

Safe Schools Coalition Meeting
Minutes 8-21-2012, 2-4 p.m. PDT

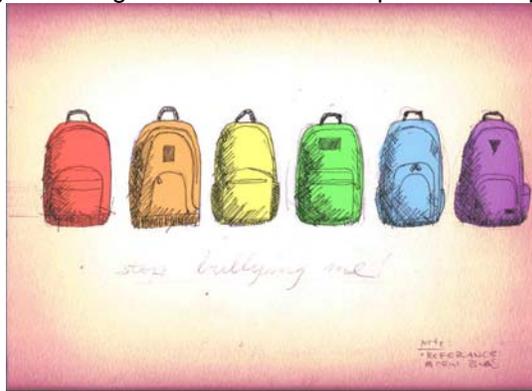
Facilitating: Michelle Munro; **Recording:** Beth Reis

Attending: Michelle Munro, Safe Schools Co-chair, Safe Schools treasurer; Beth Reis, Public Health – Seattle & King County, Safe Schools Co-chair; Jennifer Gess, Navos Mental Health Solutions & POW! (Proud Out Wonderful); Cody Blomberg, artist; Matthew Wilson, Pierce County AIDS Foundation & Oasis Youth Center

Via phone: Gabi Clayton, Safe Schools Webspinner, PFLAG Olympia, Families United Against Hate, Youth Guardian Services; Katrina Pestaño, Safe Schools Coalition Speakers' Bureau Manager

(1) **SHARING TIME**

- a) **Cody** brought sketches of the sculptures that will become an installation piece to travel to middle schools. Safe Schools Coalition has funding to accompany the piece with training for school staffs and workshops for students. **For information about bringing the art and training to your school, please contact Safe Schools Coalition: training@safeschoolscoalition.org or 206-451-SAFE (7233).** Cody's working titles and brief descriptions of **Stop Bullying Me!**



- **Burden** (Red backpack filled with sticks and stones and cement. The sticks and stones have hurtful words on them. Displayed on the back of a mannequin.)
 - **Queer Scouts** (Orange backpack. Saluting the scout's sash while at the same time honoring the act of standing up for a classmate. Each badge will have a symbol to celebrate interventions. Displayed on the back of a mannequin.)
 - **Celebration** (Yellow Backpack. painted portraits of local queer youth on backpack. Displayed on the back of a mannequin.)
 - **Inside out** (Green Backpack. Text on the inside of the splayed backpack is from the perspective of the bully. The rectangle is a mirror so you can see yourself while you read the text. Displayed on the back of a mannequin.)
 - **the scene** (Blue Backpack. Spilled on the ground to symbolize the scene of a bullying incident. Items include, accordion sketchbook with sketches for the project, Iphone with a bully text on it, books and broken glasses.)
 - **burial mound** (pile of whole and deconstructed purple backpacks)
- b) **Jennifer** talked about two important pieces of news at Navos Mental Health Solutions, the 2nd biggest mental health agency in King County:
- She is a **therapist there for low-income children and youth ages 5-21 who identify as LGBTQ or are gender expansive and their families**. The service is free (they accept Medicaid but also don't turn anyone away) and confidential. Clients don't need to come to her; she can meet them in schools or elsewhere. For more information call or email. Phone: 206-326-9112; Email: jenniferg@navos.org
 - She is co-facilitator at Navos for **POW!** (Proud, Out, Wonderful), a Queer¹ Youth Group providing support and activism in South King County. POW!'s mission is to provide a safe space for

¹ A note on the use of the word QUEER. Navos joins with others in reclaiming the use of the word queer. This word, which was used as a weapon against LGBTQ folks for years, is now being used by us and others as an inclusive term. Many people who do not feel that they fit in traditional categories (of gender

LGBTQ and allied youth and young adults ages 13-21 to build community and promote social justice through empowerment, leadership and advocacy in South King County.

c) **Gabi** share three things:

- She and Alec are stepping off the **PFLAG Olympia** board at the end of 2012 after long terms to make room for new folks.
- Alec (her husband and a Safe Schools Coalition trainer) is having a studio sale of his **art** (mostly paintings) and plans to donate **5% of the proceeds to Safe Schools Coalition**, 5% to PFLAG Olympia, and 5% to Washington United for Marriage. More info here: <http://www.facebook.com/events/156334124504098/permalink/163303843807126#!/events/156334124504098/>
- **Pizza Klatch** serves pizza and supports adult facilitators for Pizza Klatch weekly gatherings of LGBTQ students and their friends and allies during 11 lunch periods at 6 high schools. They serve over 100 students/week. They plan to add 1 or 2 schools this year. Pizza Klatch is holding an auction in Lacey, WA on September 9, 2-6 pm at a private home. **They need donations of auction items**, to help them fund pizzas and facilitators. More info about the event itself and also about how/where to send donations and auction items here: <http://www.pizzaklatch.org/>
Auction Item Ideas to Donate or to ask others to Donate:
 - ◆ **Provide Services** (Clean out a garage, Yard Work, Wash cars, Wash windows, Clean house, Shop for someone, Put up yard signs, Help with garage sale)
 - ◆ **Teach a skill** (You'd be surprised what skill you may have that others would like to learn. Examples include: How to use a computer, How to knit, How to make lasagne, How to make glass beads, A water-coloring lesson)
 - ◆ **Professional Services** (Massages or other Bodywork, Car Detailing, Estate Planning or a will, Parenting Consultation, Accounting, Guide a hike, Chiropractic Appointment, Photography Session, Dog Training)
 - ◆ **Food Ideas** (Offer dinners for as many people as you choose. It could be at your house or at the buyer's house. A picnic lunch at a beautiful spot, Provide a kid's birthday cake, A wedding cake, 2 dozen cookies delivered e/ month for a year)
 - ◆ **Items** (Anything you can think of that is nice and in good shape: Snowboards, ski equipment, Jewelry, Artwork, An antique book, Nice bowls or plates, Bicycles, Lamps, Handmade or Knitted Items, Plants, Good DVD's or CD's, Movie Tickets)

d) **Beth** shared that, in preparing for a teacher training in **Atlanta**, she contacted a number of Georgia agencies to see who teachers might contact if they wanted to bring a **panel of LGBTQ youth** to speak in their classes. Two agencies that had not been offering this service until now are interested in doing so or exploring how.

- Those of you in Georgia, contact either the Georgia Safe Schools Coalition (<http://www.georgiasafeschoolscoalition.org/>) at em@georgiaequality.org or SPARK Reproductive Justice Now (<http://ignite.sparkrj.org>) at Santita@sparkrj.org
- **Those of you who already coordinate youth panelists to speak in schools** – in other states -- **and who would be willing to offer technical assistance to the Georgia agencies starting the service**, please contact the agencies directly to offer your tools and strategies (by email or to set up a conference call).

e) **Matthew** offered tickets to a **Storm** (WNBA) game. They were donated to Oasis. People accepted some and made donations to Oasis. Matthew and Jennifer made plans to collaborate to bring BOTH Oasis and POW! Youth to games in the future ... on a shared bus.

(2) **MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Michelle**

- a) All renewal invoices have been sent.

(3) **INTERVENTION TEAM REPORT – Michelle for Penny**

and sexual orientation) or do not feel that these categories are useful, can come together under a shared identity. We encourage all group participants to use the language that feels right to them. It is the individual's right to choose the language that they feel most reflects their identity.

- a) There were 7 Safe Schools crisis calls that came in to our dispatchers at the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
- b) We also had one call requesting information on bullying from a church in Alabama
- c) A big welcome and thanks to Robin Allen for volunteering for the Intervention Team
- d) Thank you, Penny, for filing the report.

(4) FISCAL REPORT – Michelle

- a) Not a lot to report this month as Aleen, the accountant who handles Coalition funds at our fiscal sponsor, Rosehedge/Multifaith Works, is on vacation.
- b) Michelle will arrange for Matthew to get a Coalition debit card for use around his attending the National Safe Schools Roundtable convening.

(5) SPEAKERS BUREAU REPORT – KATRINA

- a) The **Turnstone Grant** Report is complete. (Thank you for your hard work on it, Katrina) **Post script to the minutes:** The donors have graciously agreed that, depending upon our plans to continue into 2013, we will be able to use the remainder of the grant in late October through December.

b) Training/teaching:

Date:	Location:	Trainers:	Audience Total:
6/25	Bayan LGBTQ training	Katrina	20
6/28	Filipino Community of Seattle Youth	Katrina	10
7/17 7/19 7/24 7/26	Safe Schools Summer Series	Anthony, Leah, Will, Beth, Heather, Katrina, Luzviminda, Julz	25
8/1	Brettler Family Place (an affordable housing development)	Leah	40

Pending:

- Teen Link
- Edmonds Woodway High School
- Pacific Lutheran University
- Cascade Middle School
- Sylvester Middle School
- Wing Luke Elementary School

c) Outreach

Date:	Location:	Tablers:
4 th Thursday/mo.	WFHB Radio Segments	Beth, Gabi, Rosalinda, Tracy
2012	Seattle Channel	Beth, Heather Murphy
6/22	SOAR Pieces Conference	Katrina
6/23	Beyond the Bridge reception	Beth
6/24	Pride Parade	Katrina

Upcoming:

- Sylvester Middle School
- Cascade Middle School
- Community Schools Collaboration
- Burien Youth Providers

(6) WEB SITE(S) REPORT – Gabi

a) Facebook page:

- **We need two volunteer youth willing to draft posts for the Coalition’s Facebook page each 1-2 times/week. We also need an adult volunteer to work with them and to serve as administrator and post their contributions.** We will provide guidance and make it easy. Interested? If you are a student, we could certainly consider it a service learning contribution. If

- you are an adult or a youth, it could serve as your agency's or school's alternative to dues.
 Contact Gabi: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/contact/?id=11>
- Meantime Gabi will explore whether there's a way to have our listserv posts automatically post to the FB page.
 - It was suggested that perhaps Katrina could use the FB page as a way to prep audiences when, for example, we are coming to their school.
 - We currently have 1,025 FB "friends."
 - Michelle & Gabi are our current FB administrators.

b) The Coalition's web page (www.SafeSchoolsCoalition.org):

- 2nd Quarter April - May - June 2012 (compared to same in 2011 # in parentheses)
 - ♦ Total Visitors 31,745 (33,692) - 32,466 (33,061) - 33,757 (27,654) = 97,968 (94,407)
 - ♦ Total Unique IPs 16,397 (15,987) - 14,983 (15,282) - 16,821 (12,069) - can't be averaged because will include duplicates that return on different months
 - ♦ Average Visitors per Day 1,058 (1,123) - 1,047 (1,066) - 1,125 (921) = 1,077 (1,037)
- In July 2012, we served people from 103 countries. The top 8 countries that used the site during the 2nd quarter 2012 with number of visitors:
 - ♦ United States 71,598
 - ♦ China 3,314
 - ♦ France 2,371
 - ♦ Russian Federation 2,264
 - ♦ Ukraine 1,601
 - ♦ United Kingdom 1,239
 - ♦ Germany 1,029
 - ♦ Canada 1,217

(7) LAW & POLICY – Beth for Jennifer Allen & Lonnie Johns-Brown; Gabi

- a) Gabi reported that the **WA State Anti-Bullying Work Group** is meeting next on Sept 12, 9:30-3:30. Get in touch with Gabi to learn more about the Coalition's role in those meetings or what you might do to help. <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/contact/?id=11>
- b) The next meeting of the **Safe Schools Coalition's Law & Policy Work Group** will be sometime in September. Contact Jennifer Allen for more info or to get involved: Jennifer.allen@ppnetwork.org
- c) **Pending Federal Legislation** -- There are two bills to watch, both supported by Safe Schools Coalition partners and friends [The Task Force, PFLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians and Gays), HRC (Human Rights Campaign), GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network), GSA Network, NCLR (National Center for Lesbian Rights), NCTE (National Center for Transgender Equality)]:
 - **Student Non-Discrimination Act** (H.R. 998, s. 555) which would prohibit discrimination in schools on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation. It considers harassment to be a form of discrimination. And it prohibits retaliation against anyone for opposing conduct they reasonably believe to be unlawful under this Act.
 - **Safe Schools Improvement Act** (H.R. 1648, S. 506) which would ensure that all schools and districts implement comprehensive and effective anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies that specifically include gender identity and sexual orientation. Among other things, it would require states to collect and report information on bullying and harassment, assess needs, and provide technical assistance to districts. It would require districts to include clear prohibitions against bullying and harassment within their discipline policies; monitor progress; and inform parents, students, and educators annually about policies and grievance procedures.

(8) LISTSERVE REPORT – Michelle, Beth, Gabi

- a) We **currently** have 611 subscribers on NEWS and another 187 on IMPORTANTNEWS.
- b) Welcome to **new** listserv subscribers from:

→ Los Angeles, CA	→ Vancouver, WA	→ Montgomery, TX
→ Pittsburgh, PA	→ New Britain, CT	→ Redmond, WA
→ Seattle, WA (3)	→ Palm Springs, CA	→ Colville, WA
- c) Gabi is working on setting up **Constant Contact** so that we can better track the demographics and needs of our subscribers. It will be ready soon. Once it is set up Gabi

will have to create an instruction sheet and will train listserv volunteers to use it and so transition will take time.

(9) TREVOR PROJECT REQUEST – Beth

- a) The Seattle Ambassadors of the Trevor Project reached out to us and to the Youth Suicide Prevention Program (YSPP) to ask for our support in getting Gov. Gregoire to designate a day in September as the “Trevor Project Day.” Beth explained in response that we could only support a request for a “Washington State LGBT youth suicide prevention day” where the body of the proclamation would list Trevor Project, YSPP and the Coalition as important resources. Those present at the Coalition meeting agreed that is the approach we should support. Trevor Project Ambassador Debbie Rosenfelt has agreed to carry that version forward and will get back to us with a proposed proclamation. Thank you, Debbie, for your flexibility and for respecting our collaborative relationship. You rock.

(10) McGRAW-HILL REQUEST – Beth

- a) McGraw-Hill publishers have asked for permission to print one of our posters (“All Families Welcome” <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/allfamilieswelcome.html>) in a new textbook. We decided that we would grant permission as long as they include information about how to order the poster from us. We thought we should ask for a donation, but will leave the final decision in Beth’s hands. Meantime, Beth will contact the artist, Joe Breakey, to obtain his permission as he holds the copyright on the art in the poster.

(11) CARLSON CIVIC FELLOW OFFER – Beth

- a) **The Carlson Leadership & Public Service Center at UW invited us to host a fellow during the 2012-2013 academic year.** The Carlson Civic Fellowship aims to build deeper partnerships with community-based organizations and meet community needs while supporting students in developing tangible community leadership skills. Students selected as Carlson Civic Fellows will work at a community organization a minimum of 10 hours a week from January to June of 2013. Over this period of time, the Carlson Center will provide a \$2000 scholarship to students for their work with their community organization. The goal of the fellowship is to enable all students – no matter their economic situation – to make a commitment to community leadership opportunities. A central component of the fellowship is meeting community-defined needs. The Carlson Center would like to invite community-based and non-profit organizations in the greater Seattle area to propose a project for a member of the 2013 Carlson Civic Fellows cohort. As a host for a Carlson Civic Fellow, a community organization would define a specific role for the fellow while also providing supervision and mentorship for the student.
- b) We decided to apply to host a fellow. Michelle will do an initial orientation of the fellow and Gabi offered to possibly supervise them as well. Though the individual will have to be able to function without a physical site or perhaps as close supervision as they would have in most other organizations. Proposals are due on Friday, September 7 at 5:00PM.

(12) PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT – Beth

- a) A trio of Advocates for Youth’s Youth Activist Network members have announced the creation of National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day. They have asked people to sign on to a petition to President Obama, asking that he declare April 10th, 2013 the first annual National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day. One of them, Lawrence, said, **“If we put young people at the forefront — if we prioritize young people as key partners — we can get to an AIDS-free generation.** Young people have the power to prevent HIV, but we can’t do it alone. All of us have to be in this fight together. Which is why in this place, at this time, at this crucial moment in our fight, we call on President Obama, Congress, and each and every one of you to declare April 10 National Youth HIV and AIDS Awareness Day!”
- b) We agreed that Safe Schools Coalition should sign the petition. (Post script to the minutes – Beth has done so.)

- c) [CLICK HERE to sign the petition calling for President Obama and the U.S. government to officially recognize National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day.](#)

(13) WASHINGTON UNITED REQUEST – Beth

- a) We got a phone message from Washington United for Marriage about the Coalition's partnering in some way. Michelle has agreed to follow up on the phone message.

(14) BROWARD COUNTY SYMPOSIUM – Beth

- a) We have been invited, along with teams from various school districts around the country, to send a delegation to the first national invitation-only symposium, **THE KIDS ARE NOT ALL RIGHT**, regarding the inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender students in the life and learning of schooling. The symposium will begin February 20-22, 2013 in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The symposium is sponsored and supported by the Broward Stonewall Educational Project (BSEP) – a joint effort of the Broward County (Florida) Public School District and The Stonewall National Museum and Archives located in Fort Lauderdale.
- b) We agreed to send Katrina and Gabi. The Coalition will pay their airfare. The Broward Stonewall Educational Project will support symposium costs, hotel and food expenses. Katrina and Gabi will complete and send in the application by August 31 or sooner (funding is first come first served among invitees).

UPCOMING COALITION MEETINGS

All are welcome.

There are, as always, two ways to attend:

- The **face-to-face** meeting is at Planned Parenthood, 2001 E Madison, Seattle. Please park on the street, not in the lot, and keep your cell phone in your pocket until you get up to the 2nd floor. **And -- tedious as it sounds -- please sign in as you enter the building and again when you get to the meeting room and sign out as you leave.**
- For information about how to **call in**, contact that month's chair.

September 18th, 3-5 pm Pacific Time. **Matthew** facilitates and **Penny** records.

October 16th, 3-5 pm Pacific Time. **Michelle** facilitates, **Airen** 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:

Airen Lydick, co-secretary: 206-288-9568; info@campmentrees.org

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; <mailto:heather@yspp.org>

Katrina Pestano, spkrs' bureau mgr: 206-451-SAFE (7233); Katrina@safeschoolscoalition.org

Matthew Wilson, co-chair: 253-671-2838; mwilson@piercecountyaids.org

Michelle Munro, co-chair: 206-296-2629; michelle@safeschoolscoalition.org

Mo Lewis, co-chair: 425-226-5062; mlewis@kcsarc.org

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