

Minutes 1-19-10, 3-5 p.m. PDT
Safe Schools Coalition Meeting
Facilitating: Beth Reis; Recording: Heather Carter
HELP NEEDED items are in RED.

In attendance: Frank Couch (Science and Management of Addictions Foundation-intervention team), Stephanie Taylor (NW Network for Youth), Michael Profitt (Seattle University student), Shannon Perez-Darby (NW Network of bi, trans, lesbian and gay survivors of abuse), Penny Palmer (Intervention team chair), Matt Munson (Planned Parenthood-leadership team), Kyle Rapinan (Casey Family Programs-leadership team), Jill Van Glubt (Washington Education Association), Heather Carter (Youth Suicide Prevention Program-leadership team), Emily Harris-Shears (Jewish Family Service), Beth Reid (Public Health -- Seattle & King County-Leadership team)

By phone: Gabi Clayton (Safe Schools Coalition, Families United Against Hate, Youth Guardian Services, PFLAG Olympia)

INTROS ... welcome new faces/voices

(1) SSC LEADERSHIP TEAM

a) BIG CHANGES:

- Co-chair **Marsha Botzer** is stepping down from an active role to become "Co-Chair Emeritus" of the Coalition. **We are extremely grateful** for her service all these years, especially given her constantly growing activism elsewhere including her recent election as Co-Chair of the Board of the [Task Force](#). Congratulations to Marsha and to the Task Force.
- Co-chair **Stefanie Fox** is leaving her job with King County Community Organizing Program to accept a position with [Jewish Voice for Peace](#). She will need a couple of months to sort out which of her SSC responsibilities, if any, she can continue as a volunteer, now that it won't be a part of her job. Laura Edwards has graciously agreed to take over for Stefanie as a liaison from the King County Community Organizing Program. Congratulations to Stefanie and to Jewish Voice for Peace ... and thank you, Stefanie, for all you've been doing for SSC these last few years.
- **HELP NEEDED: Stefanie may also have to step back from her other roles in the coalition so please think about helping out with the anti-racism team and/or the media SWAT team**
- **Matt Munson**, of [Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest](#), is continuing as Co-secretary of the Coalition but stepping down from his role as a Listserv Staffer. More about that in the Listserv report.

b) 15 minutes of SHARING TIME:

- March 19th from 2-5 pm, the [NW Network](#) will be providing a free training for youth workers on working with LGBT youth & how to best support them...stay tuned for more information or contact Shannon Perez Darby @ the NW Network
- Kyle has been working hard on the [Queer Youth Mutiny](#) project-focusing on creating a safe space for LGBTQ youth in Seattle. Feb 20th 3-6 pm @ Seattle Central Community College
- WEA is running a great video contest right now for youth in public school: Students must create and submit a two minute video in honor of and to promote Healthy Schools Day 2010. The contest runs now until March 15. Up to six students or student teams (two per grade level category) who submit the most creative and inspiring videos will win a FLIP video camera for their classroom or school. If you're interested in more information please go here:
<http://www.washingtonea.org/content/docs/ieq/contest.pdf>
- YSPP has a fundraiser coming up on February 8th from 6-9 pm and the focus will be the OUTloud Project (GLBTQ Program). It will be at The Garage (21 and older) and there are some fantastic raffle and silent auction items:
http://www.yspp.org/about_yspp/whats_new.htm .

- PFLAG Olympia is showing the documentary [Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin](#) on Feb 14th from 2-4:30. More info: <http://pflag-olympia.org/>
 - Carolyn Wagner (Families Against Hate) was recently interviewed for an article in the Southern Poverty Law Center's publication, Intelligence Report, *Children of Hate* - it's a great article: <http://www.splcenter.org/intel/intelreport/article.jsp?aid=1110>
- c) 15 minutes on a **DEEPER QUESTION** each month ... this month: We discussed what we each wish we had gotten from our elementary school experiences vis a vis LGBTQ issues.
- d) **HELP NEEDED: The Coalition is in need of a 3rd Co-secretary. Could you attend and take minutes at Coalition mtgs 4 times a year, occasionally participate in decision-making by email, and attend quarterly dinner meetings.** (NOTE: Penny may volunteer)
- e) **We could also use another co-chair...if you're interested and can attend meetings (regular monthly meetings (co-chairs rotate leading meetings) and bi-monthly leadership team meetings) please contact Beth Reis** NOTE: The Leadership Team will discuss when we meet next whether to fill the slot left vacant by Marsha's stepping down)
- (2) NOTRE DAME'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER CARTOON – Beth**
- a) A recent editorial cartoon in Notre Dame's student paper asked "What is the easiest way to turn a fruit into a vegetable?" "No idea." "A baseball bat."
- b) Apparently, student editors claim they felt they cleaned up the cartoon as the original cartoon used the word "AIDS" instead of "a baseball bat."
- c) To quote our colleagues at HeartStrong, "**Neither is acceptable.**"
- d) **DECISION: Frank will draft a letter to Notre Dame. Kyle, Gabi, and Frank will edit. Shannon will check in with a contact at USSA**
- (3) SEATTLE CITY PARKS PROPOSED RULES – Beth**
- a) See the proposal: <http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/ABPub/2010/01/14/2010797534.pdf>
It would ban, among other behaviors, "Entering restrooms designated for persons of the opposite sex (except children accompanied by a parent, guardian, or responsible adult, or to accommodate the needs of a person with a disability)"
- b) **Please send emails with concern over this to sandy.brooks@seattle.gov**
- c) **HELP NEEDED: someone to write a letter on behalf of the coalition to explain their stance on this issue? Please get in touch with someone from the leadership team if interested: beth@safeschoolscoalition.org**
- (4) U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INTERVENES IN STUDENT'S BULLYING-RELATED LAWSUIT – Kyle, Beth**
- a) The United States of America has, for the first time since 1998 when Clinton was in office, intervened in support of a gay student who is suing his district, Mohawk Central School District and some individual employees of the district (Superintendent, former Principal, Title IX Compliance Officer) over their not protecting him. The lawsuit alleges these individuals and the district discriminated against the student on the basis of sex and gender identity, in violation of the sex discrimination provisions in the [Title IX](#) amendment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for not having provided him equal protection from "known incidents of persistent and derogatory name-calling, threats, physical assaults, and harassment of a sexual nature."
- b) On January 15, 2010, on behalf of the Safe Schools Coalition, Beth Reis wrote to thank the Justice Department. For information about how your agency or school or Gay-Straight Alliance could do the same, contact Beth Reis, <mailto:beth@safeschoolscoalition.org>
- c) The government's intervention in this case was first reported by Ari Shapiro, whose NPR story will be available online Friday evening: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=122620723>
- (5) SSC's MEMBERSHIP IN THE HEALTHY YOUTH ALLIANCE – Beth**

- a) **DECISION: SSC will renew its membership**

(6) LAW & POLICY WORK GROUP REPORT – Beth for Jennifer and Lonnie

- a) New, improved WA State bullying bill ... HB 2801, will be (has just been) introduced by Rep. Marko Liias. Bullet point list of provisions can be found at the end of these minutes.
- b) **A statement from SCC on this matter:**
- c) The Safe Schools Coalition, a broad network of youth and education related organizations who work to support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning youth is in support of HB 2801. Passage of this bill will strengthen anti-harassment strategies to protect all public school students. Though we rarely endorse legislation, it is our belief this bill will help tighten school district policies to help improve school climate and create respectful learning environments in all of Washington's public schools. Though we are disappointed no funding will be available for anti-harassment training for staff and administrators, this bill will help make our schools safer for all the students and staff who enter the classrooms, playgrounds, libraries and athletic facilities. We urge support of HB 2801.

(7) LISTSERV REPORT – Beth

- a) Current Listserv Staffing:
- EVENTS: Lauren Mehl
 - NEWS: Tanya McNeil, Robyn Walters
 - RIGHT WING WATCH (news and opinion from the radical right): Maya Troll
 - POLITICAL & RELIGIOUS ITEMS: Gabi Clayton
 - FUNDRAISING MESSAGES, ACTION ALERTS: Gabi Clayton, Beth Reis
 - RESOURCES, MEETING MINUTES, LESSON PLANNING: Beth Reis
 - JOBS (internships, etc.): Shannon Cuttle (**welcome, Shannon**)
 - OPINION (blogs, editorials, columns, etc.): Jennie Ehrenhalt (**welcome, Jennie**)
- b) Welcome to new subscribers, since July, from:
- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| ▪ St. Peters, Australia | ▪ Jackson, MS | ▪ Burlington, VT |
| ▪ Boaz, AL | ▪ Papillion, NE | ▪ Des Moines, WA |
| ▪ Martinez, CA | ▪ Newark, NJ | ▪ Mount Vernon, WA |
| ▪ Oakland, CA | ▪ Albany, NY | ▪ Olympia, WA |
| ▪ San Francisco, CA | ▪ Brooklyn, NY | ▪ Renton, WA |
| (2) | ▪ New York, NY (2) | ▪ Seattle, WA (12) |
| ▪ Kihei, HI | ▪ Bowling Green, OH | ▪ Shoreline, WA |
| ▪ Riverside, IL | ▪ Philadelphia, PA | ▪ Arapahoe, WY |
| ▪ Malden, MA | ▪ St. George, UT | |
| ▪ Lansing, MI | ▪ Arlington, VA | |
- c) The list currently has **857 subscribers** in at least **11 countries** (Australia, Belize, Canada, China, Finland, Pakistan, Serbia and Montenegro, South Africa, United Kingdom, the U.S. and New Zealand), **5 Canadian provinces** (AB, BC, NB, ON, QC) and **46 U.S. states** (AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WY) plus **Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico**.

(8) WEB SITE REPORT – Gabi

- a) In December 2009, **32,140 visitors** (13,320 unique IPs) in **108 countries** utilized the web site.
- b) The majority self-referred, but of those who reached us via a search engine, the **top 4 search engines** were google, yahoo, aol and askjeeves
- c) The **top 7 search terms** people used to find us were: "gay scholarships and grants," "another word for so [gay]," "safe schools coalition," "lgbt scholarships and grants," "safe schools," "lgbt youth," and "harassment in schools"

(9) MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Gabi

- a) **HEY ALL! Renew now! It's easy to do online!!**
http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/members_join-renew.html
- b) Gabi is looking into an online database to house donors, members etc
- c) Recent renewals: Lake Washington Education Association

(10) INTERVENTION TEAM REPORT – Penny

- a) If you receive an intervention request directly (rather than through the usual channels in the next bullet) please contact Penny so she's aware of it, where they're coming from, and can track it-thanks!
- b) **To reach the intervention team: intervention@safeschoolscoalition.org or call 877-SAFE-SAFE**
- c) Reminder to Intervention Specialists: fill out form after an intervention - thanks!
- d) **Report of Interventions from Mid-December 2009 through mid-January 2010.**
 - There were several requests from out of state again but the team also helped answer several local requests. A nice update and thank you was received from a mother who had been very worried about her **son's safety** at school.
 - 12/16 Request for help finding a **safe kindergarten** for student with 2 lesbian moms. Recommendations for help in that area were given
 - 12/17 V.P from local middle school requested information/**talking points on harassment and bullying**. He got the help he needed from the website.
 - 12/30 A very nice letter was received from a mother in Louisiana thanking us and giving us an update on the progress that had been made keeping her **son safe**. Beth, Gabi, Sherry and Amy all worked on this one.
 - 1/4/2010 A question regarding our website from someone using the **Alabama SSC**. Gabi answered her questions.
 - 1/12/2010 A HS counselor requested information on the **Mathew Shepard Law** and how it applies to schools. She also had some questions regarding the law and policy section on our website. Tara answered her questions regarding the Mathew Shepard Law and Gabi responded regarding the website.
 - 1/13/2010 A mother called about her **son being bullied**. He is a 5th grader who has been bullied for the last 3 years because he likes to wear pink and purple. - ongoing
 - 1/13/2010 A concern from a sister at a local HS over **discrimination** aimed at 2 female students holding hands. The discrimination has been going on for 2 years and directed at other students also. The request is for support and feedback. -on going -
 - 1/14 A student was assaulted by 2 fellow teammates in an **out-of –school hockey league**. The students were from another school district. The caller had reported the incident to their school district and the school district called us for technical assistance.
 - 1/14 An advisor requested help from SSC because their admin. was not allowing their GSA to print **t-shirts**. Technical assistance was given and the advisor was successful in getting the t-shirts to be printed.
 - 1/15 A caller requested information regarding SSC organizations around Winter Haven Florida. Gabi answered

(11) SPEAKERS BUREAU REPORT – Briana, Joyful

- a) Speakers Bureau and training team:
 - GLSEN Summit: Beth Reis 30 people, Beth & Kyle Rapinan 25 people, Janet Bogle 10 people
 - Upcoming: South Seattle Community College 2/4, City Year 2/5, Mt Vernon High School 2/27
- b) Outreach tabling:
 - GLSEN Summit Barb Clark-Elliot;
 - Upcoming outreach tabling: Bellevue College 2/9
- c) AFSC Panels:

- King County Youth Workers Forum 1/5 25 people, Roosevelt High School 1/15
 - Upcoming: Odyssey High School 1/28
- d) **SPECIAL EVENT!**
 OutSpoken Panel Program Social Gathering and Training on Trans Issues, Jan 24 11am-2pm at YWCA Girls First building. Open to all panelists and facilitators - please notify Briana if you are planning to attend or want more info!
<mailto:briana@safeschoolscoalition.org>
- e) Update: SSC is renting a storage unit close to GLSEN and Briana is using their space when needed

(12) FISCAL REPORT -- Beth

- a) **HELP NEEDED: Michelle Munro has agreed to organize the web part of an online auction for the Coalition. We need 3 volunteers, anywhere in the world, to work with her on acquiring auction items. Contact her**
<mailto:michelle@safeschoolscoalition.org>
- b) **HELP NEEDED: You don't need to plan the event, just come participate.** This joint event with Delta Lambda Phi, "Inclement Sprint," and is a 5K run/walk around Greenlake in Seattle, January 31: <http://inclementsprint.com> See you there!!!
- c) **HELP NEEDED:** We did 2 phone banks, last week and this and they were very successful. **We will be calling on those who subscribe to the listserv to join ones coming up in the next month.**
- d) **Thank you SO MUCH to recent donors:**
- Nancy Chapin and Leah Shafer
 - Mary Dispenza and Mary Ann Woodruff
 - Grethe Cammermeyer and Diane Divilbess
 - Linda and Tom Baker
 - Carl Clausen
 - Elizabeth Saewyc
 - Josh Friedes
 - Marilyn Cass
 - Brett Niessen
 - Adam Tenner
- Gil Rich, who works for *Starbucks*, participated in their matching program (volunteer hours matched by corporate dollars) generating, besides 25 hours of volunteer time, matching dollars from *Starbucks* of \$250. Thank you Gil and thank you Starbucks!!
- **NOTE: Those who have donated on or since 1/19 will be acknowledged next month.**
- e) **Please donate right now, online: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/donate.html> !!!!**

(13) Gabi won the design contest from Pride Foundation and donated the winnings (\$250) to Safe Schools Coalition!!!!!!

(14) MEDIA SWAT TEAM (AMELIA EARHART BRIGADE) NEWS – Stefanie, Hanna, Brandon

- a) Retreat planned in the near future to delve into the book, [News for a Change: An Advocate's Guide to Working with the Media](#) by Lawrence Wallack, Katie Woodruff, Lori Dorfman, and Iris Diaz. The team will apply this information to proactive work in the media on behalf of SCC. If you're interested in this contact Stefanie@safeschoolscoalition.org

(15) Don't forget to check out: queeryouthspace.com: A group of youth, with leadership from Kyle Rapinan, is trying to create safe space for LGBT youth that is led by queer young people and their allies.

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.

Feb 16th, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. Frieda facilitates, ___ records. Frieda:
questions@safeschoolscoalition.org

Mar 16th, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. Kyle facilitates and Matt records. Kyle: 206-322-6711 ext 32190; KRapinan@casey.org

April 20, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. Stefanie facilitates (???) and Heather Carter records. Stefanie: Stefanie@safeschoolscoalition.org

BILL DRAFT - Anti-harassment strategies in public schools

Rep. Marko Liias

Washington State HB 2801

- By August 1, 2011, requires school districts to adopt or amend their anti-harassment, intimidation and bullying policies and procedure, to at a minimum incorporate the SPI revised model policy and procedure
- Requires districts to share the policy and procedure in accordance with rules adopted by SPI.
- Requires districts to designate a primary contact regarding the policy, who will receive copies of all complaints, have responsibility for assuring implementation, and serve as primary contact between the district, OEO, and OSPI.
- Requires SPI to revise the model policy and procedure by August 1, 2010 and send it to the Education Committees of the Legislature. If the 2011 Legislature does not modify the policy and procedures, SPI provides it to school districts and adopt rules regarding communication.
- Assigns the OEO as the lead agency in providing resources and tools to students and families about public school anti-harassment policies and strategies.
- Directs the OEO and OSPI to convene an ongoing anti-harassment working group to develop, recommend, and implement strategies to improve school climate and create respectful learning environments in public schools, and:
 - Consider whether additional disaggregated data should be collected
 - Examine procedures for anonymous reporting of incidents
 - Identify curriculum and best practices for improving school climate
 - Recommend best practice for informing parents
 - Recommend training for district primary contacts
- Includes 2 House and 2 Senate members on the workgroup, plus stakeholders. Requires a biennial report and update on progress.