

Safe Schools Coalition Meeting Minutes
11-15-2011, 3-5 p.m. PDT

Facilitating: Mo Lewis; Recording: Heather Carter

1. **INTROS.** Beth Reis, Public Health -- Seattle & King County, Safe Schools Coalition (SSC) Co-Chair; Briana Herman-Brand, outgoing SSC Speakers' Bureau Manager; Heather Carter, Youth Suicide Prevention Program, SSC Co-Secretary; Matthew Wilson, Oasis/Pierce County AIDS Foundation, SSC co-chair; Michelle Munro, SSC treasurer; Mo Lewis, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC), SSC Co-Chair; Katrina Pestano, incoming SSC Speakers' Bureau Manager; Jillian Hill, YouthCare/Safe Place

Phone: Gabi Clayton, Safe Schools Coalition Web Spinner, PFLAG-Olympia, Youth Guardian Services, Families United Against Hate; Penny Palmer, Safe Schools Coalition Intervention Team Coordinator; Jonathan Skurnik, Youth & Gender Media Project; Frank Couch, SAMA (Science and Management of Addictions) Foundation

2. SHARING TIME - Mo

KCSARC's P.O.P! group, which stands for the Power of Prevention, has created a card about Washington State's Age of Consent laws. This is available online here:

<http://www.kcsarc.org/pop/laws> or you can email Mo Lewis for more information:
mlewis@KCSARC.org

3. Beth's Job Evolution - Beth

Starting January 1st the time Beth can devote to Safe Schools will be reduced from 20 hours/week to around 8 hours/week. The agenda will need to be built up by the leadership team moving forward. There will be other tasks that others will have the opportunity to take on as Beth adjusts to the new system.

4. Healthy Youth Survey - Beth

Until 2010 no questions about sexual activity on the HYS. At that time, we thought that we had gotten the addition of a question focused on the gender(s) of a youth's sexual partner(s). Washington State Department of Health HYS administrators decided not to put the question on in the 2010 survey and it won't be in the 2012 either because it's already printed. The reason they left it off was out of fear of losing school participation because of the inclusion of the question in the survey, though it was on a last page, out of which districts could opt. A couple of folks agreed to bring this up in the next OSPI HIB committee. Safe Schools Coalition could partner with member organizations to do some statewide community organizing, to explain to districts how crucially important it is to gather health data about their students, how data can vastly improve services and curriculum planning. The idea would be to get districts on board, so we can reassure the Dept of Health that including a question about genders of partners won't doom the survey. Thus far, Matthew and Beth have offered to serve on a planning committee, but nobody has offered to chair/convene it. **HELP NEEDED: Can you convene or serve on a committee to help get school districts on board? If so, contact Beth: beth@safeschoolscoalition.org**

5. LAW & POLICY WORK GROUP REPORT – Matthew & Beth

Matthew met with Senator Hobbs who reported that voters aren't necessarily opposed to an increase in taxes. An example is in Pierce County. Voters there voted for a .01% tax increase to fund 911. There may be ways to save critical programs.

The law & policy work group is working with Representative Liias on transgender inclusion procedures for schools. He has agreed to gather other legislators together to send a bipartisan letter to OSPI and The Washington State School Directors Association (they publish model policies and procedures and send them to every school board in the state) requesting the creation of a model procedure or guidelines to help schools satisfy their non-discrimination responsibilities regarding gender variant and transgender students. Some work group members are working with Rep. Liias' office on the project.

6. MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Gabi

- a. PFLAG National renewed for 2011. Thank you!
- b. Gabi has been in conversation with OSPI who are checking records because they may have sent the 2011 membership check to Lifelong AIDS Alliance.
- c. **HELP NEEDED:** Gabi is stepping down as membership chair as soon as SSC can get someone to fill the position. This position is in charge of billing, invoices, reporting, and outreach to potential members. Michelle Munro offered to take on the tasks of invoicing and billing as it seems a good fit with what she already does. **We need someone who likes networking and would be willing to call member organizations that don't renew. Minimum commitment: 2 days in March or early April** (assuming Michelle gets invoices sent in January). Ideally, you will love it and decide to do it a couple of hours a month from then on, with organizations that should belong but never have. **Interested? Contact Beth: beth@safeschoolscoalition.org**
- d. **Why be a member of SSC?**
 - You get to claim the work SSC is doing as your own (to your donors, in your annual report)
 - It gives organizations access to schools they wouldn't have otherwise
 - Gives political cover to organizations who want to do the "good" work, but who don't want to deal with the political backlash
 - Member organizations' priorities drive the work SSC does
 - Members only get to list fundraisers on the list serve

7. FISCAL REPORT – Michelle

- a. Our beginning balance on October 8th was \$45,759.98
- b. Our ending balance on November 8th was \$43,301.21.
- c. Donations totaled \$172.85 in October and donors included; Pam Jensen, employees of The City of Seattle and employees of Washington State. We received \$797.98 for services previously provided to King County. There were no unusual expenses this past month, but program management expenses will be up next month as there will be a short period of time when Briana and Katrina overlap for training purposes.
- d. SSC just applied for a grant from Pride Foundation's Beyond the Bridge Grant. With the money we will offer workshops in Seattle middle schools. These trainings will be in partnership with NW Network's OUT Spoken youth panels and with artist, Cody Blomberg, who is trying to get funding for a bullying-related art project. **UPDATE: We received an award of \$2,000. Thank you to Pride and the Beyond the Bridge donors!**

8. Speakers Bureau Report - Briana

Speakers Bureau & Training Team

Date:	Location:	Trainers:	Audience Total:
10/19	GSBA	Beth and Heather	80
11/14	Bush School	Nathan Shara	20

Pending: King County Youth Development Network Event – late Nov.
 ACE High School
 Cascade Middle School – GSA

Outreach

Date:	Location:	Tablers:
4 th Thursday/mo.	WFHB Radio Segments	Beth, Gabi, Rosalinda, Tracy
10/22	SLGFF	Beth
10/25	Radio Bilingue	Jacque Larrainzar
11/15	SSC Monthly Meeting	Presentation by Youth and

		Gender Media Project
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Upcoming: Seattle Channel

9. WEB SITE(S) REPORT – Gabi

- a. The Safe Schools Coalition website has had 72,068 page views in October 2011 from 37,037 visitors from 115 countries.
- b. Top five countries from which we had visitors were: United States, France, China, Canada and Russian Federation. and we also had visitors from (in part): Japan - South Africa - India - New Zealand - Brazil - Malaysia - Israel - Ireland - Greece - Kuwait - Moldova - Ethiopia - Pakistan - Fiji - Tuvalu - Chile - Puerto Rico - Norway - Peru - Liechtenstein - Guam - Brunei Darussalam - Cambodia - Jamaica - Macau - Burkina Faso - Cameroon - and Oman.
- c. One recently updated page is our Washington State Legal, Legislative and Policy Links resource page: http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-law_policy_washington_state_legal.html It will have information on the 2012 Legislative session including bills to watch as those come available. It includes information on laws, legislature, state agencies charged with upholding/supporting these laws, other agencies and organizations, tools & handouts, and school districts' documents such as district's policies and procedures and local examples of best practices. And it has a link to the quiz about Washington State law.

10. INTERVENTION TEAM REPORT – Penny

- a. King County Sexual Assault Resource Center calls = 8
- b. Safe Schools Coalition Intervention requests requiring an intervention specialist = 4
 - A school administrator had a homecoming sign removed for having the words "Gay Pride" on a flag. Upon parent and class complaints the sign was allowed back up again. Administration felt the proper procedure had not been followed for displaying something controversial.
 - A gay inmate from Walla Walla requested help to remain in classes at WWCC after a teacher wanted him removed for being gay. Ongoing
 - Long Island New York- A mother reports her daughter being bullied by lies and photos on Facebook. The cheerleader advisor was fired and then rehired for not stopping the girl on the squad from doing the bullying. The mother is pursuing several options.
 - A local kindergartner was being bullied, especially in the bathrooms. He was afraid to go alone. Ongoing
- c. Information requested = statistics from Pierce County, Rabbi in Cincinnati looking for help adding sexual orientation to bullying laws, representative from Tel Aviv Israel who was in town and requesting a meeting regarding PFLAG
- d. Volunteers requesting information = 2

11. LISTSERVE report - Beth

Beth and Gabi are working with Jason Hungerford on changing the formatting of the LISTSERVE. We are in the testing stage of changing from two lists: IMPORTANTNEWS and NEWS to six lists: eventslist, joblist, newlist, opinionlist (including right wing watch), resourceslist (including lesson planning guide), and importantlist (including SSC minutes/messages, action alerts, legislative/elective messages, and fundraising messages from member organizations). When the next steps are known LISTSERVE subscribers will be asked to re-subscribe.

12. Bullying Art Project - Cody & Beth

SSC will be partnering with Cody Blomberg on an upcoming project. Cody will be traveling around to local middle schools to educate students about bullying.

13. Safe Place Program of Youth Care - Jillian Hill

A young person age 12-17 in need of help can approach any Metro bus driver, who will then make a call to trigger contact with a youth service provider. What happens next depends on the needs of the youth. Sometimes it's counseling and providing help to reunite the child with family or friends. In the absence of alternatives, youth can be taken to a safe shelter.

In addition to help from Metro drivers, young people in King County have another option if they need help quickly. "Text 4 HELP" is a National Safe Place service that uses SMS text technology to offer information about the closest location to access immediate help and safety. By texting the word "SAFE" and their current location to 69866, youth can get help within seconds. In our area, they will be referred to shelters that will provide the assistance they need. Youth specifically targeted are homeless youth and youth at risk for being targeted by pimps.

For questions contact: Jillian Hill Safe Place Coordinator at YouthCare (P) 206-204-1405

14. Youth & Gender Media Project-Jonathan Skurnik

The Youth and Gender Media Project encompasses a growing collection of short films that capture the diversity and complexity of gender non-conforming youth. In *The Family Journey: Raising Gender Nonconforming Children* family members relate their transformations from denial to acceptance and finally to celebration around supporting and nurturing their courageous children. *I'm Just Anneke* tells the story of a gender fluid twelve-year-old girl who's taking hormone blockers that delay puberty so she can decide if she wants to be male, female, or somewhere in-between, when she grows up. *Becoming Johanna* tells the story of a sixteen-year-old Latina transgender teenager living in Los Angeles whose deeply religious, immigrant mother commits her to a mental hospital against her will in order to prevent her transition to a young woman.

The films introduce radical new concepts for many audiences, from the very idea that a young child can be transgender and have the wherewithal to fight against the pressures to conform to a binary gender paradigm, to the new and still very rare use of hormone blockers to delay puberty. However, since the films are structured around universal themes such as parenting and acceptance, identity and difference, growing up and coming of age, tolerance, love and self-esteem, they remain accessible and deeply moving even to people who are resistant to the idea of transgender youth.

In collaboration with our outreach partner Gender Spectrum and several other non-profits dedicated to creating safe and inclusive classrooms for gender nonconforming youth, the films will be used to educate teachers, administrators, parents and students in school communities across the United States.

Here is the link to purchase the Youth and Gender Media Project DVD:

<http://www.newday.com/films/youthandgendermediaproject.html>

Or contact Jonathan Skurnik @ jonathan@jskurnik.com

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.

January 17th, 3-5 pm Pacific Time. **Beth** facilitates for Heather M, **Heather C** records.

February 21st, 3-5 pm Pacific Time. **Mo** facilitates and **Frank** records.

March 20th, 3-5 pm Pacific Time. **Matthew** facilitates and **Penny** records.

April 17th, 3-5 pm Pacific Time. **Heather M** facilitates, **Heather C** records.

May 15th, 3-5 pm Pacific Time. **Mo** facilitates and **Frank** records.

June 19th, 3-5 pm Pacific Time. **Matthew** facilitates and **Penny** records.

July 17th, **2-4 pm** Pacific Time. **Heather M** facilitates, **Heather C** records.

August 21st, **2-4 pm** Pacific Time. **Mo** facilitates and **Frank** records.

September 18th, 3-5 pm Pacific Time. **Matthew** facilitates and **Penny** records.
October 16th, 3-5 pm Pacific Time. **Heather M** facilitates, **Heather C** records.
November 20th, 2012, 3-5 pm Pacific Time. **Mo** facilitates and **Frank** records.
December 18th, 2012, 3-5 pm Pacific Time. **Matthew** facilitates and **Penny** records.

Contact Information for Chairs, Secretaries, Contractors:

Beth Reis, co-chair: 206-296-4970; beth.reis@kingcounty.gov
Frank Couch, co-secretary: 206-328-1719; frank.couch@samafoundation.org
Gabi Clayton, webspinner: 360-888-5291; webspinner@safeschoolscoalition.org
Heather Carter, co-secretary: 06-297-5922 Ext. 116; heather@yspp.org
Heather Murphy, co-chair: 206-769-3850; hmurphy@u.washington.edu
Katrina Pestano, spkrs' bureau mgr: 206-451-SAFE (7233); Katrina@safeschoolscoalition.org
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Penny Palmer, intervention chair and co-secretary: 425-487-2813; holdyrhorses@frontier.com