

Advancing Our Community – General Meeting
January 5, 2006; 1:30-2:00 pm
Centennial Hall

In attendance:

Kathy Blizard - PHS principal, Grace Brooks - SAIL, Kristie Coltharp – SCPS, Diane Climo - DJJ, Martina Kurzer – City Commission on Health Needs and Community Services, Chris Baumann - SAVF, Julie Graham – 7 Circles, Andrea Thomas – 7 Circles, Tom Clarke - DJJ, Rick Peterson – Community Schools, Alison Dunlap – 7 Circles, Cheri Hample – UAS continuing ed; Anita Dedrickson – Raven’s Way, Brent Wilcox – Raven’s Way, Matthew and Kayla – AOC.

Special guests: Diane Oglivie and Heather Coolihan from Akeela were with us to lead a training on increasing community diversity within AOC.

Announcements:

Martina still has 2 vacancies on her commission. The next work session will be on Jan 12, 12:00 in the Davis Room at Centennial Hall. They will be discussing the health portion of the Sitka Comprehensive Plan.

SAIL has started a Low Vision Support Group – the next meeting will be Jan 16, Swan Lake Senior Center 1:30 – 3.

Bob George introduced Michael Lande, the new clinical director for SCPS.

The 7 Circles Harmful Everyday Legal Products Prevention Project is hosting a parent training on Saturday, January 7. Alison announced that it participation is full to capacity.

Raven’s Way is still accepting applications for the course that starts next Tuesday (Jan 10) – if anyone knows of youth that could benefit.

Members of the AOC steering committee recently raised some questions about the grants distributed to community agencies from the City and the process (or lack thereof) that city officials appear to go through in determining how to distribute the money. A meeting has been set for Tuesday, January 10, 1:30 pm at Centennial Hall to discuss this in greater detail. Representatives from the city commission on health needs and community services will also be in attendance.

Matthew put out another plea for member spotlight articles to put on the front page of the AOC website. Short blurbs about a program plus a photo or two can be sent to him at webmaster@sitkaaoc.org.

Committee Updates

The *Steering* Committee did not meet in the last month.

The *Clinical/Behavioral Health* committee is continuing to identify gaps in services, set goals for closing those gaps, and determining which of those goals are attainable in short, medium,

or long periods of time. They plan to present their findings to the steering committee in the near future. This committee will meet Jan 11, 1:00 at Centennial Hall.

The *Youth* committee is working on planning a tri-school activity, and trying to get students involved in planning. A SHS student rep contacted the other two schools and they are interested in hosting a dance. Also, a Good Samaritan group has been formed by high school students who are interested in anonymously helping other students who have needs (i.e. they can't afford a rain jacket). If anyone has suggestions for this group, they can send them either to Michaela Dunlap, or through Matthew and Kayla. Finally, Ryan Kauffman is working on developing an updated list of youth activities and opportunities in the community.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey update – This group is planning a public awareness campaign around the issues covered in the YRBS. Kayla has been collecting relevant data from surveys taken in Sitka over the last 10 years and compiling it by category. A meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 9 at 3 pm to look at mock-up of that information, and to discuss strategies for releasing it to the community. Kristi, Andrea, Alison, Rick, and Kathy expressed interest in attending.

Other

Andrea commented that she has been working with 5 communities that are all trying to get a collaboration of people all sitting around the table, and Sitka is way ahead of them in continuing our work as a coalition.

The AOC meeting was adjourned around 2:00, and segued into an afternoon workshop led by Akeela on expanding the community representation in AOC.