

Advancing Our Community **January 8, 2009**

In attendance: Jeff Budd – DOL, Rebecca Howe – SEARHC Behavioral Health, Kristi Coltharp – BMS/SCPS, Marilyn Lande – SEARHC Clinic II, Julia Smith – SAFV, Curt Ledford – Community Schools, Ryan Kauffman – Community Schools, Gordon Blue – SCPS, Chris Bauman – SAFV, Penny Lehmann – Public Health, Annette Becker – YAS, Kelly Warren – Raven’s Way, Helen West – Sitka High, Matthew Turner & Kayla Boettcher – AOC.

City funding for non-profits

Every year, the City sets aside some money to grant to non-profits. AOC starting getting involved in 2006, talking about FY07 grants; we worked with the Commission on Health Needs and Community Services to ask the Assembly to set aside a certain amount for the total granting amount, and to divide it into categories so we wouldn’t be competing social services vs. recreation (for example) for the same funds. For FY08, CHNCS was assigned to do the process. Last year, they said they didn’t want to do it again, so a group of city employees reviewed the applications and made recommendations.

Matthew presented a spreadsheet that compares what the different agencies have received. He put it together based on minutes from the Assembly meeting where the awards were allocated. There are some inconsistencies in tracking what agencies got what, and we don’t really know how much came from general fund. Matthew is interested in trying to get actual numbers, and then have that entered into the official record so everyone can track it better. Also would like to know the percentage of the general fund that’s gone to these funds each year and be able to track that. Also, it doesn’t appear there is ever any evaluation or follow-through after the grants have been awarded – we don’t really know how the money was spent or if it did any good.

There are some assembly members who may not know all the background – Matthew offers to write up the history, include objective numbers, send to AOC members to review. Then we’ll try to get a meeting – maybe with a couple Assembly members? – to talk with them about the situation. Reber has already offered to get this item on the Assembly agenda.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

March 11 is the tentative date for high schoolers to take the YRBS (it’s not scheduled to happen at BMS, but Ryan and Kristi may try to change that). Sitka needs 60% participation to be included in the statewide tally, but the goal is to get 100% permission returns (either yes or no replies). They already have 125 slips back (out of 400).

The group shares ideas with Ryan about how to reach parents and get permission slips signed. Ideas included:

- Hand out permission slips at the high school to take home
- Publicity through newspaper, radio, Problem Corner, TV
- Include an internet address that shows how the information is used so parents can see it and understand that the results are collective and anonymous
- Get some agency people, or “important” people in Sitka to do PSAs to promote this and talk about how the results are used
- Incentives: gift certificates \$50/100, 4-5 per class;

- Work through homeroom, offering some award to whole room if everybody returns the permission slip;
- Home visits typically get best results – use as the last resort in last few weeks. Penny & Kristi (and others?) offer to go to doors and ask for the slip to be signed

Matthew can put a downloadable permission slip on the web

Department of Labor is hosting a Behavioral Health Academy Feb. 9-15 for people age 16 and up to explore human services. As part of the Academy, an ethics class will be offered (probably on Feb 12) for all ages, and participants can receive counseling credits. Call Jeff for more info: 747-6921.

SAFV is offering a training with SCPS focused on domestic violence and substance abuse and how those topics overlap. Registration \$15, Patty Bland, a national speaker from Juneau, will lead the training. CEUs are available. Call SAFV to register: 747-3370

YAS is hiring for a new ED; they received 20 applications.

Delta prevention @ SAFV will start TRAIN again next week – program for 13-19 year-olds. Delta also received a grant to oversee community-wide prevention planning process called “Pathways to Prevention” – encompasses prevention of anything in Sitka (abuse, dropouts, etc.); they had lots of social services involved in the initial planning meeting, but would like more school involvement; they’re working on creating a subcommittee of AOC to meet 1-2 hrs/month and focus on this plan.

Sitka High student council is planning a dinner with MEHS student council in Jan or Feb to help establish better connections with them. They’re looking at some social time, then talk about ways to work together through cooperative fundraisers, or helping them host ASAG; also discuss ways to encourage healthy rivalry between schools (now that they compete).

Community Schools Tobacco Grant is working with students who have been referred for policy violations; it’s working OK, Ryan has been trying different approaches, but it’s a struggle – kids are really addicted. This experience has strengthened Ryan’s belief in prevention programs. Peer Helpers also has a \$2000 grant (written by Helen and Taylor) to do more prevention.

SEARHC is working with SCPS to host a Brain Injury Network training on January 23, 8:30-4:00 at the SEARHC Community Health Services Building in the first floor conference room. CEUs are available. Call Marilyn Lande to register: 966-8815.