

Advancing Our Community
November 10, 2005
1:30 pm

In attendance:

Ryan Kauffman, Julie Graham, John Raasch, David Voluck, Andrea Thomas, Hedy Peterson, David Sliefert, Martina Kurzer, Bob George, Pat Alexander, Alison Dunlap, Chris Baumann, Willow Griffin, Steve Bradshaw, Curt Ledford, Dan Etolin, Rachel Johnson, Matthew and Kayla

Announcements:

Ryan – Peer Helpers is starting a Meth awareness campaign at high school, including posters, PSAs, etc.

Hedy is looking for a soph/jr student to start participating in AOC as a student rep; more students would be great.

Martina – there are two vacancies on the city commission on health and community services – if anyone is interested, they can contact her at mkurzer@gci.net or 747-3101.

Pat – the Soroptomists are offering a scholarship for a student (ages 14-20) with extraordinary achievement; contact Pat at 966-8445 or fax her at 966-8656 for more information and an application – deadline in Dec; also, they have another scholarship for single mother successfully going to school

Alison – 7 Circles feasibility study on inhalant use changed its name to HELP – Harmful Everyday Legal Products Prevention Project. Through this project, lifeskills classes are being taught in 5th grade; there is a parent night coming up in January 9 to start the public awareness process – its hard to get “new” parents involved, so she’s hoping AOC agencies can identify parents that could/should attend. Alison will bring a fliers to the next AOC meeting and information will also appear on the AOC website.

Willow – SAIL has a grant for youth (ages 14-24) with disabilities (“disability” as defined by the ADA – includes a wide spectrum of disabilities including arthritis, etc.) who are in transition (starting a job, moving, going to school, etc.) – the grant is very broad, she’s looking for qualified individuals to take advantage of it

Steve – school district numbers are the same as last year, so the budget’s in good shape; 3 state champion teams in last 6 months (baseball, softball, swimming); coaches of all are folks from the community outside the district; proves that the community makes a difference with the kids

Curt – Community Schools is in the beginning stages of working with SJ on starting an outdoor club for students with disabilities at Keet

Rachel – Nov 25-Dec 10 is SAFV’s white ribbon campaign – men taking a stand opposed to violence against women; white ribbons will be available throughout the community, they will also be recording PSAs – would like to have them in Tlingit and Tagalog (Filipino) – needs

someone to help translate/record those messages; photo campaign of men standing against violence will appear in the Sentinel – needs men to take the pledge and be photographed

Facilitator's Report

Matthew gives brief tour of the AOC website: www.sitkaaoc.org

- Still looking for agencies to send a picture and text for the member spotlight on the front page – goal is to highlight every AOC agency and collect them in an archive for information about all AOC members
- *David Sliefert suggests contacting other sites (like the city) that used to have a link to AOY – change it to AOC*
- *Pat suggests giving an indication on the website of how often the committees meet*

Clinical/Behavioral committee

This AOC subcommittee is working to identify gaps, duplications, and barriers in their services to the community – they have brainstormed a list and are now in the process of prioritizing that list to set goals/action steps for short-term and long-term projects;

Youth Committee

This subcommittee has gone through a process to choose a few short-term projects that focus on improving the self-image of Sitka youth. At the last meeting, committee members committed to several small action steps:

- Ryan has begun to identify existing youth organizations/activities and mapping those, as well as talking with students about the accessibility to these activities
- Alison took the Good Samaritan Club idea (secret thing they can do to help somebody out) to student council – they loved it and really want to do it, but it needs to be handed off to someone who can invest time to make that happen;
- Alison also asked the student council about spotlighting students in the paper, they also loved that idea, also needs someone to facilitate
- Stephanie Weddel (reporting by email) set up a focus group with Pacific High students on November 23 to discuss current youth activities;
- Stephanie also continues to negotiate the lease agreement for the Boys and Girls Club with SJ and finalizing their MOA with the Boys & Girls Club state office.

Alison suggested that the committee members really need to make sure someone else isn't already working on the activities identified in this meeting.

Steering Committee

This committee met just prior to the AOC meeting – they discussed the annual City grants and how to appeal to the city about the process for distributing their funding – they plan to work with Martina Kurzer, chair of the city commission on health and community services. They also looked at YRBS results a little and discussed the current status of AOC flexible funding.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Kayla and Matthew gave a brief presentation about the recent data released from the YRBS survey taken by students last spring. The data has been presented to the school board, and was subsequently covered in the newspaper and on the radio. K&M plan to convene student focus groups to discuss the results, continue their efforts to make comparisons to other

relevant data, and create a public awareness campaign around the YRBS topics by putting this data into more context for our community. Coalition members stress the importance of highlighting the positive results from the data, and include information about local resources that address these issues. Someone suggests having an ongoing column in the Sentinel that provides information about each of the topics. Kayla asks for volunteers to help guide the public awareness campaign - Alison, Ryan, John R, Hedy, Andrea, Willow, Curt volunteer.

Kayla will email these individuals (and extend the invitation to others who didn't attend this meeting) about getting together to discuss public awareness of YRBS. Kayla and Matthew will continue to draw comparisons between these survey results and other relevant sources of information. They will also talk with Steve Bradshaw about a school board work session on this topic, and will convene student focus groups to discuss the survey results.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:40. Chris Baumann requested that the next meeting be held on December 8 (instead of the scheduled Dec 1) to accommodate a visit from United Way representatives. There were no objections, so the **next AOC meeting will be held December 8, 1:30 – 2:30 pm.**