

## **Advancing Our Youth Meeting Minutes for 8-7-03**

Advancing Our Youth met from 1:30-2:45pm in the Rousseau Room of Centennial Hall.

In Attendance: Nancy LeClerc-Davidson (SPATS), Steve Bradshaw (SDS), Melanie Reif (Comm Rep.), Dan Etulain (Media), Dorothy Shepard (SJ), Sharon Corsaro (Youth Employment Program), Aryeh Levenson (SEARHC), Dana Kelly (School), Duane Powers (School), Barb Morse (BBBS), Walleen Whitson (Safe Start), Margery Pentland (DFYS), Curt Ledford (Community Schools), Carol Music (Center for Community), Patti MacPike (ICS), Steve Warren (Tobacco Partnership), Diane Climo (DJJ), Althea Buckingham (Commission on Health Needs and Community Services), and David Sliefert (AOY).

### Old Business

1. Gently approved meeting minutes from June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003.
2. Grant Update: Community Support Program would start October 1<sup>st</sup> of this year if we get it and focus on implementing the Too Good For Drugs program in several grades. Presently there are no funds that assist the coalition and time is donated by SEARHC for David to inform members via email, facilitate meetings, write-up minutes and manages the flexible funding account.
3. Flexible Funding Account Update: A) Account balance is \$8,214.91; B) Number of request this past month (June- 2, July- 0); and C) Update agency representatives and back-up representatives. Provided an overview of the funding account and its purpose to new members. Answered questions about typically funded items and the decision making process through the Family Focus group.
4. Request Your Input: in order to facilitate effectively run meetings that are meaningful to what AOY is about, I am asking for input (ideas) that we might consider to best serve the coalition. Please email or call David with your thoughts. Dare to step out and give your opinion. David posed the question: "How can the coalition best serve organization and individual citizens?" "How can we use this time, each month to be something that is viewed as beneficial to all who come?" The coalition's role has changed since it inception several years ago and has a much broader focus, which was one of its goals. Everyone is encouraged to email or contact David with their thoughts, so we can continue to improve how to best serve the needs of organizations, individuals and the community. IDEAS: A) Structure meetings for a specific focus each quarter. For example, focus on services in the (duplications, gaps, collaborations, etc.) to better improve communication and understanding of what is going in amongst providers of human services. Several agencies have gone through significant change in the community over this past year. B) Identify all youth activities available in the community. There is no known comprehensive list of what is available, but Curt Ledford suggested that the new Peer Helpers program would be a natural fit for this task. C) Increase youth participation by providing credit for their time in monthly meetings or work groups. Another suggested providing a certificate to acknowledge their contribution that can be put on their resume or college application.
5. Community representative open seat. Dick Wilson resigned his seat. Accept nominations and vote on replacement. An advertisement was placed in the paper acknowledging Dick Wilson for his time serving the board. The community was informed of the open board seat. Everyone was asked to contact David with their recommendations with contact number included, so he may contact them and inform them about the coalition and expectations. We also discussed the open youth representative seat of Jodie Totten, who is leaving for college. We are planning to solicit youth for the open seat at the beginning of the school year and hope to fill it at our next meeting.

6. AOY Web: Let me know if you would like your agency's link or a brochure added to the AOY site. Nancy L-D. reported that several weblinks to state and federal sites were not working on the site, due to the change of addresses. David enthusiastically will look into it in the future.
7. Work Group Updates:
  1. Youth Involvement group (Rena Baty, Jodie Totten, Mike Schlins, Rodney Campbell, Melanie Reif, Patti MacPike and David) will meet again this fall after we identify students interested in assisting. Jodie Totten and Mike Schlins are no longer available and Sharon Corsaro and Hank LeClerc (Nancy nominated Hank LeClerc) were placed on work group. We will set up a meeting in the upcoming month to discuss ideas and make suggestions for the larger group for their approval.
  2. Youth Development Class- Steve B. reported that he plans on teaching the class, but has yet to receive clearance from the board. The class may likely start next semester.
8. MUGS not Drugs project, 100 mugs give-away. 100 mugs were given out and Dan Etulain will be posting names on TV to acknowledge individuals. The names should be posted in the upcoming weeks for the community to view.
9. Read PALS (People Advocating for Local Skatepark) letter of support. The group suggested three minor changes and approved the letter to be given to PALS. David make identified changes and contact Rick Petersen this week, since they may need the letter soon. Corrections were made and the letter was email to Rick on Friday morning, August 8<sup>th</sup>.
10. Community Center discussions update. Chris Growney, Supervisor of Youth Engaged in Service. Tabled for now. Chris Growney is no longer in town.

#### 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).
  - A. Neurodevelopmental Clinic update- David reported that due to known budget constraints of the decreasing grant that a full-time Coordinator position had to be reduced to part-time. Dyan Bessette is no longer coordinating the clinic and recently accepted a position at another agency. David will be teaming with Joan to continue to provide these services. Board members were solicited to provide input and guidance to direct the future clinic. Althea Buckingham and Duane Powers added their names to be considered for the neuro clinic board.
  - B. Sitka Youth Court Update- David read an email from Tim Lower asking for volunteers for Youth Court. He can be contacted at [sitkayouthcourt@ontologists.org](mailto:sitkayouthcourt@ontologists.org)
  - C. Service Learning Project- Dorothy Shepard of Sheldon Jackson College reported that they received a service learning grant that several AOY members assisted with. This is for SJ students who will focus on ideas related to the youth in the community. The three main focuses of the program are skills, service and reflection.
  - D. Youth Employment Program- Sharon Corsaro introduced herself as the new Youth Employment Program Manager. The program is income and needs-driven for 14-21 year olds, and provides career counseling, assessment, basic skills and work skills training, short-term paid on-the-job training and permanent job placement, with a target for serving youth most in need of getting to work (age 17-21).
  - E. Center for Community named Fran Sani as their new Program Manager for Infant Learning Program.
  - F. Partnership for a Tobacco Free Sitka- Steve Warren reported the status of the clean indoor proposal given to the city assembly. The assembly is considering making it a ballot issue rather than voting on it themselves. People are encouraged to contact the assembly or submit a letter to the city clerk for the entire assembly.
  - G. School Surveys- David reported that Sitka CHARR has agreed to donate up \$600 for a contest at Sitka High School and Blatchley Middle School that will be a competition between grades to get parent permission slips to take school surveys. Since most of

the surveys require 70% or greater to be considered valid and federal dollars require the information, it is essential that we do our best to attain a high percentage of responses. Otherwise the community will be at risk of losing hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in services to youth. Volunteers are needed during registration time at both schools to encourage parents' signature. Please contact David.

- H. Senator Steven's aides will be in town August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> to solicit ideas as to how they can help at the federal level in the areas of health, education, social services and employment. Those interested in meeting are encouraged to contact Marlene Campbell at the city office.
- I. Ballot Initiative- Steve Bradshaw asked for everyone's support for the upcoming ballot initiatives that will directly impact funding for the school. He reported that due to shortfalls in teacher retirement fund that the community must come up \$240,000 that was not budgeted. The city is looking at sales tax increase that will help cover the difference needed in the budget.

2. Next scheduled AOY meeting will be **September 4<sup>th</sup> 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.