

AOC Coalition meeting
October 6, 2005
Centennial Hall

In attendance: Anita Didrickson – Raven’s Way; Myron Medlin – SCPS; Gail Trujillo – Center for Community Early Learning Program; Rachel Johnson – SAFV/SAIL; Robert George – SCPS; Aryeh Levinson – SEARHC; Rick Peterson – Community Schools; Curt Ledford – Community Schools; Chris Bauman – SAFV; David Voluck – YAS; Louise Brady – STA; Sheila Finkenbinder – SitkaWorks; Hedy Peterson – youth/7 Circles; Kayla Boettcher and Matthew Turner – AOC

Announcements

Anita – Raven’s Way Graduation on Oct 28 at 10 am. RW has served more than 900 youth in it’s life.

Gail – early learning program located in Center for Community is back up and running – more visible, more play groups

Rachel – as the new prevention coordinator at SAFV, Rachel announces the launch of the White Ribbon Campaign. This campaign involves men and boys who take a stand against violence, particularly violence against women. As part of this campaign SAFV will sponsor weekly pictures in the newspaper of local men/boys taking a stand against violence against women – 1 pic/week for the next year. SAFV hopes to have a diverse group involved in this campaign, and Rachel encourages those who are interested to contact her at SAFV.

Rachel – from SAIL – in observance of disability awareness month, SAIL is coordinating job shadowing opportunities for people with disabilities on October 19. Individuals can shadow a mentor on that day for an hour up to the whole day. Individuals involved have disabilities as defined by ADA. SAIL would like to know names of people/agencies interested in being involved as hosts for this day.

Chris – October is domestic violence month – the opening ceremony will be held on Friday October 7 at 4:30 in Totem Square.

Chris – Safety Net training on November 16-17 features experts in technology specializing in confidentiality issues around technology, focused on the area of domestic violence. Chris invites anyone interested in this training to contact her, and she says the training is not just for techies.

Louise – Jerry Costa, a trainer specializing in trauma treatment and working with indigenous communities, will be in Sitka October 26 or 27 with one session open the public. STA will also work with him on evaluation tools for cultural components of treatments.

Louise and Jessica Perkins have been providing cultural competency trainings for quite some time, and they are looking to train other trainers in the community. Anyone interested in being a trainer in cultural competency should contact Louise at STA. Louise and Jessica will be training city assembly and Family Justice Center staff in the near future.

Kayla distributes a news release about the Conference of Young Alaskans to be held in January. The Conference is hosted by the University of Alaska, and invites 55 youth to reenact the Constitutional Convention of 1956. The participants will reexamine state policies on a variety of issues, and their proposals and ideas will be forwarded to the Legislature. Youth interested in participating can find more information at www.coya.alaska.edu. Applications are due October 28.

Facilitators Report:

Matthew and Kayla highlight their work of the last month. A new AOC website is online with a couple of key pages up and running. The website is primarily designed for members of the coalition to find meeting notes from the committees and the general coalition meetings, as well as a calendar of member agencies' events. At this time the main page and the committees page are active. As committees meet, the minutes are posted there, as are the goals and objectives of each committee. On the front page, there is a place for an agency spotlight – the first agency to submit a photo and narrative, will get posted there. There is also a “help wanted” space, which will be a place to post volunteers and participants needed by member agencies. This “help wanted” information will also eventually appear monthly in the Sentinel.

We've been attending some other community/coalition meetings and have heard two common themes: That it's the same people attending all the same meetings; and the idea of cultural competency keeps coming up...that our community may not be as sensitive to diversity appreciation, cultures (Native, youth, economic factors) as we think we are.

Committee Reports

Clinical committee: (Myron) this committee has been formed to provide mental health providers and other related agencies an opportunity to collaborate on common goals. At the first committee meeting, held September 26, the group spoke about their need to attend to cultural diversity and have cohesive communication plans. The next meeting will focus on working together to accomplish the Division of Behavioral Health's 10 Components of Comprehensive Continuous Integrated System of Care. This meeting will be held October 19, 3:30 at Centennial Hall.

Youth committee: (Hedy) the youth committee held a meeting on October 5, which was a facilitated process to choose a topic to focus on in the next 3 months. Starting with 3 topics that were outlined in the 2004 AOC strategic plan, the group discussed which topic they were most likely to move forward quickly. They chose to focus on increasing the positive self-image of youth. The following are some ideas for doing this: raising awareness of available programs/activities, increase enrollment in activities, focus group with PHS, ropes courses, new/alternative activities, outlets for expression and public displays of work. At the next meeting, to be held October 13 at 3:30, the group will begin to plan action steps in this area.

Steering Committee: The AOC steering committee met just prior to the AOC meeting on October 6. The group discussed the history of the steering committee, who the membership of the committee should be/represent, and ideas on how to cohesively guide the coalition and its facilitators. The Steering Committee will meet again on November 10 at 12:30, immediately prior to the next coalition meeting.

New Business

Louise announces that **November is Native American Heritage Month** and STA is planning a series of events to celebrate. Numerous committees have been formed, including a youth committee, arts/literature, events (parade), and PR. STA had a banner made “because we cherish them” (in Tlingit) for youth/children – the banner will be presented in the parade. They are trying to get a proclamation signed by Gov Murkowski; they may also try to get the local assembly and school board to pass resolutions. Planning meetings are being held every Thursday in October from 12-1.

The **Youth Risk Behavior Survey** data is hot off the presses and in the hands of the school district. The state’s report does not present the results very clearly, so Matthew and Kayla are trying to help translate it into a more useful format.

1. We’re interested in which agencies used old data for grants and such...please let us know which pieces of data you need from that survey, and if you have an old format, let us know and we can give you this year’s results on those items.
2. We also hope to assemble a group of young people to help us sort through that data – help us interpret the results and how to respond to them.

MM – idea to survey parents and get their feedback/perspective on this

Update on 7 Circles Inhalant and Other Abusable Legal Products Prevention

Project: The Seven Circles team will begin teaching life skills classes to 5th graders on October 11th.

Ariyeh mentions that **Family Focus** used to be function of this coalition to meet needs of children/families that are being served by multiple agencies. They group discusses the utility of this service, and suggests that maybe it could be part of the clinical/behavioral committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30. Because of WhaleFest during the first week in November, the next coalition meeting has been scheduled for the 2nd Thursday – Nov. 10 1:30.