

Clinical/Behavioral Health – AOC subcommittee meeting
September 26, 2005
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

In attendance: Myron Medlin – SCAPS, Jon Raasch – YAS, Kristi Coltharp – SCAPS, Matthew Turner and Kayla Boettcher – AOC

Jon opened the meeting by inviting Matthew and Kayla to provide some background information on AOC and the reason for convening this committee. Matthew described the strategic plan developed by AOC (then called AOY) in 2004, and the current facilitators' decision to use that plan as a starting point and form committees focused on specific pieces of that plan. Certain goals and objectives from the AOC plan pertain to a collaborative of clinical/behavioral health agencies, which brings us to this committee. In addition, these agencies have a list of goals mandated by the Alaska Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). Although SEARHC, SCAPS, and YAS are the only 3 Sitka agencies required to report on the DBH "10 steps," there are other agencies who serve clients that could benefit. Matthew and Kayla also mention that there is another subcommittee devoted to looking at youth issues.

The group briefly discusses who else should be involved with this committee, specifically someone from SEARHC. Myron suggests that agencies like SAIL and Sitka workforce.

Matthew and Kayla also mention that they will be collecting recent survey data and will be able to provide some baseline information. Kristi comments on the high number of surveys that seem to be redundant in their questions. She says the students took three last spring and one already this fall that deal with risk behaviors.

Jon led the group in a review of the relevant AOC goals and objectives that Matthew and Kayla pulled from the full strategic plan. (The goals and objectives for this committee are included at the end of this report.)

- Goal 2 focuses on reducing drug and alcohol use among Sitka's youth. The one particularly pertinent objective from this goal that the committee discussed involves the expansion and implementation of student assistant counselors and school resource officers at Blatchley Middle School and all high schools.
 - Committee members said there should be more counselors and nothing is currently happening to increase the numbers. However, there have been several recent efforts on behalf of SCAPS and Community Schools to secure funding for more counselors, but those proposals have been denied. Kristi is currently the only student assistant counselor.
 - The group wondered if Officer Greene is considered a school resource officer.
 - If the committee decides to take action on this objective, they agreed that they need more information about the history of attempts to pursue more counselors. Tamara and Nancy at SCAPS and Curt Ledford were mentioned as possible resources for this information.
- Goal 4 focuses on improving collaboration and coordination among agencies. Four objectives were highlighted for this committee.
 - Committee members agreed that two of these objectives (4.1, 4.2) are being met through this new structure of meetings.
 - One objective focuses on identifying and fixing system gaps and barriers to service. Group members mention the recent work done on a continuum of care as a big start toward meeting this goal. Jon suggests leaving this objective on future agendas to continue discussion.
 - The fourth objective highlights the need to identify and help support methods for developing cultural competency within agencies and community organizations. Jon suggests turning this topic over to the full coalition for discussion. The group discusses the need for mental/behavioral health professionals to be trained in Native healing approaches, and the possibility of helping all coalition agencies to

adapt the same measures of cultural competency and collaborating on trainings toward that end. There was also some discussion about defining the community culture of Sitka, and directing our focus to meet the needs of the unique cultural mix that exists here.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, 3:30 at Centennial Hall.