

MISSION STATEMENT

Given that youth of sexual minority orientations, including lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals suffer a disproportionate risk for harassment, suicide, substance abuse, HIV infection, depression, low self-esteem, runaway, homelessness, prostitution and sexual exploitation; and

Given that the needs of sexual minority youth are inadequately addressed, therefore:

The Task Force on Adolescent Sexual Minority Issues seeks to support the rights and needs of sexual minority youth to develop according to their own unique characteristics. Toward this end we support responsible policies, education of the community, and the provision of appropriate services.

Task Force Goals

1. Promote public policy which protects against discrimination, assures equal access to services and provides accurate and relevant information.

Priority #1: Institutional policies which reflect the mission statement of the Task Force.

(TIE) Revise school policy handbooks to include protection of sexual minority youth from harassment.

2. Educate the community, service providers, youth and families regarding issues facing youth of minority sexual orientation and regarding available resources.

Priority #1 (Subject to revision): Train human services professionals.

3. Advocate for services which permit all young people to develop to their full capacity, free from harassment and victimization.

Priority #1: Revise sex education curricula, as needed, to include appropriate, relevant information regarding lesbian/gay/bisexual youth.

TASK FORCE ON ADOLESCENT SEXUAL MINORITY ISSUES

Next meeting: March 9, 1990
3:30 p.m.
Room C121 -- Child Services Center
531 S.E. 14th, Portland

FEB 28 1990

Minutes for February 16, 1990:

25 members were present. New members were introduced and updated on the working of the Task Force to date.

The question of what is meant by "youth" was raised. Advantages and disadvantages of delimiting the age of our target population were seen. The topic was tabled for now.

The mission statement and goals were reviewed by the entire group and adopted with few revisions (see attachment.) Nikki Johnson clarified that the language used to describe the situation of l/g/b/t adolescents was intentionally emotional in order to promote an appreciation of the actual conditions. Stephanie Holloway noted the difference between being "at risk" and "suffering the effects"; the latter is the reality for sexual minority adolescents. Dan Stutesman replied to the question of what "sexual minority" means (women?) with the suggestion that we clarify by including "lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual" early in the mission statement.

Thanks to Greg Asher, Judy Chambers, David Colton, Nikki Johnson and Jay Roberts for their work in developing the mission statement and goals.

Stevie Newcomer announced that she will serve as liaison to a committee of the Portland Association of Teachers on the question of addressing the needs of this population in the Portland schools.

A committee consisting of Ann Hinds, Donna Redwing, Dan Stutesman, Stevie Newcomer, Marge Parker and Judy Chambers was formed to create a logo and letterhead for the Task Force. They will report at the March 9 meeting.

Structural and procedural questions were discussed with many feeling that the Task Force should continue to meet as a whole as priorities are set. A "temporary, ad hoc" executive committee was suggested to plan agendas, etc. Members are Stephanie Holloway, Ann Hinds, Greg Asher, Ron Bloodworth and Judy Chambers.

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR MARCH 9: Round table discussions of activities relating to each of the Task Force goals, followed by large group reporting and discussion of initial priorities. Please come prepared to share practical application of the goals.


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TASK FORCE ON ADOLESCENT SEXUAL MINORITY ISSUES

Minutes for March 9, 1990

Participants introduced themselves. Since there were several new members, Judy Chambers offered a brief summary of the Task Force's work to date.

There was a brief discussion of homophobia issues related to the membership of the Task Force and whether we are adequately "acculturating" non-homosexual members to the language being used, etc. A "Fact Sheet on Homosexuality" was distributed. It was agreed that since countering homophobia is the primary intent of the Task Force members should make every effort to raise our own consciousness of our personal and cultural homophobia.

A round table process was used to permit all participants to contribute to the three work groups as they developed recommendations and related activities for the Task Force to address. (See attachment, "Task Force Goals," with recommendations.)

There was a request that the mailing list of the entire Task Force be distributed. (Response to this request is pending, in order to give all members the opportunity to signify whether or not they wish their name and address to be on the list to be distributed.)

NEXT MEETING: Friday, April 13, 3:30 p.m. in room C121 at the Child Services Center, 531 S.E. 14th, Portland.

TASK FORCE ON SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH
Membership Survey
April 1990

Yes, I want to take an active role with the Task Force by working on the following subcommittee (choose one):

_____ Policy
_____ Education
_____ Services

I am also interested in working on the following:*

_____ Writing Committee (creating a long-term agenda with
recommendations by the Task Force for the community).
_____ Steering Committee (recommendation is 6-8 people).

*these two groups may be combined.

At this time, I'll not be active but keep me on the mailing list.

No, I do not wish to be involved and do not want to be on the mailing list.

Please complete the following:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ (w) _____ (h)

Agency/work site _____

_____ O.K. to distribute
to membership
_____ Not O.K. to
distribute

Thank you for your response. Return by May 1, 1990 to: Judy Chambers

531 SE 14th
Portland, OR 97214

TASK FORCE ON ADOLESCENT SEXUAL MINORITY ISSUES

APR 05 1990

Agenda: April 13, 1990
3:30 p.m.
Child Services Center
Room C121
531 S.E. 14th, Portland, OR

- I. Introductions
- II. Reports: logo development committee, PAT committee, state initiative, school district efforts
- III. Discussion: Membership expectations (Ron Bloodworth)
- IV. Discussion: Organizational structure
- V. Work groups
 - A. Objectives of the work groups
 - B. Prioritization of recommendations
 - C. Personal commitments (April-May)
 - D. Debrief/process

TASK FORCE ON ADOLESCENT SEXUAL MINORITY ISSUES

Minutes for April 13, 1990

Participants introduced themselves and, if they chose to do so, mentioned something they had said or done to reduce homophobia.

Ann Hinds shared the work she has done toward developing a logo for the Task Force and solicited input from the membership on her concepts. She will continue to refine a few ideas and report back.

Stevie Newcomer reported that the Portland Association of Teachers interest is simply to be kept up to date on school district and Task Force activities rather than to create a separate committee.

Steve Fulmer related that the initiative to the Governor to form a statewide task force was referred on to the Children and Youth Services Commission. He said that Right to Privacy has sent a follow-up supporting the Governor's reconsideration of the initiative.

Steve also reported briefly on the status of the timeline requested by the superintendent of schools for implementation of recommended changes in curriculum, training, etc. He has completed a second draft of that document and is circulating it to identified persons in the district for their review.

Ron Bloodworth distributed a membership survey designed to determine members' level of commitment to the Task Force. It will be distributed to all on the mailing list.

Judy Chambers discussed a structure for the Task Force which the Executive Committee proposed: a Steering Committee of 6 members to start (3 elected at-large, 3 selected from the work groups as their liaison), together with ongoing work groups or committees. The membership survey will offer the opportunity to nominate oneself for the Steering Committee. Elections will be held at the May 11 meeting.

The meeting then broke into work groups for the purpose of prioritizing recommendations for immediate attention. (See attached.)

The meeting closed at 5 p.m. with the work group on training issues continuing to meet thereafter to resolve its priorities.

NEXT MEETING: May 11, 3:30 p.m., Child Services Center, room C121.

APR 25 1990

April 12, 1990 :

To: Persons Interested In The Task Force On Sexual Minority Youth.

From: Ad hoc Steering Committee: Judy Chambers, Greg Asher, Ann Hinds,
Stephanie Holloway, Ron Bloodworth.

RE: Membership Commitment

The Task Force on Sexual Minority Youth has evolved to the stage where we need an indication of the level of commitment of the membership in carrying out the suggested objectives of the Policy, Education, and Services, subcommittees. The task force goals and suggested objectives of these three subcommittees are attached.

The mailing list of persons interested in the work of the task force is long and membership at monthly meetings has varied. Now we need to know your commitment. Please complete the survey below and return by May 1.

Task Force Goals

1. Promote public policy which protects against discrimination, assures equal access to services and provides accurate and relevant information.

Recommendations:

1. Public policies (school district, county, etc.) reflect the Task Force Mission Statement
2. Personnel policies offering "amnesty," a climate of tolerance and non-discrimination for students and staff
3. Proactive policy of support from all jurisdictions impacting children and youth
4. Editorial policy which educates and sensitizes around sexual minority youth issues
5. Non-discriminatory policies and services in all public institutions
6. Revise Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook to include protections for sexual minority youth
7. Ensure needed service provision by policy

(Draw additional recommendations from Seattle report)

2. Educate the community, service providers, youth and families regarding issues facing youth of minority sexual orientation and regarding available resources.

Recommendations:

1. Educate media
2. Train human services professionals
3. Work to support mandated sex ed, HIV ed for all students, all levels
4. Increase lesbian and gay awareness/sensitivity to issues
5. Institute Lesbian and Gay History Week/Month
6. Agencies evaluate current climate and existing programming for bias regarding staff and clients
7. Network information to existing organizations
8. Encourage dialogue on l/g/b issues within families, churches, communities
9. Include lesbian and gay issues in sex ed classes
10. Infuse curriculum across grade and subject levels
11. Educate and sensitize regarding homophobia in all situations

Related activities:

1. In-service trainings for everyone
2. Provide bibliographies of books, videos annotated, rated and skill or grade-referenced
3. Displays in prominent places--libraries, public buildings

4. Create a group to meet with managers to help them understand issues of sexual minorities; work through OSBA, COSA, religious organization, youth groups
 5. Provide materials to educate
 6. Develop and provide assessment tools for agency climates
 7. Billboards, PSAs, public advertising, Tri-Met advertising
 8. Pro-active events in front of churches
 9. Sexuality forums for parents and kids
 10. Review titles in libraries
3. Advocate for services which permit all young people to develop to their full capacity, free from harassment and victimization.

Recommendations:

1. Written resources available in public places (fiction, non-fiction)
2. Non-discriminatory services at schools and agencies (public)
3. Identify current services available
4. Use newspapers to pass information
5. Sex education to include gay/lesbian/bisexual
6. Drug and alcohol treatment
7. Include youth in larger (g/l/b) community events (potlucks, etc.)
8. Outreach to rural l/g/b youth
9. Education to all youth about options (in schools)
10. Information, resources, counseling to parents (i.e., PFlag, include in parenting classes, mediation for youth coming out)
11. Media focus
12. Use language of sexual minorities
13. Request libraries to have specific books
14. Request phone #s of present group
15. Counseling resources widely available
16. Counseling services available through juvenile justice

August 3, 1990

RECEIVED
AUG 8 1990

* * U P D A T E * *

HUMAN RELATIONS COMM

Task Force on Adolescent Sexual Minority Issues

At the June 8, 1990 Task Force meeting a "select (aka small)" group met. It was determined to suspend task force meetings until the fall. The steering committee agreed to meet twice a month over the summer.

A report was received from Steve Fulmer on the visit of three Portland Public Schools staff to Project 10 in Los Angeles. After 4 years Project 10 is still only in one classroom at one high school and has not, to their knowledge, been replicated.

The Needs Assessment Draft 3 was reviewed and suggestions made for changes. A separate questionnaire for youth was discussed and suggestions for distribution sites were made.

The steering committee has met several times and its work includes:

1. Set a timeline for distribution of needs assessments (August), hearings (September-October), a report completed (November 15).
2. Made a site visit to Seattle to meet with staff and volunteers from the Seattle Commission on Children and Youth and the gay/lesbian youthline project.
3. Reviewed materials from the Seattle Commission on Children and Youth for applicability to our work.
4. Initiated conversations with statewide Commission on Children and Youth and the Multnomah County Commission on Children and Youth to elicit their involvement in the needs assessment, hearings and report.
5. Put logo development on hold.
6. Discussed pros and cons of remaining autonomous and independent versus being "adopted" by another public entity.
7. Agreed to send letter of support to Dr. Matthew Prophet, Superintendent of PPS, for the work being initiated within the District toward needs of sexual minority youth. That work should ensue in early 1991.
8. Continued work on drafts of needs assessment and youth questionnaire.
9. Reviewed research articles on sexual minority issues for inclusion as background information for the report.
10. Agreed to make a presentation on "Service Needs of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Adolescents" at the "Who's Watching the Children" Conference in December.

Questions? Input? Eager to help? Call on of the steering committee members listed on your roster.