

**Advancing Our Community Coalition**  
**August 14, 2008**

**In attendance:** Curt Ledford – Community Schools; John Stein; Chris Baumann - SAFV; Annette Becker – YAS; David Voluck – YAS; Kathy Branch-Gadd – SCPS; Kelly Warren – Raven’s Way.

**Announcements**

Next month – all 13 new AmeriCorps will be on board – maybe we should have a reception.

John Stein is circulating a petition to show support for Hames.

YAS’ Transitional Living Program grant was renewed for the next year. They exceeded the goal for resource families, have 10 homeless adolescents housed.

*Any emerging trends/ needs for larger scale?* DV will bring TLP staff next month to discuss.

YAS is hiring for a clinical therapist.

State decided to “reinterpret” day treatment: decided it’s a Medicaid audit risk and only face-to-face direct interactions are billable as opposed to having staff available for support throughout.

The Soroptomists are showing a documentary on human slave trafficking at the Sheet’ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi on Sept 13, 4:30 pm. It’s a PG13 version. There are cases of this happening in Sitka. Anchorage is one of the biggest trafficking cities in the country.

Minor Consumings are down.

YAS is going to bring in trainers this fall – Dr. Randy Moss in Sept for crisis intervention, co-occurring disorders, and motivational interviewing. Sept – managing aggressive behaviors; Oct – trainings with Iva Greywolf. Open to anyone working with high-risk youth.

*Group discusses creating a place on the AOC website that serves as a central location for information about all upcoming trainings.*

SAFV is hosting a training in Sept – their annual in-depth training on domestic violence for community members; Agencies may want to send new JVs, AmerCorps, etc. “If you’re working with people, you’re working with people in abusive relationships – it’s good information to have.”

SAFV will host their Purple Hat, White Tie gala on Oct 4 at the Naa Kahidi; anyone wanting to get involved in planning that party, call SAFV.

The new JVs arrived on Sat.

Hames Athletic and Wellness Center is planning a work session with Assembly on Aug 26<sup>th</sup>, they hope to elicit their concerns and hear from them instead of giving them a presentation. Big issue is how the community should pay for it – communicating with Sen. Stedman asking for capital costs; appraisal is \$3 million to buy, \$6 million to fix; operating costs about \$500,000 per year (about the same as Centennial, but would bring in more revenues).

“Twinkie tax” is the new idea – adding \$0.10 to every can of soda. Not much support from general public on taxing pop. 3.5 million containers of soda per year.

YAS suggests including Rock Star, Red Bull drinks. It's like a pre-drug for kids. Waiting until after local election to push a petition to collect signatures. Short-term goal is to get city to continue operations beyond Nov until permanent solution is developed. STA and YAS have adopted policies to pay for employee use at Hames.

SCPS is in transition – moving from Indian River to SJ campus, eventually moving all programming over there; Jericho Road is open on A Street (no-conditions housing and case management for homeless chronic mentally ill people); recently hired new child/family therapist; prevention programming will increase thanks to funding boost.

SCPS hired Kathy in part to develop some women-specific programming. She is conducting a needs assessment – looking for feedback on whether the community needs a transitional living shelter for women, and a projection on how many referrals and what sort of services, length of stay, etc. the community would like to see.

A full-day training on community resources to help with chemical dependency will be held Sept 11 in 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference floor at MHS. Six hrs will be speakers about community, including probation, SAFV, etc; other 2 hours is homework on the internet to become familiar with Alaska resources.

Raven's Way has four open positions, mainly for expeditions.

Candidates forum: Last year, AOC hosted a forum of candidates for local Assembly and School Board to hear their views on issues of child and family wellness. The group agrees there is value in that. Curt and David volunteer to help put it together. There was low AOC attendance last year – Matthew emphasizes that it's important to have candidates looking people in the eye when they talk about this. Need to make sure there's a lot of faces in the audience this year.

Next AOC meeting – Sept 18 (change in schedule)