

Minutes 11-18-08
Safe Schools Coalition Meeting
Chairing: Beth Reis; Recording: Heather Carter

Help Needed Requests are in RED.

ATTENDING IN PERSON: **Ben Ibale**, Washington Education Association; **Beth Reis**, Public Health – Seattle & King County and Safe Schools Coalition Co-Chair; **Brandon Walter**, Youth Eastside Services and Bellevue PFLAG; **Daniel Moore**, UW student and Safe Schools Coalition Co-Secretary; **Frank Couch**, Lakeside Milam Recovery Center and Safe Schools Coalition Intervention Specialist; **Frieda Takamura**, Safe Schools Coalition Co-Chair; **Hanna King**, Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets, Empowerment Project and Garfield High School GSA; **Heather Carter**, Youth Suicide Prevention Program and Safe Schools Coalition Co-Secretary; **Heather Murphy**, school psychologist, Affiliate Faculty, Dept. of Educational Psychology, University of Washington and SSC Intervention Specialist; **Helen Stillman**, Lambert House and Safe Schools Coalition Speakers' Bureau Manager; **Kyle Rapinan**, Casey Family Programs and UW student; **Matt Munson**, Planned Parenthood of Western Washington and Safe Schools Coalition Co-Secretary; **Noah Grant**, Americorps member; **Penny Palmer**, Safe Schools Coalition Intervention Team Leader; **Riana Hensel**, Puget Sound Community School; **Stefanie Fox**, King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division

ATTENDING BY PHONE: **Gabi Clayton**, PFLAG Olympia, Families United Against Hate, Youth Guardian Services, and Safe Schools Coalition Webspinner; **Marsha Botzer**, Ingersoll Gender Center and Safe Schools Coalition Co-Chair

(1) HRC's MEMBERSHIP – Background: Safe Schools Coalition (SSC) suspended the Human Rights Campaign's membership last March because HRC's refusal to oppose a version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that excluded protection for trans folks was a violation of the SSC mission. We decided in September to consider reinstating HRC due to a lot of work they have done re: trans issues this year, but only if they had decided to oppose a non-inclusive ENDA if such a bill should be introduced again.

So Frank contacted HRC national (Allison Herwitz, HRC's Federal Legislative Director) and asked whether HRC had made that decision. Allison said she's not the right person to answer that question, but would help facilitate the conversation. She said Frank needs to speak with the board president.

There was discussion about whether or not HRC would publicize their stance on this for the upcoming year. Marsha suggested that SSC needs to speak with Joe Solmonese to get them to solidify their stance. Frank, Heather, Gabi, and Penny all said they would help on talking with Joe (HRC's Executive Director) or the Board President. Frank will take the lead.

It was also suggested that we (as individual community members) email HRC and let them know about our concern over the issue and where HRC stands on it if we so desire.

(2) CONGRATULATIONS IAN FEIS AND CAITLIN DONNELLY

To Mt. Vernon High School graduate **Ian Feis** and Mt. Si High School student **Caitlin Donnelly** 2008 recipients of the ACLU's Washington Youth Activist Award for standing up for the rights of lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender students. They received their awards Nov 15.

(3) COALITION STRUCTURE & HELP NEEDED REQUESTS

Here's where SSC needs support and where people in attendance offered theirs:

- a. Gabi will chair the membership team with the help of Stefanie and Kathy.
- b. Shannon Buzard is thinking about stepping in as chair of information technology, but she may not be able to. Kyle and Hanna both know someone that may be interested in this and will talk with them. **Interested in overseeing a database technology project? Contact Beth: beth@safeschoolscoalition.org**

- c. **If you have interest in the law & policy team (organizing a lobbying effort, helping identify priorities for the next several years) please contact Josh Friedes jfriedes@equalrightswashington.org &/or Marsha Botzer mbotzer@botzerconsulting.com & get added to the list.**
- d. Treasurer & Development needs support right now. Kathy agreed to serve as Treasurer. **We need people with experience in grant writing, accounting, and working with budgets. Interested? Contact Kathy: kathykaminski@yahoo.com**
- e. Website: Arnold Martin maintains the Myspace page. We also have 4 bloggers, Beth, Gabi, Jenn Burleton, Loren Krywanczyk. **We need more bloggers (ideally another 4-6, including administrators, youth, parents and others). We also need people to adopt a page on the site to update and find dead links.** You might adopt a continent on the resources-by-location page or a topic (cyberbullying, Boy Scouts, etc.) or a target audience (school nurses, administrators, etc.). Heather C. said she'd adopt the suicide prevention page. **To volunteer to blog or to adopt a page, contact Gabi: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/contact/?id=11>**

(4) MEMBERSHIP REPORT

No new member applications or renewals since last month's mtg

(5) WASHINGTON STATE LAW & POLICY WORK GROUP

The Bullying Report was recently published (from Sr. Research Associate Kyra Kester of the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center at Washington State University) and there will be a hearing about it in Olympia Dec. 4th @ 130-House Hearing Room B Obrien building. For a copy of the report, contact Dr. Kester (360-576-6030 ext. 21, kkester@wsu.edu) We agreed that the new Media Swat Team could write op-ed pieces for the Seattle, Tri-cities and Spokane papers to coincide with the hearing (Stefanie and Marsha/Josh will talk). Some folks are talking about **carpooling to the hearing** - contact Kyle Rapinan: KRapinan@casey.org.

The Work Group is also preparing for the 2009 legislative session-they have discussed what they can do – especially efforts that will not require funding. They are considering drafting legislation or seeking administrative fixes for these issues:

- A) Beef up Bullying Act to improve dissemination to students, standards for investigation and record-keeping, OSPI posters on rights/contacts
- B) Possible change to the administrative code that prohibits schools from asking “sexual behaviors” questions in public health surveys of students.

Next meetings for this group: Every other Wednesday @ 815 am – by phone – starting December 3rd. First long term planning mtg. will be in Olympia on 3/23 from 6-8 pm. To get involved contact Marsha: mbotzer@botzerconsulting.com

There are also lobby days coming up:

- Equal Rights Washington – March 12 (has had a youth contingent in the past)
- ACLU – March 16 (will have a youth contingent)
- Planned Parenthood also lobbies with their teen council youth on MLK day every year (January 19) - possibly can open up to other youth

(6) SPEAKERS BUREAU REPORT

Recent workshops we provided:

- Washington State Assn for Multicultural Education (Rosalinda),
- Oklahoma's Stop Hate in the Hallways (Beth),
- Cedar Heights Middle School (Tracy)-I'd like to point out that Cedar Heights is working hard to make their school safe for GLBTQ youth,
- Church Council Americorps Team (Helen, Nathan, Kristina),

- Links & Alliances conference in Snohomish County (Frieda)

Recent tabling:

- Gay & Lesbian Film Festival,
- Bent Showcase (SHOUT OUT TO STEFANIE FOX! An amazing event),
- Garfield Community Center Youth Fitness Fair

Recent American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) LGBTQ Youth Panels:

- Washington State Assn for Multicultural Education,
- AFSC regional Directors meeting,
- Church Council Americorps

NOTE: AFSC Youth Panels are the most effective tool for changing peer culture around LGBT issues!

Other Recent Event for our own volunteers and member orgs: Anti-Racism training We discussed what are the next steps for this? Start a subcommittee? Should we look at the racism connected to Prop 8 passing? Draft a blog post about the issue, Kyle will gather up articles on issue. Joy MacTavish is willing to chair this subcommittee - to be continued ... will update next month

COMING UP:

- **Safe Schools Coalition Speakers Training** -- Monday Dec. 8th from 6-830 @ Equal Rights Washington. **Interested? Contact Helen: training@safeschoolscoalition.org**
- **Washington State Bullying Prevention Conference** -- May 22-23. **Input? Contact Helen: training@safeschoolscoalition.org**
- **White Privilege Conference** – April 1-4, Memphis, TN. We are helping plan an LGBTQ track. **Input? Contact Helen: training@safeschoolscoalition.org**

Reminder: Contact Helen if you want new Speakers Bureau brochures sent to your school/organization

(7) SPECIAL EVENTS

- Jessica Pettit** – The Bush School’s Diversity Speaker Series is bringing her to Seattle the week of **February 2, 2009**. She has been referred to as the “Margaret Cho” of Diversity Trainers. She blends politics, humor, identity, and local flair with big city passion and energy through direct, individualized, and interactive conversations. Her workshops, seminars, and keynotes don’t just leave participants invigorated but inspired and motivated to follow through with action to create change. <http://www.jessicapettitt.com/publications.htm>. The Coalition has been asked if we want to co-sponsor her visit, possibly speaking briefly as she is introduced and tabling at the event or even doing a separate event the week she is here. It can’t happen unless a small ad hoc committee (maybe 3-5 people) steps up. **If you would like to help make this happen, please talk with Eddie Moore at the Bush School for more information <mailto:Eddie.MooreJr@bush.edu> and/or let Beth know of your interest: <mailto:beth@safeschoolscoalition.org>**
- SF/World premiere of ***Straightlaced*** -- **January 14th** – We have been asked to consider sponsoring it. We decided to ask – Beth will do so – whether organizing and funding a NW premiere might qualify SSC as a community partner. More info: <http://groundspark.org/our-films-and-campaigns/straightlaced/straightlaced-premiere>
- NW Premiere of ***Straightlaced?*** Garfield H.S. would like to screen it. Others are excited about our hosting a big premiere as we did last year with the film *It’s STILL Elementary*. **Interested in chairing a planning committee for a big event?** Hanna, Kyle, Brandon, & Daniel stepped up to serve on this committee. It needs a chair. **Contact Beth: beth@safeschoolscoalition.org**
- Laugh OUT Loud?** – Nonprofit Comedy has offered us another comedy night. Kyle will contact about getting a night that’s not 21 and over b/c right now they are 21 and over only. Perhaps after school is out in June.
- Peace for the Streets by Kids From the Streets (PSKS): **WARM FOR THE WINTER!** December 19th: 1st concert of their own production company - Bus Line Sleepers - made up of homeless and street involved youth. Proceeds will go to purchase sleeping bags, blankets, and other warm items for use during the upcoming winter. Go out and support them! More info about PSKS:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSf7lydHX4o> and also <http://www.psk.org/about.html> More info about Warm for the Winter or to donate: garth@psk.org or 206-697-1314.

(8) FISCAL UPDATE – Beth

- a) **Huge thanks to these recent individual and family donors:**
 - *Kyle Rapinan*
 - *James Regan*
- b) **And in memory of Jerry Painter:**
 - *Jodie Butler*
 - *Penny Palmer*
 - *Anonymous*
 - *Beth Reis and Barbara Steele*
- c) **Donate today if you appreciate what the Coalition accomplishes on a shoestring. The shoestring comes from you.** Go to: <https://anauel.youth-guard.org/safeschools/donate.asp>
- d) Daniel is working on thank you letters to donors from the database. He's seeking ideas ... anecdotes/personal stories about what the Coalition means to you to add to letters. Contact Daniel: mooredan@u.washington.edu

(9) WEB SITE REPORT – Gabi

Total pages viewed in October 2008: 55,987; avg. per day: 1,806
Total visitors in October: 26,283; avg. per day: 847
Top countries to access: 1st is U.S. 2nd is unknown: China, France, Canada, Sweden, UK, Germany, Australia, and Switzerland are 3rd-10th respectively. Iran was 42nd!
Some other interesting countries that accessed the site: Egypt, Bolivia, Congo, Bangladesh, Aruba and many more....
Google was top referrer after typing in site directly.

(10) INTERVENTION TEAM REPORT – Penny

Two new people interested in volunteering; one said the passage of California's Prop.8 was the main reason to want to get involved.

(11) LISTSERVE REPORT – Beth

- a) Welcome to new subscribers from:
 - *Covington, WA*
 - *Bloomington, IN*
 - *Seattle, WA (6)*
 - *Las Cruces, NM*
 - *Vancouver, WA*
 - *Bellingham, WA*
 - *Richmond, VA*
 - *Tacoma, WA (2)*
 - *Spokane, WA*
 - *Shutesbury, MA*
 - *Boise, ID*
- b) **There are two ways to subscribe.** Signing up for "IMPORTANT NEWS" gets you an average of 1-2 messages a week, mostly action items, meeting minutes and major announcements. Signing up for "NEWS" gets you those messages plus news, opinion, events and job digests totaling an average of 2 messages a day. Not subscribed? Need to change the address we send to or to switch lists? Go to: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/listsab.asp>

UPCOMING MEETINGS ... contact the chair if you have agenda items to suggest or if you need instructions about attending (in person) or calling in (by conference call). All are welcome- you do NOT need to be a Coalition member to attend.

Dec 16th, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. Marsha chairs and Matt records
Marsha: 206-601-8942; mboetzer@botzerconsulting.com

Jan 20th, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. Frieda chairs and Daniel records
Frieda: 253-765-7062; hisakodau@aol.com

Feb 17th, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. Beth chairs and Heather records
Beth: 206-296-4970; beth.reis@kingcounty.gov