

**Advancing Our Community
General Coalition meeting
March 2, 2006; 1:30-2:30 p.m.**

In attendance:

Martina Kurzer – city commission on Health; Sheldon Schmitt – SPD; Curt Ledford – Community Schools; Tom Clarke – DJJ; Mike Lande – SCPS; Bob George – SCPS; Julie Graham – SEARHC 7 Circles; Alison Dunlap – SEARHC 7 Circles; Stacy Boles – Splash TV; Hedy Peterson – student; Allison Ramp – student; Ariyeh Levinson – SEARHC Clinic 2; Willow Griffin – SAIL; Anita Dedrickson – Raven’s Way; Rachel Johnson – SAFV; Annette McNamee – Betty Eliason; John Raasch – YAS; Rick Peterson – Community Schools Building Bridges; Matthew Turner and Kayla Boettcher – AOC facilitators

Introductions, including announcements and ideas for collaboration

Martina: there will be a work session between the Commission on Health Needs and Community Services and the Assembly on March 15th at 6:30. The goal is to inform the assembly members about our concerns regarding their process for allocating grants and ask their support for developing a list of criteria and priorities. During this time, we will introduce the commission members to the assembly, present the AOC resolution, and Pat Alexander will also tell how Juneau has handled the allocation process, leaving some time for questions and discussion.

Martina also announces this will be her last AOC meeting as commission chair – her term ends and she is not renewing. The commission will need another member.

Curt Ledford – Community Schools is also going before assembly to give presentation about their activities.

Anita Dedrickson – Raven’s Way has several trainings coming up on co-occurring disorders, wellness, others are invited to participate – call her at 966-8541 for more information. Also, Romee McAdams is leading required courses for counselors May 1-5. These trainings are also open to the public. The Raven’s Way course starts next week, there are still positions open if anyone knows of young people that could benefit from the course. RW also has one job opening.

Rachel – April is sexual assault awareness month and child abuse awareness month. Take Back the Night is planned for April 3, which will include a tree planting in cooperation with SCS in honor of victims. SAFV is looking for community members to be part of the planning committee.

Annette McNamee – Betty Eliason is looking for new director...they are going through a big transition, and need the community’s help/support. BE provides an important service in the community. She is looking for ways to secure more community involvement and outreach.

Rick Peterson – looking for people to direct one-act plays with students. He also sends a reminder from Ryan Kauffman – Ryan is creating a list of all the activities happening in the

community for young people. He asks that you send information about your programs to him ASAP. The request is also on the AOC website. You can contact him at 7-8670.

Alison Dunlap extends an invitation to 7 Circles on Wednesday 3/8 – Andrea is moving to the Health Promotions Department. Party for her at 3:30 on the 3rd floor of the SEARHC Community Health building.

Curt – Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser is coming up soon – will be held at Keet.

Alison – there will be another inhalant information parent night on March 13 at Keet 5-7:30. Dinner and free child care will be provided. Information about parent environmental strategies will be presented – what you can do in your homes to prevent inhalant use.

Matthew – the AOC web page is getting a gradual facelift. He finished the “about” section. Still looking for more spotlights – part of the coalition’s mission is to let the community know we’re doing good stuff together – it’s a simple thing, just take the first paragraph off your grant and send a couple of pictures.

Kayla – attended a training on how to involve youth on boards and in other decision-making positions. She is also trained to provide the training, and offers it as a possibility for anyone in Sitka who is interested to know more. She suggests perhaps hosting an informational meeting to learn more about it, then perhaps a more in-depth training for those who are prepared to take on the task. She also mentions that this is part of a statewide initiative to promote more youth involvement in organizational decision-making. The training is not planned or scheduled at this time, but she will keep everyone informed. Perhaps there will be an informational meeting this spring, but wait to hold the training in the fall, when things are getting started up again.

Stacy Boles is present to give a special announcements and invitation about “Splash,” a new local TV show hosted by Denalee Chapman. The objective of the show is to highlight good things that are happening in the community, such as programs, community members, etc. It is broadcast not just in SE, but eventually in Anchorage. The show is taped by volunteers (mostly SJ students) every Tuesday at 10:20 am in the SJ Rasmussen Center. There is a live audience (25-30). They are looking for ideas for the show – they conduct 7-minute interviews with 2 guests per week. There are also 30-sec media bytes available. Splash airs on Channel 11 at various times throughout the week. Splash is also welcoming equipment donations. Contact Stacy at 738-8200 with ideas for the show, equipment donations, or for more information.

Curt suggests that there might be high school visual media class students who are all trained and might be interested in helping.

Sheldon Schmitt –Chief Schmitt is interested in rejoining AOC to represent the SPD. He says there are lots of things going on with SPD, lots of collaboration with tribe, etc. that he will provide more information about in the future. His announcement today is to ask for AOC’s support on the upcoming Assembly decision on adding a surcharge to phone use in Sitka. At their next meeting on the 15th, the Assembly will be making a decision about this surcharge, which will have an impact on the ability to respond to emergency calls. Now, if

you dial 911 on phone, the PD automatically identifies where you're calling from and can send out a car whether or not you can talk. In recent years the costs of maintaining that technology have gone up – if we don't increase our surcharge, we'll lose the ability to track that call. Another issue is cell phones – there is a mandate that dispatch centers need to have the software/ability to track cell phones when you make an emergency call from one. This requires a GPS device to track the phone – we need the technology on our end to trace those calls too, and part of the charge increase will go toward that. The increase will be an extra 0.75/month, \$9/yr per line – there have been some concerns about raising the costs, partly because of the extra charge on every phone line. This would effect businesses that have numerous lines.

Chief Schmitt is asking AOC for a resolution that shows our support on this effort. A quick poll of the group seems to indicate there is general agreement to support this request. Schmitt says he has general language we could use; Kayla and Matthew will put that into a resolution and pass it on to the Steering Committee for their tacit approval (i.e. if we don't hear from you, we assume you approve).

Committee reports:

Steering committee:

Assembly resolution (see information above, included with Martina's announcement)

- Sheldon says he thinks the assembly wants to do this, they just need to hear why, and some ideas about how.
- Curt suggests we mention to assembly this is nothing new; revenues from alcohol tax was handled in a similar way

Membership in Steering Committee – the SC has been trying to figure out the most non-bureaucratic way to open up membership on the SC, making it open to people who are interested and committed to being involved for a year. SC membership was previously dictated by putting money into flex fund, but that's become it's own committee.

Youth:

Tri-school events – a dance for all three high schools is tentatively planned for April 8. Students are in charge of planning. There is a big need for chaperones – Ryan and Rick will be out of town. The dance will likely be held at MEHS. Having lots of chaperones there might ensure nothing bad will happen, which will help these events continue to happen.

YRBS:

Moving forward with the public awareness campaign. Nine issues from YRBS being highlighted in local media (Raven Radio, Sentinel, and KIFW all on board, potentially some agency and school newsletters as well). Local professionals who work in each of these areas are providing context around each of the issues, such as more research-based information about each topic, as well as local resources. Matthew comments that he's really proud of AOC for taking the YRBS data off the shelf and putting it out there in a useful way. People might get hung up on the data, and we all get caught arguing with the data – but the idea is that the data starts a dialogue about what we can do better and what are we doing now.

Clinical/MH:

A services grid has been developed. The committee is still working to define their parameters of service and find solutions to some of the gaps in services.

Upcoming meetings:

Next AOC Steering Committee and general meeting: April 6 at Centennial Hall.

YRBS meeting pending

Prep for work session with assembly pending