

Advancing Our Community Meeting Notes
September 1, 2005 1:30 pm

Members present: Jon Wunrow – YAS; Louise Brady – STA; Rick Peterson – Community Schools; Julie Graham – 7 Circles; Alison Dunlap – SEARHC Behavioral Health; Curt Ledford – Community Schools; Willow Griffin – SAIL; David Voluck – YAS; Tom Clarke – DJJ; Diane Climo – DJJ; Barb Morse – BBBS; Kayla Boettcher & Matthew Turner – AOC

Round Table Announcements/Updates

- Jon introduced David Voluck, new executive director of YAS;
- Louise – training for Safe Start Sept 27-28 – focused on systems change and encouraging agencies to collaborate before creating more services. Louise encouraged the group to distribute fliers to others; it will be a catered event.
- Louise – Family Justice Center has met with their architect – nearly approved to moving forward with plans to co-locate with social services department in Healing House – the house will be split between the two departments.
- Louise - B&G club update: Stephanie Weddell will go to Juneau for regional training on B&G club; they are exploring permanent sites in Sitka – one looks promising
- Rick – brand new school year – starting up programs
- Barb Morse – suggested we invite Peggy Wilson to future meetings
- Julie – 7 Circles is training new staff in villages;
- Alison – inhalant prevention grant: they will begin the Life Skills class for 5th graders in September; there will be a training on this curriculum from Akeela on Sept 10. Alison is looking for members of the community to co-teach some of the classes – she invites anyone who is interested to contact her and learn more
- Curt – wrote intermural grant for Keet to provide 4 nights/week physical activities for kids, i.e., dodgeball, soccer, etc. He is looking for volunteers to teach the Jitterbug, jumprope songs, line dancing, or other creative ideas. The program starts Sept 12 and activities are from 2:30 – 3:30.
- Willow – SAIL received grant for 14-24 yr olds with disabilities (as defined by ADA) – the grant can offer assistance to fund any needs (i.e., a young person needs a bike to get to work). There is an individual service fund and community service fund – individuals or agencies can submit applications to meet needs. Willow encourages people to find applicants, and she is looking for volunteers to sit on the application review committee. Curt mentioned exploring the possibility of collaborating these efforts with the Flexible Fund.
- Kayla passed out an Action Alert regarding Safe and Drug-Free Schools money – at the federal level. SDFS funds are in danger of being drastically cut. Information about contacting our congressional representatives was distributed.

Facilitator's Report

1. Kayla and Matthew report that they have done some homework on the status of AOC and see their role as helping to facilitate some communication by making agency and community information available and useful to people in the coalition (including those who cannot attend the monthly meetings). They propose reinvigorating the AOC website and use that to publish announcements, meeting minutes, and documents created within the group or from member agencies.
 - Alison suggests we explore the possibility of getting a high school senior to help with this for his/her senior project. Kayla/Matthew will contact Peggy at the high school by September 9 to discuss this possibility.
2. Based on a review of the AOC plan (as completed by the group in April, 2004), the facilitators propose a new structure for future AOC meetings – one that will hopefully encourage more involvement and more action-based progress. We would like to introduce the use of committees, which would meet regularly to do more focused work. A representative of each committee will report to the larger coalition in the monthly AOC

meetings, thereby streamlining those meetings and saving that time for announcements and idea-sharing. The proposed committees are as follows:

- Clinical Committee/Behavioral Health – grantees from the state with mandates to follow through on – need to meet collaboratively to meet grant requirements. This committee would involve representatives from YAS, SCAPS, SEARHC and others to discuss access to care, continuum of care, referral processes, and other relevant issues.
- Youth focus – “Advancing Our Youth” – this committee would focus on promoting greater youth involvement and family engagement within the community, while also helping to guide prevention efforts. This committee will work to include youth in their planning.
- Community Continuum of Care – the idea for this committee came from the Information Insights meeting in July. A larger long-term goal might be to align agency goals/objectives and needs assessments and show them in continuum of care for the coalition. For now, perhaps the possibilities for this committee can be discussed with the Clinical/Behavioral Health committee.
- Steering committee – the group agreed that this leadership role needs greater definition – we will try to convene this committee, with the first goal of clarifying this group’s role
 - One aspect of the Steering Committee has been to make decisions on the Flexible Funding account – Curt reports there is currently \$9000-10,000, and decisions about this account are made via email by representatives of the agencies who contributed to the fund.
 - Jon commented that it makes sense for the contributing agencies to make decisions about the Flexible Fund, but that it doesn’t feel right to give the coalition’s leadership (i.e. the Steering Committee) entirely to agencies who could make monetary contributions.

Members present at the meeting voiced support for starting focused committees. Jon commented that this structure provides opportunities to get more agency staff involved; that it could potentially bring more depth from each agency to the coalition, instead of being just a meeting of directors.

A suggestion was made that a Steering Committee member should chair each of the committees. For starters, the group decided on the following to take place prior to the October AOC meeting:

- Jon will convene the Clinical/Behavioral Health committee
- Curt will convene Youth Focus on September 21 at 2:00 – place TBA
- Community Continuum of Care – discussed in Clinical/Behavioral Health meeting
- Steering Committee – Matthew and Kayla will try to convene a group to discuss the role of this committee

Louise commented that we all face being grant dependent and this plan fits into overall goals. Given current budget situations, we need to look at how to work together smarter – we need to determine if we need new programs or can build upon existing.

3. Finally, Kayla and Matthew say they want to tie up the loose end of the AOC handbook, which is currently in need of some minor revisions – primarily changing the language from AOY to AOC. They asked the group to review documents titled “AOY 2004 Plan” and “Proposal for Objective 3.1” and verify that these are the current working documents.

Discussion from the group included the following:

- Do we need to be this formalized in our proceedings?
- Are there specific needs from SCAPS/YAS to include a larger spectrum of the community?
- The intention in revising the “proposal for Objective 3.1” is not to revisit the long planning process that was invested in creating these documents, but merely to clean

them up and have them available in the event that the structural integrity of the group is questioned, or an issue arises that needs a more formal structure.

- The intention for the “AOY 2004 Plan” is to refer to the goals/objectives in the committee structures and use them as a map to guide future action steps.

Alison and Tom agreed to look at the electronic copies they have of these documents and verify that they are the most current version.

Matthew and Kayla propose that they will make minor changes and show it to a smaller advisory committee of interested persons to approve.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.