

Advancing Our Community
6 April 2006; 1:30 – 2:30

In attendance: Bob George – SCPS, Curt Ledford – Community Schools, Chris Baumann – SAFV, Doug Osbourne – SEARHC Health Education, David Sleifert – SEARHC Clinic II, Annette McNamee – Betty Eliason liaison, Barb Morse – Big Brothers Big Sisters, Diane Climo – DJJ, Cheri Hample – 7 Circles and Faith in Action, David Voluck – YAS, Alison Dunlap – 7 Circles, Matthew Turner and Kayla Boettcher – AOC facilitators.

Agenda

Announcements
Facilitator reports
Town meeting
Affordable housing
Committee reports
May party meeting

Announcements

Bob: April 11-12 – domestic violence training at the fire station, including focus on how to work with batterers. 9 a.m. both full days. \$10 covers materials/refreshment. Trainers have 40 years experience, recently been training in Hong Kong. CEUs for social work.

Curt: looking for collaboration examples for his grant report – he asks Bob and Chris if they worked together on this upcoming training Bob just announced.

Chris: April is sexual assault and child abuse awareness month; also crime victim awareness week in April. SAFV is planning lots of activities

- Sunday 4/30, 6:15 Take Back the Night walk and speak out – message for women not wanting to be afraid of going out at night – starts at SJ Rasmussen, walk through town to Naa Kahidi, speak out there
- April 29, 9-12, self defense class for women, enc. Moms bring daughters – all ages, Hames PE center
- Friday April 28 – showing of Killing Us Softly – film that discusses women’s bodies in the media – Rasmussen center
- April 29 – annual fundraiser, honoring women – Centennial Hall 6 pm, Ludvig’s catering, silent auction. The invitations are out – if you didn’t get one, call the shelter – you need tickets in advance
- White ribbon campaign doing an event on the 25th? – a BBQ?, trying to get more men involved, have them be involved with Take Back the Night.

Doug:

- SEARHC is starting a men’s health group at the end of April. Talking about men’s health issues, forming a support group for getting healthier. Probably will be last Fri (28th) 12-1, and Saturday 11-12 at the Salvation Army. Watch the paper for more details.
- National bike to work week May 15-19
- Sept 28-29, Well Workplace University at Centennial Hall. Trainers from the Wellness Councils of America will be here for 2 days to help promote healthier work

places, and help employers understand the benefits for employee wellness. Geared toward businesses with over 50 employees the 1st day, 2nd day for small companies. There is a small fee. They'll provide some ongoing technical assistance. Once a workplace joins the process, it goes through the 7 steps for a healthier workplace – group will meet 1/month to progress through those steps; WCA thinks Sitka is prime for being a “well city” of America – it's the first place in Alaska, smallest town ever in this program. Collaborative effort by SEARHC, Sitka Community Hospital, the City, and the school district. The training is open to anybody and everybody; workplaces might be able to get better insurance rates because they're participating in this program.

Barb: Saturday 4/8 is BBBS Bowl for Kids Sake at Keet. This is their big fundraiser of the year; there are 12 teams fundraising for the event.

Cheri: just became the new program coordinator for 7 Circles. She says UAS is in danger of losing some of their grant, and she encourages everyone to contact Sen. Stedman about this cut. Faith in Action secured funding to hire 1/2 Executive Director – Auriella is continuing as program coordinator. FIA will do volunteer training in the spring.

Alison: HELP Prevention Project – recently presented survey results to school board on drug use. They had to have parental consent, so only 44% participation at BMS. She send the results to Matthew and he'll put them on web. Results showed very minimal use; YRBS data is more useful. Student refusal skills look low – indicating they don't feel like they wanted or needed to have those skills.

Town Meeting

Curt announces that SDFS has provided money to host a Town Meeting. The focus is supposed to be on teenage driving and drinking, but we can choose the topic. We have \$1000 to put something on in the fall – maybe in August/Sept. Curt invites the group to start thinking about what's most appropriate for Sitka, maybe incorporate a fun event into it.

Facilitators Report

Website addition – Resources section to post funding opportunities, tracking primarily from Mental Health Trust Authority, but other suggestions for sources are welcome
New Spotlight – Community Schools

911 Resolution – AOC passed a resolution in support of Enhanced 911 services; Assembly passed that initiative

City Funding resolution – we've been working on how to ask the City to come up with a more uniform process for allocating grant funds and recommendation. There was an Assembly work session through the Commission on Health Needs and Community Services (CHNCS); Willow and Jon Wunrow presented on behalf of AOC. Matthew, who was in attendance at the work session, says it was a little scattered: the Mayor was late and discouraging, the commission was trying to do two things at once (seeking recognition and proposing forward movement on this issue). In the end, a pitch was made and the two

Assembly members that seemed interested were John Holst and Doris Bailey but nothing else really happened from that.

Then there was a Commission meeting last month where the commission was trying to find another way to get on the City agenda and put this item up for Assembly discussion. At their meeting, they decided that they would set higher recommendations for % of funds for human services and minimum dollar amounts than the numbers AOC had agreed on in our resolution. Matthew pointed out that these were different recommendations and it might be confusing, but they wanted to do something higher.

After their meeting, they drafted a resolution which heavily involved AOC in its language, and gave us 1 1/2 business hours to approve it before it was due in the packets. But because their recommendations didn't match ours, we couldn't get Steering Committee approval that fast, and consequently, this item is not on the agenda for next week's assembly meeting. But, we have John Holst's ear, and a few more weeks to prepare a way to draw the assembly's attention to this issue before they allocate the funds. When we discussed this with the AOC Steering Committee, they expressed regret that the commission had acted in such haste and involved AOC in a political fight. The Steering Committee advised Matthew and Kayla to talk with John Holst and see if it's worth proceeding or if it's too late and could be too irritating for the Assembly members. The feeling is that now it's coming up on grant time, and might be too late to push it. But we'll keep it buzzing and push it again next year.

Youth in Governance

Kayla presented at the last AOC meeting that she's been trained to provide trainings on how to get more youth involved in decision-making positions. She proposes that she may do a brief informational meeting this spring, but schedule a training for later this summer. In the meantime, she plans to survey agencies about their current youth involvement and get a feel for how much interest is out there.

Someone suggests she get on agenda during MEHS orientation week.

Another person mentions that Alaska ICE also provides grants toward that end (<www.alaskaice.org>

Committees

YRBS:

Kayla has suggested that we postpone the YRBS public awareness campaign for a few months, because spring is not the ideal time to launch such a campaign, and it has been a struggle to get all the information compiled.

Alison comments that maybe we should start the campaign in July, saying August is bad because parents are inundated with information then.

Along with providing the information, the campaign could also focus on why signing parental permission slips for students to take surveys is important. Parents aren't getting that these surveys are tied to money, need a push for that awareness.

This discussion will move into committee to discuss details more there – perhaps the week of April 25?

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee has made some revisions to how it is comprised. The handbook now says:

Steering Committee

This group guides the overall activity of AOC and is the decision-making body for the Coalition, taking into consideration the recommendations of the general membership. Resolutions, letters of support, and other matters where the Coalition is taking action as a body must be approved through the Steering Committee.

Guiding Principles:

The Steering Committee is made of individuals from AOC member agencies. This group provides overall guidance and critical decision making for the collaboration, and assures continuity of the mission.

The Steering Committee should be representative of the broad spectrum of the community and the agencies that AOC serves.

There should be no more than 10 members on the Steering Committee.

Members of the Steering Committee should commit to at least one year of service.

It is expected that Steering Committee members will make every effort to attend both Steering and AOC meetings, keep abreast of the issues and actions undertaken by AOC, and serve as a liaison to other agencies and the community in AOC matters.

The Steering Committee also agreed to host a luncheon party for the May AOC meeting, including a presentation on the coalition's last year and an opportunity for coalition members to evaluate AOC and its facilitators.

Clinical/Behavioral Health Committee

At a recent meeting, the committee presented what they have found to be gaps in services as well as a list of present services available through agencies. The next step is to add private clinicians to the services grid. The committee's goal is to know what services are available community-wide. They are looking for ideas on how to make the grid easier to look at and follow – it's a bit big now. They plan to present their work to the general AOC in the next couple of months, looking for input and trying to improve what they have. They also have some recommendations that are bigger than that committee can handle and they need support from outside services. They are also working on several action steps at this time.

Youth

No meeting. No dance.

May meeting –

Will be a luncheon, include presentation on the State of the Coalition, and get feedback on effectiveness from members. It's a chance to celebrate our successes from this year and start planning for the next year. Someone suggests that we try to find ways to promote it to the rest of the community. Perhaps we could have someone speak about the history of it – someone with some pull (John Holst, Stan Filler). It would also fun to let them know where we are now. That meeting will be May 4, starting at 12 or 12:30.