

ADVANCING OUR YOUTH

Meeting Minutes for 12-4-03

The Advancing Our Youth Coalition met on 12-4-03 from 1:30-2:45 in the Exhibit Room of Centennial Hall.

Present:

Kristi Coltharp (SPATS); Curt Ledford (Community Schools); Stephen D. Warren (Partnership for a Tobacco-Free Sitka); Fran Sani (CFC-ELP); Amanda Pelle (Community Schools); Colette Martin (Youth Advocates of Sitka); Craig Brisson (Community Schools); Andrea Thomas (SEARHC – Seven Circles); Dan Etulain (North Start TV); Gail Johansen Petersen (SE Alaska Indian Cultural Center); Tom Clarke (DJJ); Steve Bradshaw (SSD); Althea Buckingham (Community on Health); Diane Climo (DJJ); Alison Dunlap (SEARHC – Seven Circles); David Sliefert (Sitka Neuro Clinic); Rick Petersen (Community Schools); Janie Popour-Hogue (SPATS); Burt ???; and Phyllis Horvath (AOY).

Preliminary:

Introductions were made since this was the first meeting for Phyllis Horvath, the new AOY Coordinator.

No new items were added to the agenda.

Old Business:

Approved meeting minutes from November 6, 2003.

Flexible Funding Account Update:

David reported that approximately \$6,300 remains. No expenses in the last month. He reminded members that it is almost time for agencies to contribute funds for 2004 and to offer changes to the protocol for using the funds. Funding has been a tremendous benefit to kids and families in the community. Be sure to ask your agency or talk to your Board about the value of this fund. When the fund started, members contributed \$2,000 each, and last year they contributed \$1,000 each. Many requests come in during the holidays and even more in the summer.

Curt requested information on how the money has been spent from year to year. David has a binder with all the requests, approved and denied. Phyllis will compile a summary of how the money has been used.

No workgroups have been meeting so there was no update.

Data Collection Assignments: At last month's meeting, members volunteered to help collect data on indicators for the identified risk and protective factors. There wasn't sufficient time, however, to completely work through the list of factors. In the interest of saving time at this meeting, Phyllis will make a preliminary identification of who might be the most appropriate individuals to help with the collection and contact them within the next week. Andrea requested that the group still review the list page by page at the

January meeting to determine if there might be more effective indicators.

New Business:

Too Good For Drugs: Amanda Pelle is conducting the program in the 3rd and 4th grades. Last year, a pilot of the program was conducted in the 7th and 8th grades. She reported that the teachers and the students are enjoying the program, but that the children who really need it are not as engaged. One of the reasons the program is successful is that it is *not* just about drugs. It starts out focusing on the students, their self-image, goals, etc. before moving on to educating about drugs. Because she is in the classroom for only 30 minutes at a time, it has not been possible to incorporate all the materials. Andrea asked if there were pre- and post- tests. There are.

Boys & Girls Club: Rick Petersen announced a meeting that would be held on 12/9/03 to discuss the feasibility of establishing a club. Senator Stevens has been working on funding for these clubs. This would be an opportunity to find out the difference between the types of clubs (school or community based), funding sources, costs, sponsorship, age groups, etc. Rick had emailed an informational notice to all AOY members earlier in the week.

Investing in Sitka's Youth: Dan Etulain handed out packets of several ideas for funding raising that would benefit the community's youth. He stressed that it was something to think about since there would be a planning session in February. He reminded everyone that there are lots of opportunities for media exposure and Sitka's media is available and ready to assist. David reminded the group that there could be a conflict between fundraising and AOY's basic mission.

AKEELA: AKEELA is writing a grant proposal to combat inhalant use among youth. It had applied for the grant before and was being asked to resubmit with some changes.

Andrea pointed that funding would come from NIAAA, which is a significant plus in the world of grants. If awarded, Sitka would be one of the participating communities. The grant would help determine the extent to which inhalant use is a problem in Sitka.

Focus for AOY: Curt reported that the grant funding some of AOY activities and Phyllis' position is a substance abuse grant. It has the potential for extending out another 5 years at \$100,000 each year. Althea said that the Tobacco Coalition and AOY should work together. David reported that AOY was initially not a substance abuse organization, but that it should be possible to meet the grant requirements and still address other issues. The issue is how to create a balance. Tom said that all youth agencies are dealing with substance abuse in some fashion as well as co-occurring disorders. Curt wants to look at gaps in services to help determine where AOY should put its efforts. Andrea announced that there would be a media campaign in February, in which multiple agencies would participate (Seven Circles, Community Schools, Tobacco Coalition, AOY). Substance abuse shares the same risk factors as many other issues faced by youth, which makes substance abuse a very broad-based issue.

February Planning Session: The planning session will be held 2/5/04 from 8:30-1:30 (with a working lunch). A follow-up session was added for 2/12/04 in case it is needed. The 2nd session would be from 8:30-12:30. The purpose of the planning session(s) is to recheck the direction of AOY for the next 1-2 years against its current mission, vision, goals, and objectives to make sure they all are consistent with and supportive of one another. This will be an opportunity to make refinements, not to

build from scratch. The location will be announced.
Flexible Fund Contributions for 2004: This was handled above within Item #4 by David.

The NEXT MEETING will be 1/8/04 from 1:30-2:45 at Centennial Hall. Curt will run that meeting since Phyllis will be out of town. She will, however, prepare the agenda in advance and distribute to members. Please submit agenda requests to her. She will send out a reminder notice toward the end of December.