

## **Advancing Our Youth Meeting Minutes for 6-5-03**

This Thursday the Advancing Our Youth met from 1:30-2:45pm in the Pestchuroff Room of Centennial Hall. Several individuals informed me that they are on vacation and would not be able to attend this month. The small room we met in did not have any windows and it was sunny outside and stale inside.

Attendees: Steve Eisenbiesz (PALS- People Advocating for Local Skatepark), Chris Oen (PALS), Deb Knaff (SAFV), John DeRuyter (Safe Start), Walleen Whitson (Safe Start), Clint Watanabe (DFYS), Margery Pentland (DFYS), Tom Clarke (DJJ), Andrea Thomas (Seven Circles), Curt Ledford (Community Schools), Jodi Grizzle (Islands Counseling Services), Fran Sani (Center for Community), Patti MacPike (ICS), Elaine Krebs (Tobacco Partnership), Diane Climo (DJJ), Althea Buckingham (Commission on Health Needs and Community Services), Janie Popour-Hogue (SPATS), Rick Petersen (Compass/PALS), and David Sliefert (AOY).

### Old Business

1. The group quietly approved meeting minutes from May 1, 2003.
2. PALS (People Advocating for Local Skatepark) letter requesting the coalition's support for their conceptual project of a local skateboard park. Rick Petersen read the two-page letter written by PALS youth members and requests the support of AOY coalition. The group discussed what support meant and proceeded to discuss concerns. Safety related questions were asked and PALS members responded in kind. It was apparent that safety concerns would not be solved at this time and we discussed how to support PALS and their efforts while maintaining the importance of safety for present and future generations of skateboarders/bikers. The group agreed to verbally support PALS and that AOY would write a written response to PALS stating the coalitions' support and importance on safety. David will write up a letter and email it out the coalition for input.
3. Flexible Funding Account Update: A) Account balance is \$8,101.88; B) Number of requests this past month, 5. The fund paid out \$2,609.50, which included a past approved request of \$300; C) Request to lower the number of yes/no responses needed for passage of funding requests. Due to the lack of consistent representation by all nine funding organizations and the need to act in a responsible and expeditious manner for deciding whether requests are funded or not.

David presented administration concerns to the coalition as related to lack of regular and consistent input by all nine agencies, which makes it difficult to complete requests in a timely manner. Several individuals stated that they prefer to have over 50% agreement by agencies for all non-emergent requests. Patti M. said that we miss out on good discussion when we use email versus Family Focus meeting to talk about requests in detail. David fully agreed and stated that it would be preferable to discuss all requests, but due to the lengthy times in between meeting (of one month), confidentiality concerns and the additional time it takes to process a check, a family can wait up to three weeks or over a month to receive assistance. Requests are typically a current need and are qualified as to when it is needed. As a group, we agreed to continue regular format that requires at least five agencies to approve/deny a non-emergent request and to continue to seek out ways to improve communication, so that all requests are given their due, while maintaining the confidential nature of requests. It was suggested to limit the number of individuals receiving the email requests for confidentiality purposes. In addition, each agency will identify an agency representative (and a reserve/back up) who can respond in a timely manner to emails and regularly attend Family Focus meetings.

4. Administrative request: Request ideas that will help to facilitate effectively run meetings that are meaningful and pertinent to what AOY is about. I am seeking your input and ideas to increase ownership of meetings to all involved that are beneficial to what we are about as a coalition. Set up committee to gather ideas and present suggestions for adoption at the next meeting in August.

David asked for input from the group to email him or volunteer their time to be on a group (not a committee) to seek out ways to improve the effectiveness of the coalition for the benefit of the individuals and organizations represented. The group "ecstatically" agreed to email David with their thoughts.

5. Community representative open seat. Dick Wilson resigned his community representative seat. The group unanimously agreed to the suggestion to send out a public service announcement before the August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to honor Dick Wilson and to request nominations to replace his open "community representative" seat on the AOY Board. We also discussed the upcoming opening seat for a student representative, which we agreed to wait until the fall to appoint. Please feel free to email David with any nominations.
6. AOY Web ([www.advancingouryouth.org](http://www.advancingouryouth.org)): New sites that are linked to AOY include SPATS site, Dog Pt. Family Recovery Camp Brochure and Community Resource Guide, Where to Turn (statewide guide to resources) and Southeast AK Coalition's Media Campaign pictures and final report. Also, a new look to the site and reorganization of information. Please check out. As always all meeting minutes, grants written, community data and more are included on site.
7. Work Group Updates: (DEFERRED UNTIL AUGUST MEETING)
  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. Only two people, including myself, were able to attend meeting this past month. David and Patti M. were the only two that attended meeting this past month. The meeting has yet to be rescheduled due to the absence of most members. Will likely take a summer break and start fresh in the fall.
  2. Youth Development Class- Steve B. is looking at another option for this and will keep us posted. David
8. MUGS not Drugs project, 100 mugs give-away. We received more than enough applications and handed out about 80 mugs to date. If anyone knows the names that remain on the list can you give the mug and certificate to them? David informed the group that he has received more than enough applications for mugs and has about 15 left to hand out in the community. Several group members volunteered to hand out certificates and mugs to individuals. The group suggested putting the names of those indicated in the newspaper and on TV to celebrate their acknowledgement as a volunteer in the community. David will contact Dan Etulain and the Sentinel about advertising names.
9. Community Center discussions update. Chris Growney, Supervisor of Youth Engaged in Service. (DEFERRED UNTIL AUGUST MEETING)

#### 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. Patti invited everyone to come to Islands Counseling Services for an Open House on June 30<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 2 pm to welcome the public to meet their new executive director, Bruce Stedman, who starts on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  2. Deb K. informed the group that Sandra Lewis will be the new executive director of SAFV and will start on July 10<sup>th</sup>.
  3. Walleen Whitson, Safe Start, informed the group that the PCIT (Parent-Child Interaction Training) program supported by AOY is currently serving 7 families

(Patricia- 3, Sue- 3 and Betsy-1) and has started a waiting list for 3 families. She informed the group of the upcoming PCIT training from the University of California-Davis staff is June 23-25<sup>th</sup>. Two days is for the Safe Start families and staff training and the third day is for the community. Those who have attended PCIT training in the past may attend, please contact Walleen at Safe Start.

4. Curt Ledford informed the group that Community Schools received two new grants this year. One five year grant that will help High School students train elementary school students. The second grant is a peer helper's grant. The peer helper's idea was on the top of the list chosen by the school's comprehensive drug/alcohol planning group, which was made up of students, school staff and community members.
2. Next scheduled AOY meeting will be **August 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm** at Centennial Hall. We will not meet in July as has been the tradition for the past few years.

\*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.