

**Safe Schools Coalition Meeting**  
**March 17, 2009, 3-5 pm PST**  
**Facilitating: Marsha Botzer; Recording: Matt Munson**

In attendance:

**In person:**; Hanna **King**, Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets, Mpowerment Project and Garfield High School Gay Straight Alliance; Kyle **Rapinan**, Jill **Colasurdo**, and Heather **Riley**, Casey Family Programs; Riana **Hensel**, Puget Sound Community School; Matt **Munson**, Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest; Beth **Reis**, Public Health-Seattle/King County, co-chair of SSC; Jonathan **Long**, Queer Straight Alliance @ University of Washington Tacoma Campus; Marsha **Botzer**, SSC co-chair and Ingersoll Gender Center; Kathy **Kaminski**, SSC treasurer and development chair; Eduardo **Brambila**, American Friends Service Committee.

**By phone:** Gabi **Clayton**, PFLAG Olympia, Families United Against Hate, Youth Guardian Services, and SSC Webspinner; Ben **Ibale**, Washington Education Association

**(1) CANDLELIGHT VIGIL AGAINST ANTI-LGBTQ VIOLENCE IN CAPITOL HILL**

The Seattle Gay News reported two more assaults on February 21<sup>st</sup> on Seattle's Capital Hill, apparently unrelated incidents. We – the leadership team (due to short notice) – endorsed this Feb 28<sup>th</sup> vigil sponsored by the Queer Ally Coalition.

**(2) GLSEN's SAFE SCHOOLS ADVOCACY SUMMIT**

Hanna, Kyle and Brandon will attend, in Washington DC from March 21-24, 2009. We are proud of their being selected among just 18 youth and 18 adults, respectively, nationwide. Thank you Leigh Thompson, GLSEN Student Organizing Associate. Another Washington representative that was chosen is Brandon Walters from Youth Eastside Services

**(3) SEATTLE MAJESTICS**

Tabled until April meeting

**(4) RAPID RESPONSE CONVENING**

The Respect For All Project at Groundspark is convening 'rapid response network' that can come to the aid of school districts under attack by the right wing for having LGBT-inclusive policies, programs, or curricula. The past several years have seen some school districts back down from inclusive programs, and safe schools advocates routinely encounter fears of a backlash for addressing LGBT issues. In the coming months, we seek to figure out how our already-existing networks and resources can be mobilized at the right time to provide the support these districts need to continue creating inclusive and welcoming environments for all students and families. Heather Carter has been invited to join this group on behalf of SSC, but couldn't attend the last meeting.

**(5) SPEAKERS BUREAU REPORT**

**Training**

| <b>Date:</b> | <b>Location:</b>                  | <b>Trainers:</b>               | <b>Audience Total:</b> |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2/26         | WSU Resource Center               | Beth Reis                      | 34                     |
| 2/27         | WSU Resource Center               | Beth Reis                      | 24                     |
| 3/5          | Seattle U Lunch w/ Leaders Series | Tracy Flynn                    | 15                     |
| 3/11         | AS #1 Elementary                  | Kathy Kaminski, Joy MacTavish, | 35                     |

|  |  |             |  |
|--|--|-------------|--|
|  |  | Rolfe Berge |  |
|--|--|-------------|--|

Upcoming: Reading Corps

### Tabling

None this month

Upcoming: Westlake Homeless youth outreach fair, Healthy Youth Summit

### AFSC Panels

| Date: | Location:   | Audience Total: |
|-------|-------------|-----------------|
| 2/25  | SCCC        |                 |
| 3/2   | City Heroes | 10              |
| 3/6   | Odyssey HS  |                 |
| 3/10  | AS #1 MS    | 50              |
| 3/11  | AS #1 MS    | 23              |

Upcoming: Kitsap Safe Schools, Mcllvagh MS

### Other Projects

Washington State Bullying Prevention Conference organizing  
White Privilege Conference

### (6) Anti-Racism Committee

Next Anti-Racism Committee Meeting: TBA, 5-7pm at Kaladi Bros Coffee (511 E Pike St). This is a great sub committee to get involved in, especially if you can't make it to monthly SSC meetings!

### (7) MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Gabi

- a) New member applications: **Delta Lambda Phi** (PSI chapter at the University of Washington, “a fraternity for progressive men, irrespective of sexual orientation”) Membership approved unanimously; welcome Delta Lambda Phi!
- b) Thank you to more orgs that have renewed recently for 2009:
  - **Youth Guardian Services**
  - **Families United Against Hate**
  - **PFLAG - Seattle**
- c) Progress on invoicing member orgs for 2009  
There was a question about how to invoice member organizations who are providing in kind donations instead of dues. In the past, Beth has invoiced them based regardless of their membership status. If a member org has been providing in kind donations, they are invoiced at the bottom of the dues range. If they are paying dues, they are invoiced at a more appropriate level of the dues range, knowing that dues can slide to zero. Beth also suggested that hand written notes to member orgs would be helpful. Beth, Kathy and Gabi will follow up. Stephanie Fox is also working on a renewal letter for member orgs.
- d) **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: 1 (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!)**

### (8) SPECIAL EVENTS

- a) **Save the Date!! – May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-5:00 p.m.** -- NW Premiere of **Straightlaced—How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up** to benefit the Safe Schools Coalition and the Respect for All Project at Groundspark. With support from the **Raynier Institute and Foundation**, at the theater at **Pacific Place** (6<sup>th</sup> and Pine) in Seattle, with a panel including students who

are in the film and its director or producer and perhaps local youth as well, followed by a reception at **Il Fornaio** restaurant, downstairs. Ticket prices are still being worked out, but it looks like advance tickets will be less than day of tickets and there will be one price for students and another for school employees. SSC is talking with Groundspark to see if this can be a fundraiser for both organizations.

To see the trailer, please visit HYPERLINK "http://www.groundspark.org/straightlaced" \o "http://www.groundspark.org/straightlaced" [www.groundspark.org/straightlaced](http://www.groundspark.org/straightlaced)

**Help needed -- Would your org be willing to print posters?**

**Help needed – Would you chair a one day effort to coordinate the poster distribution?**

**Help needed – Would you volunteer to be one of the gang that runs around and hangs the posters?**

**Help needed – Can you take charge of asking for print and radio ad space and calendar listings?**

**Help needed – Are you or do you know a trans identified youth, especially youth of color, in the Seattle area, who may be willing to be on a panel the day of the premiere to talk about their own personal experiences?**

**b) Save the Date!! -- June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8:30-10 p.m. -- *Laugh OUT Loud*** all ages comedy night to benefit the Safe Schools Coalition, courtesy of the volunteer comics of **Nonprofit Comedy**, at the **Comedy Underground** (109 S Washington St) in Seattle. *The Stranger* has agreed to run the event in their Calendar, and Kyle notified a bunch of other local publications of the date. There was a question about whether or not tickets to this event can be sold on the SSC website. Gabi will investigate that possibility and she also would like graphics and more info for the website. **Action Item- volunteers needed to get the word out about this event! Youth are strongly encouraged to attend!**

**c) Save the Date!! – June 28<sup>th</sup> -- *Seattle Pride Parade*.** We will have our traditional yellow school bus in the parade. More about how to join the SSC contingent next month, but the bottom line is: 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 treats to the crowd, and help rock the bus and otherwise participate in the mayhem. Lisa Love and Hanna King are currently coming up with some SSC swag to give away to the crowd. SSC has two banners, and although one of them will be in use at Seattle's Pride, the other is available to be shipped anywhere in the country for other member orgs to use in their local Pride celebrations. Contact Beth for more information: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/contact/?id=4>

#### **(9) FISCAL UPDATE – Beth, Kathy**

a) Thank you to recent donors:

- **Jessica Chandler**
- **Cris Elkins**
- **Pam Jensen**
- **Ted and Joyce Liljeholm**
- **Sue Kirchofer**

And in memory of Jerry Painter: **Russell J. Warder**

**b) Make a tax deductible donation right now. YOU are the main source of funding for the Coalition – it is US. Go to: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/donate.html>**

c) The Media SWAT team is working on securing funding for training.

d) Beth has been in touch with a UW grad student who is interested in replicating and updating the 83,000 Youth study that was conducted several years ago. This effort will also need grant funding.

#### **(10) WEB SITE REPORT – Gabi**

- a) Welcome two new web site volunteers, researchers Mai Kwan and Noah Grant!
- b) See newly updated Spanish language resources here:  
<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-Recursos-en-Espanol.html>
- c) See newly updated official position statements from APA, ASCA, NASN, NASP, NASW, NMHA and SSWAA here: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/blackboard-positionstatements.html>
- d) Jonathan will create and maintain a SSC Twitter Page. Thanks Jonathan!
- e) SSC annual report is now on line. Visit the SSC website to check it out!

#### (11) INTERVENTION TEAM REPORT

- a) Feb and March to date we had 4 calls from the KSARC crisis line. One needed intervention help. Calls also came into Gabi at the website. Currently we are working on 4 on-going interventions. We worked with a senior high student who wanted help after a discussion of gay marriage in class, an elementary student who is being bullied, "inappropriate contact" by 2 same sex high school students, and a 7th grade girl being bullied at school. These interventions are being monitored to make sure information is available to callers and appropriate measures are being taken to make sure the situations are successfully resolved
- b) Ben Ibale reported that Susanne Beauchaine, [Susanne.beauchaine@k12.wa.us](mailto:Susanne.beauchaine@k12.wa.us), of the Human and Civil Rights department at OSPI also deals with complaints from WA state schools, and that the top 3 complaints are race, religion, and sexual identity. Intervention Specialists are encouraged to collaborate with Susanne as needed, just as they currently draw on the resources at the Washington State Human Rights Commission when appropriate.

#### (12) LISTSERVE REPORT – Beth

- a) **Welcome** to recent subscribers from:
 

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| ▪ Port Townsend, WA        | ▪ New York, NY  |
| ▪ Seattle, WA (2)          | ▪ Milwaukee, WI |
| ▪ San Francisco, CA (2)    | ▪ Shoreline, WA |
| ▪ Lutherville Timonium, MD |                 |
- b) We now have **917 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.
- c) In Canada, the **5 Provinces** we serve include at least Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec.
- d) In the U.S., we serve people in at least **44 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, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI, WY) **plus Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico.**
- e) Within Washington State, we serve at least **27 counties**: Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Ferry, Franklin, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Walla Walla, Whatcom, Whitman and Yakima.
- f) **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.aspx#subscribe>

#### (12) HRC's MEMBERSHIP IN SSC

Beth and Frank are planning to meet with HRC's Ellen Kahn and Allison Herwitt, to ascertain HRC's intentions when the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act is reintroduced

(whether HRC can commit to opposing any version that are exclusive of gender identity/expression) so that the Coalition can determine whether it is time to revisit HRC's membership.

### (13) LAW & POLICY WORK GROUP REPORT

#### a) WASHINGTON STATE:

- Equal Rights Washington's Equality Day 2009 was on March 12<sup>th</sup> in Olympia.
- Updates on:
  - ♦ HB 2015, which would enhance anti-harassment efforts in schools. Somewhat dead, hopefully key provisions can be folded into a budget bill or revisited next session.
  - ♦ HB 1612 / SB 5629, the "Proven Programs Act," which would allow state agencies to seek funding for only those pregnancy prevention programs that are medically and scientifically accurate and evidence-based. Passed the Senate, House hearing forthcoming.
  - ♦ SB 5688, the domestic partnership measure. Passed the Senate with a huge margin (30-18); House hearing forthcoming. Looks like this bill will pass and the Governor will sign. Josh Friedes, with Equal Rights Washington, has said that there are four anti-LGBTQ groups at least one of which has said it intends to organize an initiative campaign to overturn domestic partnership. More info will follow.
  - ♦ SB 5674, the marriage bill, will be reintroduced next year.
  - ♦ HIV/AIDS prevention funding cuts may be big. More info will follow.
  - ♦ More info about gender identity/expression language will follow.
- **WASHINGTON MODELS FOR THE EVALUATION OF BIAS CONTENT IN INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:** 3 years ago, SSC wrote to the then Superintendent and said, essentially, that the models being used to refer to guidelines for identifying bias were outdated and offensive. A new version (as of 3 months ago) has been released, and some of the recommendations from SSC have been included. See <http://www.k12.wa.us/equity/pubdocs/WashingtonModelsfortheEvaluationofBias.pdf> Hanna and Jonathan volunteered to compare the original SSC letter to the new model to see if there are other things missing, or new recommendations need to be made, or if a thank you is in order. Thanks Hanna and Jonathan!
- The next Law and Policy work group meeting is 6 pm, March 23<sup>rd</sup> in Olympia. E-mail Beth for details: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/contact/?id=4>

- b) **A FEDERAL Employment Non-Discrimination Act (or "ENDA") has NOT yet been introduced.** Now would be the time – with Congress newly sworn in -- to let your congressperson and senators know how you feel about the inclusion or exclusion of protection for the transgender community. Here's what the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force says about it, just for your information:  
[http://thetaskforce.org/issues/nondiscrimination/ENDA\\_main\\_page](http://thetaskforce.org/issues/nondiscrimination/ENDA_main_page)

### (14) MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> SOUTH KING COUNTY SOCIAL JUSTICE LUNCHEON FORUM

It is 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM @ City University in Renton. The South King County Equity and Social Justice Community Engagement Work Group invites you out for lunch to discuss social justice work in our community. In these difficult economic times, it's essential that we share ideas about working toward fair distribution of public goods, institutional resources and life opportunities. Jonathan will attend to represent SSC, and Matt may attend.

### (15) HEALTHY YOUTH SURVEY

Results were released today. Now is the time to provide input on questions for the next round of the Healthy Youth Survey. E-mail items from other surveys that you would like to see Washington ask, to Beth: [beth@safeschoolscoalition.org](mailto:beth@safeschoolscoalition.org) **At the end of these minutes, fine more info on the HYS and what YOU CAN DO in your own school or district.**

**(16) CHANGE IN SSC LEADERSHIP**

**Kyle, Heather, and Stephanie will gradually be moving into leadership! There will also be some differences in meeting structure.**

- a) Monthly focus on an agency, at the request of the anti-racism team.
- b) 15 minutes of sharing time, where each person says a little about a current project, for networking purposes.
- c) 15 minutes on a deeper question each month ... this month: *What has been a high point for you of working with the Coalition and why?*

The meeting closed with 15 minutes of sharing by attendants:

- Kyle- heading up the Laugh Out Loud Pride event and is excited about the PAC training in DC with GLSEN
- Kathy- met with Stephanie about the Media SWAT team and is working on a grant to support training for the team, curriculum, books, and ongoing study groups and development.
- Jill- Casey Family Programs is working to determine what level of involvement/ support we can make to SSC. In process of looking at how we can partner with non-profits to see if we can be a member organization of the SSC
- Riana- working on the Puget Sound Community School summer program which will be open to all teachers/volunteers as facilitators, and to all students for potential state credit. Contact me at [Riana@pscs.org](mailto:Riana@pscs.org) with any questions or for more info. I'm also working on the Straightlaced premiere.
- Eduardo- working on an LGBTQ coalition for AFSC. Will bring people working with LGBTQ folks together to network and work together. Also, Pride committee meeting at Lambert House on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Email me at [eduardobrabila@comcast.net](mailto:eduardobrabila@comcast.net) for more info.
- Hanna- Q-hour at PSKS is the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month from 5-6. I met with SPS leadership, and Garfield GSA staff for training and planning
- Matt- Working to keep youth development program going strong in light of budget cuts and layoffs.

**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.

**April 21st**, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. Stefanie facilitates and Daniel records  
Stefanie: 206-263-8936; <mailto:stefanie.fox@kingcounty.gov>

**May 19th**, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. Heather Murphy facilitates and Heather Carter records  
Heather M.: 206-616-6361; <mailto:hmurphy@u.washington.edu>

**June 16th**, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. Kyle facilitates (??) and Matt records  
Kyle: 206-322-6711 ext 32190; <mailto:KRapinan@casey.org>

**Washington State ACTION ITEM:**  
**Find out how your school or district did on the 2008 Healthy Youth Survey!!**  
**RESULTS RELEASED MARCH 2009**

**YOUR JOBS:**

- ~ Find out how your building or district is doing with bullying in general and anti-GLBTQ bullying in particular.
- ~ Did they even collect the data? If not, your first job is to get them to participate in the healthy youth survey next time it's offered, fall 2010.
- ~ Ask to know their bullying (and specifically anti-gay bullying) rates for 2002, 2004, 2006 and -- just released to them this week -- 2008.
- ~ Look at how those rates compare to the state and how they are changing, if at all, over time.
- ~ Ask your faculty, principal, superintendent, school board to set as their goal to DO BETTER in 2010.
- ~ Offer to help them figure out HOW to do better. If they say "yes," let us help you become the expert or put them directly in touch with the Safe Schools Coalition. Write to us ... <mailto:questions@safeschoolscoalition.org>

**BACKGROUND:** Once every two years, Washington State conducts a statewide survey to measure health risk behaviors that contribute to morbidity, mortality, and social problems among youth in Washington State. These behaviors include alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, behaviors that result in unintentional and intentional injuries (e.g., violence), dietary behaviors, physical activity, and related risk and protective factors. Among the myriad things the survey asks, at grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 is

**"In the last 30 days, how often have you been bullied?"**

And at grades 8, 10, and 12, in 2002 and 2004, students were also asked:

**"Has anyone ever made offensive comments to you because they thought you were gay or lesbian at school or on the way to or from school?"**

In 2006 and 2008 (October of this school year), students in those same grades were asked:

**In the past 30 days, how often were you bullied, harassed, or intimidated at school or on your way to or from school because someone thought you were gay, lesbian, or bisexual (whether you are or are not)?**

**HOW DO I FIND OUT HOW MY BUILDING OR DISTRICT IS DOING?**

1. First, find out whether your district and your particular school participated in the survey this year. Ask Diane Pilkey at the Department of Health: 360-236-3526 or <mailto:diane.pilkey@doh.wa.gov>
2. If they did participate, only your district can get local data. Your principal can ask your district for building-level data. But it is absolutely fair for you, as a school employee, student, parent/guardian or community member to **ask them to get it for you**. Don't be shy about asking. You have a right to know how well your building is doing at combating harassment in general and anti-gay/lesbian harassment in particular.

**WHAT DO I DO WITH THAT INFORMATION?**

**1. If your building or district didn't even participate this year, offer to take your principal or district level administrator out for coffee to find out why.**

- ~ If they were wary of community backlash, maybe your support (and support you can drum up among your friends) will give them the courage to participate next time.
- ~ If they were concerned about reducing teaching time due to one more survey, maybe you can help them appreciate how important health and safety are to learning. Contact us for data about the link between health/saety and academic success: <mailto:questions@safeschoolscoalition.org>

**2. If your building or district participated and your bullying and anti-gay/lesbian bullying rates were flat or worsened, take your principal or district level administrator out for coffee to discuss why.**

~ If they have not brought their district's anti-bullying policy into compliance with the 2003 Bullying Law <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=28A.300.285>, for instance if they still don't explicitly prohibit harassment on the basis of sexual orientation, tell them it matters to you and offer to help. Then contact us for advice ... <mailto:intervention@safeschoolscoalition.org>

~ If they did adopt or revise their policy and procedure, but didn't really let students and families know about it, tell them it matters to you and offer to help (then contact us for advice) ... <mailto:intervention@safeschoolscoalition.org>

~ If they did inform students and families, but they didn't really train teachers about how to intervene in bias-based bullying and intimidation, tell them it matters to you and offer to help (then contact us for advice) ... <mailto:intervention@safeschoolscoalition.org>

~ If they taught the staff how to intervene, but didn't commit to providing bullying prevention curriculum, tell them it matters to you and offer to help (then contact us for advice) ... <mailto:intervention@safeschoolscoalition.org>

~ If they are teaching about bullying, but there isn't a bias component to it (nothing about racism, misogyny, homophobia, heterosexism, and anti-religious and anti-immigrant harassment), tell them it matters to you and offer to help (then contact us for advice) ... <mailto:intervention@safeschoolscoalition.org>

**3. If your building or district participated and your bullying and anti-gay/lesbian bullying rates improved this year, take your principal or district level administrator out for coffee to thank them for doing something right!!!**

~ And discuss what exactly they think caused the improvement.

~ And thank them in the press, too, if they want that. Or bring cupcakes to a faculty meeting to thank the staff. Or to a school board meeting to thank the board.