitka donated the paint to PALS. Steve B. expressed his concern for the skateboarding area (property damage, broken bottles and trash strewn out over the area) and clarified community concerns due to the location of it next to the elementary school. David proposed to PALS that they develop a request for support and submit it at the next AOY meeting that would satisfy some of the concerns of drug use, negative behavior and would serve as an example to other kids in the community. David offered to assist PALS with its request for support. Grace asked that AOY vocally support PALS and their efforts out in the community. There were several positive comments from the AOY members in support of PALS.
  3. Neurodevelopmental Clinic- Dyan B. wanted to thank those individuals (Grace Brooks, Althea Buckingham, Steve Bradshaw, Janie Popour-Hogue and David Sliefert) who wrote letters of support for the clinic and for those individuals (Janie Popour-Hogue) who volunteered their time to meet once in a while to provide input on how the clinic is progressing.
2. Next scheduled AOY meeting will be **June 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm** at Centennial Hall or other youth friendly location to be determined.

\*If you know others who would like to be added to the email list let me know. If I missed anyone on the emailing list, please let me know. We want to continue to broaden community representation and welcome thoughts from others.