

**Advancing Our Community Coalition**  
**Steering Committee meeting**  
April 4, 2007; 1:30 pm

**In attendance:** Cheri Hample, Curt Ledford, Steve Bradshaw, Willow Griffin, Matthew Turner, Kayla Boettcher.

Matthew opens by acknowledging it's been a long time since we've had a Steering Committee meeting – low attendance is part of the reason, and he and Kayla want to discuss that with the group today. Matthew reflects that two years ago, when he and Kayla starting facilitating AOC, there was a Steering Committee, but since then, those same people have moved in three different directions: the Flexible Funding committee (separated from SC to focus solely on issues of allocating the fund); Behavioral Health committee (involving the SC members who are leaders of mental health agencies); and the Steering Committee itself. There is lots of overlap in these three, which raises the question of who should participate on which committee(s)?

Matthew adds that he and Kayla, as facilitators for this coalition, require some guidance, energy, and steering from the coalition. They don't want to *invent* things for people to coalesce around – those ideas should be brought forward from members of the coalition, and M&K can help make them happen. He says sometimes it feels like people participate in coalition activities out of courtesy to the facilitators, not because they want to or see the benefit in participating.

Matthew notes that there's been some turnover in the general AOC attendance – lots of new, young faces, and with an apparent decline in interest from current SC members, is it possible that it's time to have some turnover in the Steering Committee as well?

One SC members comments that perhaps some have become complacent because the issues that members were originally attempting to coalesce around are happening, and therefore, there isn't as much urgency in being involved.

A couple of people mention that they have things coming up that will require evidence of collaboration – beyond letters of intent or support. There are things coming up, but ideas presented to the coalition in the past didn't generate much action or enthusiasm. Matthew reiterates that the coalition has lots of potential, but needs to be directed by an engaged Steering Committee that is anticipating needs and requesting responses to those needs. One of the SC members suggests that this committee lead a community assessment to get more input and direction for the coalition. Another SC member says an area of focus for this group could be to look at community standards and norms around youth use of tobacco and alcohol; another person adds that it could be a reinstatement of the task force formed to look at minor consuming charges in the 90s. After a brief discussion, the group advised Kayla and Matthew on two steps:

- 1) To personally contact SC members who haven't attended SC meetings in the recent past, inquire about their interest/commitment, and determine if there's redundancy (e.g. more than one person from SEARHC?); and
  - 2) Conduct a brief survey of AOC members about community needs and direction for AOC.
- Some of this may be able to be accomplished during the May AOC meeting, which is intended to be an evaluation and reflection meeting (including lunch!).

*Flexible Funding*

The committee had a brief discussion about the status of the AOC Flexible Fund. Technically, the Flexible Fund committee is separate from the Steering Committee, but many of the members overlap. Matthew and Kayla have been working to clean up some of the records for the account and update the application form. Kayla has been trying to get email input on the form from committee

members with moderate success. Although the few requests that have been submitted in the recent past have been deliberated and decided upon via email, Matthew says a future vision for this committee could be to actually meet for the discussion, which might enable creative solutions through other AOC resources in addition to awarding the funds.