

Minutes 9-16-08, 3-5 p.m. PST
Safe Schools Coalition Meeting
Chairing: Beth Reis; Recording: Penny Palmer
Help Needed / Action Items are in RED.

INTROS ... welcome new faces/voices

ATTENDING IN PERSON: Hanna **King**, Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets, Empowerment Project and Garfield High School GSA; Arnold **Martin**, Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities;
Frank **Couch**, SAMA Foundation and Safe Schools Coalition Intervention Specialist; Karen **McCabe**, Harborview Hospital Social Work; Joy **MacTavish**; Helen **Stillman**, Lambert House and Safe Schools Coalition Speakers' Bureau Manager; Marsha **Botzer**, Ingersoll Gender Center, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and Safe Schools Coalition Co-Chair; Beth **Reis**, Public Health – Seattle & King County and Safe Schools Coalition Co-Chair; Penny **Palmer**, Safe Schools Coalition Intervention Team Leader; Ethan **Blustein**; Stefanie **Fox**, King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division

ATTENDING BY PHONE: Gabi **Clayton**, PFLAG Olympia, Families United Against Hate, Youth Guardian Services, and Safe Schools Coalition Webspinner; Phyllis **Huster**, Washington State Senate Candidate, (D) 5th District

(1) WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES ... BULLYING REPORT response

Josh Friedes is chairing a Safe Schools Coalition Law & Policy Work Group of work group. The group was generally pleased with the report from Sr. Research Associate Kyra Kester of the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center at Washington State University who was assigned by the State Legislature to study the bullying law to see if it was working. Dr. Kester's report will be sent to the Legislature next week. Highlights will appear in a Safe Schools Coalition press release. **We also sent letters to the chairs of the Education Committees in both houses** – [Rep. Dave Quall](#) and [Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe](#) -- **asking for hearings** ("Given the wealth of information in this report on opportunities to enhance our state's bullying prevention efforts, we write to express our hope that you will see fit to hold a public hearing on the report as soon as possible.") **and would encourage folks to second the request.** For a copy of the report, contact Dr. Kester (360-576-6030 ext. 21, kkester@wsu.edu)

(2) WEB SITE REPORT

- a) **In August 21,549 visitors used the web site (www.safeschoolscoalition.org).** **Visitors came from 104 countries.** About 69% were from the United States. Other countries included, for instance, China, France, Canada, South Africa, Australia, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Ireland, Japan, the Philippines, Mexico, Brazil, Tajikistan, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Belize and Guatemala.
- b) So far, 21 people have completed surveys to help us see the demographic the web site serves.
 - 4 are students
 - 9 are parents (4 of them with children in preschool or K-12)
 - 15 work in schools (4 of them as guest speakers or adjunct lecturers, 10 as K-12 employees, 2 as college or university employees)
 - Among the K-12 employees, 5 are teachers, 3 are administrators and 2 are counselors, social workers or psychologists.
 - What they like about the site includes, for instance:
 - *There's a lot of great information and resources.*
 - *Excellent resources. I refer all new teachers to you.*
 - *Youth pages are very well-organized & user-friendly. Reports are helpful & accessible. As someone who's used your site for many years, it's impressive how it's continued to grow. (I personally use the site because I came out as a teenager in the 70s when there were*

NO resources, & Safe Schools presents the best of what's available for lesbian/gay youth today.)

- Resources sorted by those who use them. As an educator and parent I have used menu extensively to help colleagues and LGBT parents.
- I love how it run by community members and by many organizations. The time and effort put in by people like Gabi and Beth make safer schools a reality, especially people who live in rural areas.
- Tools for creating safer schools in my state
- Resources divided up in a variety of ways
- Amazing resources. Comprehensive lessons plans. Links to other services and resources.
- Assistance to protect student who is transgender from harassment and bullying.
- I believe you are promoting immoral behavior.
- The resources you offer! It is one of the most comprehensive in the state/nation.
- I am co-chair of the Idaho SSC and I like the easy to navigate format and collection of resources. I give your website address for most things we put out.
- What they want us to change:
 - nothing!!
 - It would be great to have the categories more organized and condensed.
 - Nothing specific I'm aware of. I haven't thoroughly explored every corner, but I think it's very impressive in its current state.
 - Up to date resources. Why not have the different orgs fill out a yearly survey - maybe work with Gay Yellow Pages to surface whose who?
 - It needs to be cleaned up a bit more. I like the new youth pages, but it is still not like other websites that youth use. I think the balance between adults and youth is ok for now.
 - Provide more state-specific info
 - Why not add areas that address both sides?
 - Offer more resources for school counselors.
- **HELP NEEDED: Complete the survey here:**
<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/limesurvey/index.php?sid=52119&newtest=Y>

(2) INTERVENTION TEAM REPORT

Intervention calls are increasing as school has started. We have received one call from a school in Texas along with 4 from this state. Billie Shultz has volunteered to help on the team.

(3) MEMBERSHIP REPORT – No renewals or new member applications this month

(4) LISTSERVE REPORT

a) Welcome to new subscribers from:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| • Boise, ID | • Pemberton, NJ | • Seattle, WA |
| • Baltimore, MD | • Milwaukie, OR | • Snoqualmie, WA |
| • St. Paul, MN | • Holland, PA | • Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| • Starkville, MS | • Richmond, VA | |
| • Portsmouth, NH | • Olympia, WA | |

b) We currently have 867 subscribers in at least (not everyone tells us where they are from):

- **11 countries:** Australia, Belize, Canada, China, Finland, Pakistan, Serbia and Montenegro, South Africa, United Kingdom, the U.S. and New Zealand.
- **In Canada, the 5 Provinces** we serve include at least Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec.
- **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.
- **Within Washington State, we serve at least 26 counties:** Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Ferry, Franklin, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Walla Walla, Whatcom, Whitman and Yakima.

- c) Welcome to new (volunteer) list staffer Lauren Mehl. Dolores and Tyler have stepped down. Staffing now looks like this (below) – send these folks whatever you recommend they send to the list:
- [Robyn Walters](#), for news messages
 - [Michelle Kline](#), for jobs messages
 - [Lauren Mehl, for event messages](#)
 - [Gabi Clayton](#), for legislative/elective and fundraising messages
 - [Beth Reis](#), for opinion digests, action items, resource messages (books, films, curricula, etc.), monthly lesson planning guides, and help needed requests from reporters, authors, researchers, and member orgs
 - [Chris Beahler](#), for professional journal messages
- d) You can subscribe to the list serve via the Safe Schools Coalition Website.
- e) **HELP NEEDED:** We still need a volunteer to take over sending opinion digests (editorials, blogs) to the list serve. It is about a 1-3 hour/week commitment and can be done from anywhere in the world with web access. To volunteer, contact Beth: <mailto:beth@safeschoolscoalition.org>

(5) SPEAKERS BUREAU REPORT – Helen

Many trainings have been completed recently, including: Renton Tech College, Jewish Day School –middle school staff, two workshops for Tacoma Public Schools employees on bullying and on LGBT issues; workshop at Gender Spectrum Conference on how to make school safe for your child; and 3 youth panels.

We have 2 trainings coming up: One at the Washington State GSA Summit and another at “Stop Hate in the Hallways” in Oklahoma.

Other upcoming Events: Suicide Prevention Conference, Training for trainers – Bellingham, Boys to Men – tabling, Trans Health Fair – Lambert House, Caitlin Ryan – Family Acceptance Project. Panelist training – 22 and under.

(6) PUBLICATIONS REPORT – Beth

- a) The Washington Education Association has graciously agreed to warehouse and distribute Safe Schools Coalition publications for one more year. This is an in-kind contribution to the Coalition and we are SO appreciative of it and, specifically, of Paige Foy who coordinates it.
- b) **HELP NEEDED: Starting September 1, 2009, we will need another member organization to take over warehousing and distribution.** You need storage space -- 4'X4'X6' at most. You need to be able to fill just about 2-3 orders a month in a timely way (more for the first month or two after a new publication comes out, but that only happens every couple of years), so the cost of staff time and postage is really minimal over the long run. Your doing this job could be an in-kind contribution from your agency in lieu of dues, if you needed to offset the shipping costs. Orders come in mostly electronically. You do NOT need to handle people's payments; our fiscal agent does that. This job is just a matter of housing the reports, posters and brochures and dropping orders into the mail a couple of times a month. You do NOT need to be Washington State headquartered. We are an international coalition. **PLEASE, if your organization can step up starting a year from now, let us know.** [Mailto:beth@safeschoolscoalition.org](mailto:beth@safeschoolscoalition.org)

(7) SPECIAL EVENTS

- a) **Caitlin Ryan** – Stefanie, Heather and Helen have coordinated a workshop 9/21/08 with this phenomenal Executive Director of the Family Acceptance Project at the Cesar Chavez Institute at San Francisco State University, whose research shows very concretely what families can do to improve the health and well-being (and decrease the HIV and suicide risk) of their LGBT children. Her project is working directly with White, Latino/a and Asian-American parents/guardians, including those who were initially rejecting, with tremendous success.

- b) **Jessica Pettit** – The Bush School’s Diversity Speaker Series is bringing her to Seattle the week of **February 2, 2009**. She has been referred to as the “Margaret Cho” of Diversity Trainers. She blends politics, humor, identity, and local flair with big city passion and energy through direct, individualized, and interactive conversations. Her workshops, seminars, and keynotes don’t just leave participants invigorated but inspired and motivated to follow through with action to create change.
<http://www.jessicapettitt.com/publications.htm>. The Coalition has been asked if we want to co-sponsor her visit, possibly speaking briefly as she is introduced and tabling at the event or even doing a separate event the week she is here. It can’t happen unless a small ad hoc committee (maybe 3-5 people) steps up. **If you would like to help make this happen, please talk with Eddie Moore at the Bush School for more information <mailto:Eddie.MooreJr@bush.edu> and/or let Beth know of your interest: <mailto:beth@safeschoolscoalition.org>**
- c) **The Sensei** – This exciting independent film, supported by the Matthew Shepard Foundation and directed by [Diana Lee Inosanto](#), is the fictional story of a young man in CO who is bullied and finds a martial arts teacher (sensei) who helps with his empowerment. D. Lee is the writer, director, producer and co-star as Karen Nakano O’Neil. Born Diana “Lee” Inosanto, daughter of martial arts legend Dan Inosanto, she was named after her honorary uncle, the late Bruce Lee. One of the stars, [Bryan Frank](#), who plays Karen’s brother, is originally from **Renton**, WA. It is expected to get a PG-13 rating. Watch the trailer: <http://www.thesenseimovie.com/> The film will be shown at the Seattle Lesbian and Gay Film Festival on Friday, **Oct 24**, 7:30 pm Admiral Theater. There will be a martial arts demo on stage in the half hour prior to that and a Q&A with the filmmaker(s) and star afterwards. Safe Schools Coalition has been invited to serve as "Community Co-presenters." Get more info and tickets here:
http://seattlelgff.bside.com/2008/films/thesensei_seattlelgff2008
- d) **It’s STILL Elementary: The Movie and the Movement** – This film, showing at the Seattle Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, 7:30 pm, **October 23** at the Central Cinema, is a must-see for parents and educators. When it premiered in 1996, **It’s Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues In School** was a groundbreaking documentary. The film boldly accomplished what few thought was even possible: discussing LGBT people and prejudice against them with young students in age-appropriate ways. Award-winning directors Debra Chasnoff and Helen S. Cohen took their cameras to six schools across the country and showed how educators were bravely teaching these important, matter-of-fact lessons. Twelve years later, IT’S STILL ELEMENTARY shares stories from behind the scenes of the original film and recounts the changes it’s ignited around the globe. Safe Schools Coalition has been invited to serve as "Community Co-presenters." Info and tickets here:
http://seattlelgff.bside.com/2008/films/itsstillelementarythemovieandthemovement_seattlelgff2008
- e) **Elliot Bay Book Company** – Authors **Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore & Thea Hillman** Wednesday, **October 15** at 7:30 p.m. at Elliot Bay Book Company, 101 South Main Street, Seattle. “Two of today’s most original and provocative young queer activist writers, Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore and Thea Hillman, appear here tonight on a compelling double bill. Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore’s **So Many Ways to Sleep Badly** (City Lights) is a gender-bending, transgressive novel about the struggle to find hope in the ruins of everyday San Francisco. Her books include *Nobody Passes*, and *That’s Revolting*. She regularly contributes to *Bitch*, *Alternet*, *Maximum RockNRoll*, and other publications. Performance artist Thea Hillman reads from **Intersex: For Lack of a Better Word** (Manic D), a memoir about one person’s search for self in a world obsessed with normal, and challenges the boundaries of sex and gender, and the boundaries of memoir.” For information contact Karen Maeda Allman: KMAllman@elliottbaybookcompany.com.

(8) PFLAG OLYMPIA’S LAUNCH OF THE GSA NETWORK’S CLIMATE SURVEY

- a) The launch was conducted recently at one high school. A new PFLAG board member, Kaleigh Costello, did the survey. We discussed the findings. They were different than

what we normally get when adults conduct the survey. Students (not a random sample) responded they identify as 14% gay/lesbian, 75% straight and 11% bi.

- b) See the survey tool here: <http://www.pflag-olympia.org/SchoolClimateSurvey.pdf> (formatted a little differently, but essentially the same tool as the GSA Network's; thank you, GSA Network).
- c) **All schools are encouraged to conduct the survey**, share it with administrators, then with staff, and then with parents and students. Knowing how much of a problem you have is a fundamental first step to fixing it. Knowing your own school's strengths is fundamental to growing them. And your own data is many times more compelling than state or national study! Any school that wants to administer the survey is encouraged to do so. [Stefanie Fox](mailto:stefanie.fox@kingcounty.gov) [stefanie.fox@kingcounty.gov] volunteered to coordinate project. **Contact her for more information.**
- d) Jeff Loyer [<mailto:jeff.loyer@comcast.net>] of PFLAG-Olympia has volunteered to compile your data into a simple PowerPoint report back to you. He may run out of capacity if many schools decide to engage in the process, but in the short run, all he says is "I may need help entering the raw data, but that can be done by anyone who has access to Excel (I'd send them a spreadsheet)." **Jeff would love you to step up if you are very good at database software to automate the process. Contact him directly with your requests for help and your offers of help.**

(1) FISCAL UPDATE

a) **Huge thanks to these recent individual and family donors to the Coalition through the Pride Foundation's Workplace Giving:**

- *Annabell Bergquist*
- *Peter Donahue*
- *Jolene Draves*
- *Heidi Herman*
- *Jay A. Leviton*
- *Brian McIntosh*
- *Mary Nebel*
- *Elizabeth Reis & Barbara Steele*
- *Anonymous*

b) If you haven't donated so far this year, now is the time to step up. Go to: <https://anauel.youth-guard.org/safeschools/donate.asp>

(10) HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

- a) It seems time to revisit the question of HRC's membership in the Coalition (suspended last spring in response to HRC's refusal to oppose a version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act or ENDA that would have protected gay people but excluded trans people). Three factors made us re-raise the issue, besides the fact that we committed to do so once they had had time to educate themselves and demonstrate their commitment to gender identity/expression inclusion.
- HRC has asked the Coalition to participate in piloting its Welcoming Schools guide. After discussion, it was decided that, just as long as we are clear that doing so isn't condoning the legislative choices they have made, we should support this outstanding project in any way we can.
 - A committee of the National Safe Schools Roundtable (NSSR) is wondering whether it would be OK at the NSSR's Oct 15-17 convening to use the relationship between HRC and the Coalition as a case study in communication within the movement. It was decided that we aren't ready – that it would be premature.
 - GLSEN National is considering joining the SSC but are asking for more clarification as to the process involved with the action regarding the HRC. Beth will explain to GLSEN what the process has been and how the HRC's action was considered a violation of the SSC's mission.
- b) Beth shared information from Ellen Kahn regarding a variety of efforts HRC has been making with respect to the transgender community. Ethan wondered aloud why those efforts were not more widely known. After considerable discussion, we agreed to have a conversation – and Frank volunteered to do that -- with HRC's legislative branch about

their intentions when ENDA comes back up before deciding what to do about our relationship with the HRC

(11) SSC MAIL

Joyful suggested we get a P.O. Box now to help deal with mail going to several different locations (AFSC, Public Health, Lifelong). It would cost \$138.00 per year and all mail would go to a central place and need to be picked up there. Advantages: Someone other than Joyful and Beth could be responsible for dispatching it to the appropriate folks – which would be helpful when one of them is on vacation, especially. Disadvantages: the cost and the need for someone to leave their workplace to gather the mail. It was suggested we try to find a coalition member organization to handle the mail and deliver possibly an in-kind contribution. Thoughts? **Want to offer to house SSC's mailing address at your office – assuming you have a couple of folks to check it should one be ill or on vacation?** Contact Beth:
<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/contact/?id=13>

(12) ANTI RACISM TRAINING

Helen is working with outstanding trainer Truc Nguyen to arrange training for SSC volunteers, contractors and member orgs. More information will follow. **UPDATE SINCE SSC MEETING:** The training will be 10 am – 4 pm, Saturday, Nov 8th at Seattle Counseling Services. Training is **free** to SSC volunteers (required for speakers and intervention specialists) and member orgs. **RSVP required!!! Go to <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/contact/?id=9>**

(13) PHYLLIS HUSTER

A candidate for the Senate in the 5th district wanted to thank us for our work on the Mt. Si situation. She gave us a little of her background on her work in the LGBT arena. Thank you for contributing to our meeting.

(14) NORTHWEST CONFERENCE ON TEACHING SOCIAL JUSTICE

Oct 4th at Meany Middle School. Website to register is www.nwtsj.org. Doris Brevoort asked Beth to announce this conference and suggested we might coordinate with another youth group for tabling.

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.

Oct 21st, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. Frieda chairs and _____ records
Frieda: 253-765-7062; ftakamura@washingtonea.org

Nov 17th, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. Beth chairs and _____ records
Beth: 206-296-4970; beth.reis@kingcounty.gov

Dec 16th, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. Marsha chairs and _____ records
Marsha: 206-601-8942; mbotzer@botzerconsulting.com