

Advancing Our Community Coalition
April 10, 2008

In attendance: Gordon Blue – SCPS, Lucynda Pardy – SCPS, Doug Osborne – SEARHC Health Promotions, Amy Christel – SAIL, Kelly Warren – Raven’s Way, Penny Lehmann – Public Health, Natalie Settler – Sitka Conservation Society, David Voluck – YAS, Curt Ledford – Community Schools, Julia Smith - SAFV, Scott Brylinsky – Sitka Public Works, Taylor White – Sitka High School, Kristi Coltharp – BMS/SCPS, Kayla Boettcher – AOC.

Announcements

SCPS – been very active, there seems to be a pent up demand for services; about 30 staff now and budgeting for more; received grant from Bring The Kids Home for expansion of programs for SED children; meeting tonight board-to board with YAS

SEARHC

2008 Sitka Health Summit is May 14-16, featuring a \$5 halibut dinner and awards being given for outstanding models of health on May 14 at 5:30; Health Summit awards – honoring people in the community, individuals and groups in certain categories: physical activity, tobacco prevention/cessation, injury prevention, nutrition, general wellness, holistic health; community planning on Thursday 9-3. See also sitkahealthsummit.org

Earth Day – April 22 at 10-11:30 – OS1 green cleaning, custodial contracts or housecleaning – to give presentation; City may be moving toward this for their contracts

SAIL – June 28 Only Fools Run at Midnight fundraiser;

Raven’s Way – working on grants and accreditation; moving buildings down the street – great for better confidentiality; next course not until mid-July (no course in May and June because of move).

Public Health – looking to hire another nurse

SCS – Bear nuisance ordinance passed at Assembly meeting which allows enforcement for repeat offenders; Bear Aware outreach canvasses neighborhoods, looking for citizens to help canvas; Phil Mooney expects a lot of bear in Sitka because not a lot of deer kill;

Earth Day – Parade of the Species from Totem Square to Rasmusen Center; anyone can participate; looking for people to host booths – outdoors, youth, environment – Friday, April 25 for these events

SCS sponsoring log cabin-building scholarship; application available now – 2 week course

YAS – moving office to Price Street (near Wood Dudes) – Family Resource Center will stay in town near Remax

Looking for foster families and resource families; healthy functional families to support youth in transition needing a home; so far have doubled number of foster families in Sitka with this program; if you’re interested, just call to learn more.

Community Schools

International Fair at Keet on Tuesday – 12 different rooms that showcase different cultures; AmeriCorps grant – 12 new AmeriCorps, putting together a youth program for the summer; looking for youth to do construction work; work the whole summer, can be paid \$500-600/month; similar to YABAH, but different. Talk to Faith Lee at Community Schools if you know of youth
Sock Hop at Hames last week raised \$1,100 to buy new equipment

SAFV Honoring Women Dinner April 19 at 6 pm;
Family Fun Fair April 27th at Keet 3-5 pm; artistic booths
Exhibits around town – TRAIN finished photo exhibit, up at Back door; Children's program
did Care for Kids poster contest – up at Library in April

Scott Brylinsky – City Public Works Operations Chief; resp for streets, parks, vehicles, spring clean-up, etc.; wanted to visit this group and keep finger on pulse of community, find ways to complement other efforts and know what's going on; 747-4040

SHS tobacco policy being rewritten and going before the school board fairly soon – make it a stricter policy in the schools;
had PAC on ASAA's new drug testing plan for all of Alaska – lots of students involved in that discussion;

Youth Court looks like they'll be able to handle tobacco and curfew violations

SCPS Family Center

The group heard a brief presentation from Lucynda Pardy about the SCPS Family Center and expanded children's services. They provide wrap-around services for kids with diagnosed behavioral and emotional problems. SCPS have intensive all-day services, which works well with YAS to transition kids out of intense services back into school. They work with kids on social skills, relationships, transportation, other service needs; also family skills development. Referrals come in from parents or schools, reviewed and sent to treatment team; functional assessment done in the home to accurately assess overall needs; develop treatment plan, and match clients with workers.

Currently they have a goal to double staff and double clients within a year, which then doubles families that are reached; already almost 1/2 way to goal in 4 months; grateful for visionary leadership and strong partnerships; lots of need in the community;

Developing a Family Center – facility that will hold portion of offices and staff, also a place for the families to come in (instead of doing all home visits), also to host some classes/workshops; start training people in Yakutat and using Sitka as a model for their programs.

City grants cycle – applications are out and due May 7

AOC funding

Started as Advancing Our Youth – used to be funneled through SCPS when David Sliefert and Curt wrote drug-free communities grant for drug-free coalition; now housed in Community Schools under drug-free communities grant, but it's evolved to be AOC and broadened beyond being a strictly drug-free coalition. Curt is not going to reapply for that grant because we're not really doing what the grant asks of us. But that's been a good change – Sitka is too small to focus specifically on drug and alcohol prevention. We have broader interests. Decided to ask city for specific amount through the grant process (15-20K) and ask agencies to submit letters of support. In addition to that amount, we'll look for other ways to find additional money. Steering Committee agreed that we need to have flexibility to go where we need to go with AOC, not tied to requirements of a grantor.