

Minutes 5-19-09, 3-5 p.m. PST
Safe Schools Coalition Meeting
Facilitating: Heather Murphy; Recording: Beth Reis
RED = Help Needed / Action Items

Present: Heather **Murphy***, adjunct faculty at University of Washington and school psychologist in [Shoreline Public Schools](#); Beth **Reis***, [Public Health – Seattle & King County](#); Riana **Hensel**, [Puget Sound Community School](#); Hanna **King**, Garfield High School GSA, Peace for the Streets by Kids From the Streets, and [MPowerment Project](#); Kyle **Rapinan***, University of Washington and Casey Family Programs; Helen **Stillman**, [Lambert House](#), [American Friends Service Committee](#) and Safe Schools Coalition Speakers' Bureau Manager; Stefanie **Fox***, Mental Health, Chemical Abuse & Dependency Services Division, King County; Ethan **Blustein**, King County Prosecutors' Office, Victims Services; Harriet **Watson**, San Francisco State University

By phone: Gabi **Clayton**, [PFLAG Olympia](#), [Families United Against Hate](#), [Youth Guardian Services](#), and Safe Schools Coalition Trainer and Webspinner

* Safe Schools Coalition Co-Chair or Co-Chair-Elect

(1) SHARING TIME

- a) Harriet is doing a **literature** review re: **LGBTQ youth, harassment, risk and resiliency**. **Contact her if you have literature to contribute:** herbivoresf@yahoo.com
- b) Heather Murphy, who is adjunct faculty at University of Washington, is seeking **literature** re: **Gay Straight Alliances and their efficacy as an intervention tool**. **Contact her if you have literature to contribute:** <mailto:heatheremurphy@gmail.com>
- c) Gabi's looking for resources to offer a youth whose family is making him attend a reparative therapy camp this summer (in her role as a Board member for Youth Guardian Services). **Got suggestions?** <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/contact/?id=11>
- d) PFLAG Olympia had a very successful fundraiser with singer/songwriter Steve Schlachlin: <http://www.bonusround.com/>
- e) Peace for the Streets By Kids From the Streets (aka PSKS) is looking to hire youth peer outreach workers. **Youth should apply in person:** 1814 Summit Ave, Seattle.
- f) Eduardo, at American Friends Service Committee, is putting together a listing of greater Seattle youth pride events taking place the weekend of June 26-28. **Got an event that should be listed? Contact him ASAP through Stefanie:** stefanie.fox@kingcounty.gov
- g) Ethan is looking for organizations that provide **domestic violence services to LGBTQ clients**, in addition to NW Network and Seattle Counseling Service. **If you know of any others, contact Ethan:** redcedartree@gmail.com

(2) WEB SITE REPORT – Gabi

- a) Hanna agreed to volunteer, approximately 1 hour a week, to take over the calendar page of the web site. Thank you, Hanna.
- b) April stats in 2009, compared to ten years ago:
 - Total Number of Hits: 211,262 (1999 - 27,751)
 - Total Number of Page Views: 44,887 (1999 - 5,174)
 - Total Number of Visitors: 26,537 (1999 - 2,836)
 - Average Time per View – Visit: 4 minutes, 20 seconds (1999 - 2 minutes, 21.71 seconds)
- c) In April 2009, we served folks in 113 countries (compared to 10 in 1999), including places with little or no other LGBTQ supports, such as Kazakhstan, Nepal, United Arab Emirates, Cameroon, Paraguay and the Palestinian Territories.

(3) MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Gabi

- a) New member applications: None this month
- b) Thank you to more orgs that have renewed recently for 2009:
 - Washington Education Association
- c) We discussed at length whether it's time to revisit **Human Rights Campaign's** membership. HRC has recently passed a new policy: *"HRC Board ENDA Policy: It's the policy of HRC that the organization will only support an inclusive ENDA. In 2007 House leadership informed us that there were insufficient votes to pass an inclusive bill, so they decided to vote on a sexual orientation only bill. We made a one time exception to our policy in 2007 because we strongly believed that supporting this vote would do more to advance inclusive legislation. We will not support such a strategy again. We look forward to Congress sending President Obama a fully inclusive ENDA for his signature."*
Downloaded here: <http://www.hrc.org/issues/workplace/12346.htm> Their 2007 position on ENDA, the federal Employment Non-discrimination Act, conflicted with their commitment to Safe Schools Coalition's mission ("helping schools to become safe places where every family can belong, where every educator can teach and where every child can learn, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity"). That conflict precipitated our decision in early 2008 to suspend HRC's membership in the Coalition "to give HRC some time to demonstrate its commitment to the Coalition's mission".
 - Opinions expressed ranged from:
 - ♦ **skepticism** about HRC's commitment (the policy change is very hard to find on the web site, no actual apology has been forthcoming to the trans community, no plan for internal education has been offered, HRC hasn't joined UnitedENDA www.unitedenda.org) to
 - ♦ **appreciation** for the major step this change in policy represents, for the gender inclusivity of *Welcoming Schools*, for the other trans-inclusive work HRC has done in the past year, to
 - ♦ **fear** that, if HRC rejoined the Coalition (we aren't sure if they want to, but the ball is in the Coalition's court) it would represent us with less than full enthusiasm for the Coalition's mission, to
 - ♦ **hope** that this represents a real, meaningful change.
 - **It was decided to send a letter which Stefanie agreed to draft -- still being hammered out by email as we speak -- and which we will share with this Listserve when it is finalized, later this week.**
- d) Progress on invoicing member orgs for 2009; hopefully all will receive invoices before the end of the school year.
- e) **Please, if you represent a member org or an org that *should* be a member of the Safe Schools Coalition**, save us having to contact you to remind you to renew or join. **Renew or join for 2009 online right now: (Don't worry -- you don't need your agency's credit card -- you can ask, right on the form, to have an invoice sent to you!)** http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/members_join-renew.html

(4) LISTSERVE REPORT – Beth

- a) **Welcome** to recent subscribers from:
 - Seattle, WA (4)
 - Olympia, WA (1)
 - Tacoma, WA
 - Eden Prairie, MN
 - Boone, NC
 - Burlington, VT
 - Yorba Linda, CA
- b) After some editorial changes (included below), we authorized Beth to send this message to the White House and to the Listserve:

ACTION ITEM: Presidential Advisor compares Miss California to a dog. Please speak out in protest. White House senior advisor David Axelrod recently joked on the NPR quiz show *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!*, that he wasn't consulted about the first family's new dog until the field had been narrowed to three. When asked who the other two were, he said, "One was Miss California." You can hear the slur here:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=104209408>

We, at the Safe Schools Coalition, find it offensive that a presidential aide would compare a young woman to a dog, even in jest, even a young woman with whose opinions we strongly disagree. Miss California famously expressed her objection to marriage equality for gay and lesbian people. Inequality under the law endangers LGBTQ and gender non-conforming students and school staff by encouraging prejudice that can lead to bullying and violence. Nevertheless, just as we object to a teacher's using a racial slur to try to explain how offensive a homophobic slur is, we object to using misogyny as a weapon against anti-gay rhetoric. If the insult "bitch" is wrong in the hallways of your school, then implying the same thing on the airwaves is equally wrong. We think David Axelrod owes Carrie Prejean an apology.

We recommend letting the White House know what you think:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

NOTE: After I sent this message to the Listserve, a subscriber wrote back suggesting also contacting NPR, which does bleep some inappropriate stuff and which chose to air this slur *without* editorial bleeps. You can contact NPR by going to the story's page (above) and scrolling down. -- Beth

- c) **HELP NEEDED: We need two volunteers, anywhere in the world with Internet access, to devote 2-4 hours/week to either job digests or digests of opinion (editorials, blogs) and right wing watch messages. Contact Beth:**
<mailto:beth@safeschoolscoalition.org>
- d) **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>

(5) FISCAL UPDATE – Beth, Kathy

- a) Thank you to recent donors:
 - **Betty Freund**
 - **Idaho Education Association**
 - **Anonymous**
 - **Ken Molsberry**
 - **Jessica Chandler**
- b) **Make a tax deductible donation for 2009 right now. YOU are the main source of funding for the Coalition – IT is all of US. Go to:**
<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/donate.html>

(6) SPEAKERS BUREAU REPORT – Helen (# trained)

- a) **Recent speaking and training:**
 - Leadership Conference at Bush (7)
 - WA Defender's Ass'n Webinar (22)
 - Reading Corps (25)
 - MLK Vista team (23)
- b) **Upcoming speaking and training:**
 - Morningside Academy
 - Healthy Youth Summit
- c) **Recent tabling/outreach:**
 - Westlake Homeless youth outreach fair
 - *Straightlaced* premiere
 - WEA Representative Assembly
 - Saying It Out Loud Conference

d) **Upcoming tabling/outreach:**

- 5/26 Green River CC resource fair
 - 5/28-29 Healthy School Summit
 - 6/8-9 Bullying Prevention Conf
 - 5/30 Get in Gear Youth Fair
- ** Please let Helen know if your organization is tabling at a pride event this summer – ANYWHERE -- and would be willing to include some SSC materials:**
Helen@safeschoolscoalition.org

e) **Recent LGBTQ youth panels:**

- ♦ Washington MS*
- ♦ Odyssey HS (8)
- ♦ Odyssey HS (14)
- ♦ Ingraham HS (20)
- ♦ Ingraham HS (19)
- ♦ MLK Vista (23)
- ♦ *Straightlaced* premiere (60)

f) **Upcoming LGBTQ youth panels:**

- ♦ Washington MS
- ♦ Teen Link
- ♦ Puyallup Diversity Committee
- ♦ Casey Family Programs
- ♦ Bullying Prevention Conference
- ♦ SOAR conference
- ♦ Roosevelt HS

(7) SPECIAL EVENTS

- a) Report on the May 17th NW Premiere of ***Straightlaced—How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up*** benefit for the Safe Schools Coalition and the Respect for All Project at Groundspark. The event was made possible with support from the **Raynier Institute and Foundation**. The film was absolutely amazing. We had a lively, insightful panel including two students who are in the film, Briseida Solis and Jessica Martin, GroundSpark's Director of Educational Programs, Amy Scharf, and SSC's own Kyle Rapinan. The panel was moderated by Garfield High School student activist Hanna King and followed by a reception at Il Fornaio restaurant, downstairs. The event was chaired by Riana Hensel of Puget Sound Community School – this was her first event of this kind and she did an amazing job. Those who planned and staffed the event included, besides Riana, were Jason Plourde and Rachael Brister of Three Dollar Bill Cinema, Ryan Schwartz of GroundSpark, Beth Reis, Sam Irish, Rolfe Berge, Kathy Kaminski, Helen Stillman, Ethan Blustein, Megan Jackson, Matt Munson, Heather Murphy, Barbara Steele, and Joy MacTavish! Attendees: about 60; Revenue: \$623, shared with Groundspark. We have requested our share in-kind (as films and teachers' guides for use by SSC speakers).

NOTE: Leftover food, as is our tradition, was donated to Lambert House.

NOTES FOR FUTURE EVENTS:

- ♦ If the panel isn't as diverse as we'd have liked (this one was diverse in terms of race and gender but lacked a trans youth, which mattered given the film's content) mention that in introducing it.
 - ♦ Don't charge. "Scholarships available" is off-putting and more youth said they would have attended had there not been a cost.
- b) **Get tickets starting May 25 for the June 23rd all-ages comedy event of the season! *Laugh OUT Loud*** will be 8:30-10 p.m. on a Tuesday night, courtesy of the volunteer comics of Nonprofit Comedy, at the Comedy Underground (109 S Washington St) in Seattle. ***Please order your tickets in advance from the SSC web site! Advance orders cost you less and save us more.*** We decided not to place an SGN ad. But PLEASE tell your friends and family!!!
- c) **June 28th Seattle Pride Parade.** We will have our traditional yellow school bus in the parade. Your member org is welcome to join the SSC contingent. Any member org is welcome to ride on or walk with the bus, hang your banner on one or both sides of the bus, eat our food and drink our drinks, help staff the bus by handing out gifts to the crowd, and help rock the bus and otherwise participate in the mayhem. **If you want to ride on or help staff the bus, you must RSVP: <mailto:LLove@seattleschools.org> or**

206-252-0982. Suggestion (not a requirement): If you plan to ride the bus, consider getting an SSC T-shirt to wear that day:

http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/SSC_CafePress_store.html

- d) Eduardo, at American Friends Service Committee, is putting together a listing of greater Seattle youth pride events taking place the weekend of June 26-28. **Got an event that should be listed? Contact him ASAP through Stefanie:** stefanie.fox@kingcounty.gov
- e) **National Youth Advocacy Coalition's** new, FREE "Youth Impact" **webinar series**, which is designed as a professional development opportunity for those who work with youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender.
 - Social Networks Strategy 101, May 20, 1 p.m. ET, 10 a.m. Pacific
 - Youth Know Different/Facebook Pilot, June 3, 1 p.m. ET, 10 a.m. Pacific
 - Social Networks Strategy 201, June 17, 1 p.m. ET, 10 a.m. Pacific
 - Youth-Adult Partnerships, July 8, 1 p.m. ET, 10 a.m. PacificMore at <http://www.nyacyouth.org/events/>
Ethan agreed to let NYAC know that we wish the event weren't during the school day, when most youth cannot attend. Hanna pointed out that youth are some of the most effective organizers of other youth.

(8) INTERVENTION TEAM REPORT – Penny

- a) A GSA in Clark County has been told they can't meet on school grounds. We are working with the students.
- b) **HELP NEEDED: If you might be interested in volunteering with the Intervention Team, providing guidance and referral, and when appropriate, advocacy with law enforcement, school authorities, or families on behalf of – or beside – bullied students and staff (Thursday is the day we need to cover), please contact Penny:** <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/contact/?id=10>

(9) LAW & POLICY WORK GROUP REPORT – Josh, Lonnie, Beth

- a) **WASHINGTON STATE:** OSPI (the state superintendent of public instruction's office) and WSSDA (the state school directors' assn) are meeting about revising the **model bullying policy and procedure**, given the new definition of "sexual orientation" in the malicious harassment law (the latter is referenced in the bullying law). We are encouraging OSPI (Jeff Söder) to (a) encourage WSSDA to be explicit about kinds of bullying that are prohibited including gender identity and expression-related harassment and to consider the other enhancements the Safe Schools Coalition proposed (here: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/WSSDABullyProceduresAMENDED.pdf>) and (b) to recommend to schools that the legally prudent path is to adopt policies/procedures that are at least as protective as the model ones, if they don't adopt the models verbatim (that it is fine to be even *more* explicit or protective than the models, but that it is legally less defensible to water them down).
- b) **UNITED STATES:** The Obama budget zeroed out money for **Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities**. With no money, there can be no training of staff. More info on that to follow in the next few days.
- c) **UNITED STATES:** National Gay and Lesbian Task Force: *"In May 2009, U.S. Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-Calif.) introduced the **Safe Schools Improvement Act**. This legislation would amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to require schools and districts receiving federal funds to adopt codes of conduct that prohibit bullying and harassment, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. It would also require that states report data on bullying and harassment to the Department of Education. We thank the congresswoman for her leadership on this important issue and the Task Force Action Fund looks forward to working with her and other allies in Congress toward passage of this legislation."* – <http://thetaskforce.org/issues/youth>.

- ♦ See also the HRC page: http://www.hrc.org/laws_and_elections/12142.htm

- ♦ GLSEN page: <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/news/record/2432.html>
- ♦ NCLR page: <http://overturn8.nclrights.org/2009/05/04/help-pass-the-federal-safe-schools-improvement-act/>
- ♦ NOTE: As of the meeting, our local congressperson, Rep. Jim McDermott had not signed on as a co-sponsor despite telling both Kyle and Hanna that he saw no reason not to, asking them to call his staff, and their conversing with staffers.
- ♦ EXCITING UPDATE: Today (5/20/09), Hanna was notified that he has agreed to co-sponsor the bill.

d) UNITED STATES: NCLR has joined a campaign to rescind recently enacted regulations to Title IX that allow public schools to have sex-segregated classes. They got involved in part because sex segregated education is based on stereotypes about girls and boys and therefore it can be particularly harmful to LGBT or gender non-conforming young people. They're trying to round up more LGBT and youth advocacy organizations to join them in this effort. If SSC would like to sign on to the campaign, we need to fill out and return the "organizational resolution" document. **We decided to sign on, but to ask NCLR, in crafting language about the impact of the regulations on LGBTQ youth, to explain that sex-segregated classes are often launched in a misguided attempt to relieve students of the gender stereotypes they might feel pressure to live out in front of people of another gender ... whether they are trans or not. And just because a gender non-conforming student finds a seat in a gender integrated classroom doesn't mean it will necessarily feel safe or meet their learning needs.**

(10) WASHINGTON STATE HEALTHY YOUTH SURVEY – Beth

Heather Carter, Beth Reis, Laura Edwards, Jeff Söder, Shelli Young, Pamela Hillard, Lisa Love, and others are working as an ad hoc committee on the best possible proposals for sexual orientation and gender identity items. **We decided to sign on to a group effort to propose two new (not wonderful, but already validated) items that are currently being used by a tool called "GAIN" asked of all youth in Washington who enter mental health or substance abuse treatment. That said, if it comes down to negotiating for room for a single item, we agreed that, rather than an item conflating the two issues, we will argue for a gender identity item, since there's so little population based data about that population.**

(11) ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE – Helen

This is a great sub committee to get involved in, especially if you can't make it to monthly SSC meetings! Contact Helen for details ... Helen@safeschoolscoalition.org

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.

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

July 21st, 2-4 pm [summer hours], Pacific Time. Stefanie facilitates and Daniel records
 Stefanie: 206-263-8936; Stefanie.fox@kingcounty.gov

Aug 18th, 2-4 pm [summer hours]. Heather Murphy facilitates, Heather Carter records.
 Heather M.: 206-616-6361; hmurphy@u.washington.edu

