

Safe Schools Coalition Meeting

DRAFT Agenda 5-17-2011, 3-5 p.m. PDT

Facilitating: Beth Reis; Recording: Frank Couch

HELP NEEDED messages are in RED.

Members Present in person: **Beth Reis**, Public Health – Seattle & King County / **Frank Couch**, Science and Management of Addictions (SAMA) Foundation / **Briana Herman-Brand**, SCC Speakers' Bureau Manager / **Paul Uhl**, U.W. School of Social Work Student

Members Present by phone: **Gabi Clayton**, SSC Webspinner and Membership Chair, PFLAG Olympia, Families United Against Hate, and Youth Guardian Services

(1) INTROS

(2) SHARING TIME

(3) SEATTLE LGBT COMMISSION REQUEST – Commissioner(s)

- a) The purpose of the Seattle LGBT Commission is to provide information and advice to the Mayor, City Council, and other City departments, offices, commissions and boards concerning issues of importance to lesbians, gays and other sexual minorities. The City of Seattle LGBT Commission is staffed by the Seattle Office of Civil Rights. In 2008, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels gathered community stakeholders and Commission members to participate in a round table on LGBTQ issues to better understand the needs, issues, and engagement of the LGBTQ community. Many people provided thoughtful ideas and perspectives but there was a lack of data to support this anecdotal information, and the Mayor asked for more concrete information about how the City could engage the LGBTQ community. The lack of data also impacted the Commission's ability to make policy and budget recommendations, and was a hindrance to community organizations and nonprofits seeking grant funding.
- b) The LGBTQ Commission Needs Assessment Report 2011: After speaking with multiple organizations and community members, the Commission decided to create an online needs assessment survey to begin compiling information about Seattle's LGBTQ community. The "Snapshot Seattle" survey was launched the last week of May 2010 and remained live through the second week of July 2010. The survey is an important first step in addressing the needs of the LGBTQ community in Seattle. The feedback and data from the survey will be used by the Commission to identify current issues in the LGBTQ community and opportunities for partnering with the City and other organizations for improvements to the community.
- c) If someone is available it would be great to see SSC represented at a needs assessing gathering the Commission is hosting: May 31, 2011 from 6:00-7:30PM at Seattle Counseling Service, Rainbow Room - 3rd Floor, 1216 Pine Street, Suite 300, Seattle, WA 98101. Briana Herman-Brand said that she would try and attend; **however, others are welcome to attend on behalf of SCC.**

(4) WFHB RADIO REQUEST – Beth

- a) **WFHB radio** in Bloomington, Indiana houses a queer radio show called BloomingOUT (see <http://wfhb.org/bloomingout/>). They would like for Safe Schools Coalition to provide someone – perhaps someone different each month – to come on the show for 15 minutes and talk about "the various issues related to lgbt youth - and outreach - etc."

HELP NEEDED: Briana Herman-Brand is willing to coordinate the radio segments. If any SSC members are willing contribute to a segment – if you

have things you would want to share with listeners from your perspective as a student, a GSA advisor, a parent, a teacher or teacher educator, an administrator, or a community member -- or you have ideas please contact Briana at <mailto:briana@safeschoolscoalition.org>

(5) FISCAL REPORT – Michelle

- a) We renewed our application this month to participate in King County's Employee Giving Campaign.
- b) This month, \$400 came in from Delta Lambda Phi at University of Washington – the profits from their Incent Sprint fundraiser to benefit Safe Schools Coalition. Thanks, guys. Awesome gift.
- c) Also this month, we received a total of \$1,042 from Woodinville Unitarian Universalist Church from their showing of the play *Laramie Project* to benefit Safe Schools Coalition. Thank y'all so much.
- d) Beth reported that there is the possibility that SSC may be eligible to receive a grant in the amount of \$20,000 from the Seattle Foundation. She and Briana will pursue it.
- e) Michelle sent a fiscal report that showed our current balance as \$24,108.72.

(6) LAW & POLICY WORK GROUP REPORT – Beth for Lonnie, Jen

- a) Youth Suicide Prevention Project is still receiving some (limited) funding amidst the current state budget cuts.
- b) The bullying bill passed which made (very modest) funding available for a statewide bullying task force.
- c) The fate of the Office of the Education Ombudsman is still unclear as the special legislative session is still negotiating a budget compromise.

(7) WEB SITE(S) REPORT – Gabi

- a) **HARVEY MILK DAY:** The Safe Schools Coalition is proud to host a new set of pages on our web site devoted to California's state holiday that honors martyred gay rights pioneer, Harvey Milk. The pages are a project of California Safe Schools Coalition, Gay Straight Alliance Network (GSA Network), and Our Family Coalition. They were designed by and are hosted on the Safe Schools Coalition's website. The pages include a biography and downloadable lesson plans about Harvey Milk and the history of the LGBT rights movement. Harvey Milk Day is May 22, 2011 in California this year. <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/HarveyMilkDay/>

HELP NEEDED: We are asking teachers to send YOUR curricula about Milk to the GSA Network for consideration and sharing. Keep in mind copy right infringement issues if you do send items others have created. **To contribute to the Harvey Milk page, go to:**
www.safeschoolscoalition.org/HarveyMilkDay/forms/SendUsYourCurricula.html

- b) **POSTER:** We got donated services from Stephen Schlott of the firm Partners in Design to repair a misspelling on our wonderful **"I'm Different" poster**. The cleaned up poster is on line and can be downloaded and we'll spell "you're" correctly on the print version next time we print new posters. In the meantime, feel free to use the misspelling as a teachable moment. Thank you, Stephen and [Partners in Design](#). Looking for a design firm? Please patronize our supporters.
- c) **KEEPING THE SITE CURRENT AND USER-FRIENDLY:** Thank you to volunteer Jeaneen Watkins who has been supporting the web site by spending many hours checking links, email addresses and phone numbers to make sure they are still good. Jeaneen has also been stickering SSC brochures and posters to reflect our current phone numbers. Thank you, Jeaneen. Our web site couldn't be as awesome as it is

without people like you.

d) SUPPORTING SCHOOLS ALL OVER THE WORLD: In April, users with almost 16,000 unique IP addresses accessed our web site. We had visitors from 109 countries.

e) AMONG OUR MOST VISITED PAGES IN APRIL:

→ [Lesson Plans](#)

→ [Bullying, Harassment, School-Based Violence](#)

→ [Posters, Stickers, Calendars](#)

→ [Law & Policy](#)

→ [Homeless LGBT Youth and LGBT Youth in Foster Care](#)

→ [Classroom Resources for Teachers and Curriculum Specialists](#)

→ [Scholarships and Grants](#)

f) Jeaneen is reviewing the website for broken links and other items that need updating. While Gabi has volunteering her time on membership, Thanks Jeaneen and Gabi for your volunteerism.

(8) INTERVENTION TEAM REPORT – Penny

a) RECENT INTERVENTIONS with/for:

→ A Georgia mom whose child's principal said he couldn't do anything if he didn't have the names of the specific students doing the bullying. We listened and problem-solved about strategies to ask of the principal. We also referred her to the Georgia Safe Schools Coalition and her local PFLAG chapter.

→ The mother of a 7th grader whose classmates call him gay and a girl. His teacher has punished him for ADHD-related behavior by putting him in a closet. We problem-solved with the mom.

→ The parent of a high school sophomore daughter who she says is being bullied and having her grades lowered by a teacher, perhaps due to her being a highly capable student. We problem solved ways of approaching the teacher and principal that would be non-confrontational and problem-solving even as they were assertive. We discussed owning the possibility that her child or others with privilege that this teacher has encountered have perhaps had attitudes of entitlement and superiority that the teacher finds offensive. We encouraged her asking honestly for the reasons for his actions and for her grades. We also referred her to OEO if she needs a government agency to support her clout.

→ The parent of an 8 year old daughter from a rural area who was bullied so severely that she was hospitalized. The family is frustrated with the school's not taking any responsibility. We suggested strategies and will check back.

(9) MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Gabi

a) NEW MEMBER DECISION: Lesbian and Gay Childcare Task Force. All members present voted to accept the new members. Please help SCC in welcoming our newest member of the coalition. Learn more about them on their website at http://www.thetaskforce.org/about_us.

(10) SPEAKERS BUREAU REPORT – Briana

Speakers Bureau & Training Team

Date:	Location:	Trainers:	Audience Total:
4/27	Shoreline School District	Beth	26

beliefs and interpretations and keeping the message palatable through the strategic use of animation. It is feature length (60 min) and appropriate for use in churches and church youth groups, especially Christian ones, and parochial high schools and church-affiliated young adult service groups. More information including how to book a screening: <mailto:ekurasz@redhartproductions.com> -- Beth Reis

(14) HONORING JAMES GAYLORD

- a) 2011 marks the 35th anniversary of the law suit filed by James Gaylord, who'd been fired by Tacoma Public Schools for being gay (because he attended a meeting of a gay rights organization outside of school hours). 35 years go the Washington State Supreme Court upheld this outrageously discriminatory firing.
<http://www.seattlepi.com/default/article/More-doors-open-to-gays-today-1147993.php>
- b) Gabi agreed to attempt to contact Mr. Gaylord with the hope of inviting him to ride in our Pride parade contingent and in hopes of honoring him through Alec (Clayton)'s writing an article about his story for publication.
- c) **HELP NEEDED: Gabi is following all the leads we have, but if you know how to reach James Gaylord, please do let her know:**
<mailto:gabi@safeschoolscoalition.org>

(15) 1ST EVER FEDERAL LGBT YOUTH SUMMIT, JUNE 6-7

- a) Beth Reis has been asked to represent Safe Schools Coalition and attend the first ever LGBT youth summit hosted by the U.S. Department of Education. She will be joined by Lisa Love, some Seattle youth panelists and their chaperones, and, we hope, Mo Lewis and Heather Carter. (Word about these last two nominations of Mo and Heather was awaited as of the SSC meeting; we have since, unfortunately, been informed that the US Department of Education does not have enough funding to bring two more SSC representatives to DC).

(16) SEATTLE PRIDE PARADE, JUNE 26

- a) **HELP NEEDED:** Pride is coming up. SCC and Seattle Public Schools are **looking for additional chaperones to ride the bus this year.** Frank Couch has agreed to ride the bus. **Any members willing to ride the bus or walk along and help pass out brochures please RSVP to Lisa Love** <mailto:llove@seattleschools.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 21st, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. **Beth** facilitates and **Heather C** records. Beth: 206-296-4970; beth.reis@kingcounty.gov

July 19th, 2-4 pm (**NOTE SUMMER HOURS**), Pacific Time. Stefanie facilitates and **Penny** records. NOTE: Beth will miss this meeting.

Aug 16th, 2-4 pm, Pacific Time. **Heather M** facilitates and **Frank** records. Heather: 206-616-6361; hmurphy@u.washington.edu