

January 21, 2006 Meeting & Retreat of the
Board of Stand Out Youth, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Present: Jamie Maury, Ernie Lee, Trish Coberly, Leo Monroe, Sarah Holmes, Marianne Brouillette, Larry Brown, Daniel Cordero, Jason Parrish, Fred Richter

Not present: Suzanne Aiken, Holland Morgan

Guests: Martha Womack, Nev Kraguljevic

Introductions took place for guests.

Minutes: There was a motion to accept the November 2005 Minutes as prepared by Board Secretary. It was seconded and a vote taken. The motion carried.

There was a motion to accept the agenda as presented by Board President. It was seconded, then voted on, and the motion carried.

Item 1 – History of Stand Out Youth: Martha and Jamie presented a summary beginning with their work in 1995 as FCN co-chairs in support of establishing services for youth, moving forward to Stand Out's becoming independent from FCN in 2005.

Item 2 – Grants:

*Gamma Mu Grant: Sarah reported that an interim report is needed. Martha said that she has models of previously submitted reports. Sarah, Larry, & Ernie will work on compiling the report. This grant is awarded with FCN serving as the fiscal agent. Sarah is serving as the liaison to FCN on the grant.

*Southern Partners Grant: This grant will be the first awarded to the incorporated organization Stand Out Youth. Ernie and Martha met with the granting

foundation's representative. The foundation is based out of Atlanta, Georgia and has the theme of social justice.

Item 3 – Financial Report:

Marianne identified that Stand Out Youth, Inc. has its own checking account. Marianne identified that she needs to get some paper bank statements from FCN related to Stand Out. She will follow-up with FCN's treasurer.

*It was agreed that the rent for use of the Unitarian Church space be paid for December 2005, January & February 2006 at one time.

*Marianne asked if there were any known fees for advertisement in the FCN newsletter. Martha responded, "No." The ads recently run were public service announcements.

*Marianne identified a need to develop a smoother reimbursement system for facilitator out-of-pocket expenses.

Item 4 – Program Coordinator report:

*Larry identified that the youth meeting space moved to its new location on December 1, 2005. Improved signage and an update on the website will be done.

*The average number of weekly youth participants is three, which includes repeat/regular participants.

*Phone activity: Average number of calls per week is four, consisting of general questions such directions to meeting space.

*E-mail activity: There was an inquiry from Georgia Southern University for information.

*Outreach: Larry reported that he has been in contact with several African-American ministers that were agreeable/receptive of information about Stand Out Youth.

*He has also contacted Linda Lyons of Savannah-Chatham County School Board

*Larry has followed-up with Savannah Connect in reference to advertisement of meeting times. Ernie suggested that he also contact Fusion for an ad. Larry is a board member for Fusion and will look into establishing an ad.

*The scheduling of topics and facilitators continues to appear on the website.

*Larry expressed interest in improving the screening process of facilitators. Ernie agreed to contact organizations similar to Stand Out in reference to their policies on screening facilitators. Leo agreed to sit with Ernie upon receipt of policy examples.

Item 5 – FCN liaison: Sarah is in communication with FCN in reference to the Gamma Mu grant, which was awarded to Stand Out through FCN. She has had e-mail communication with Joseph Morgan, an FCN co-chair person.

*Larry provides a monthly news article to FCN for inclusion in the FCN newsletter. The article summarizes Stand Out Youth’s weekly group activities.

Item 6 – Planning Session: Facilitated by Trish

*There was review of the notes from the April 2004 planning session so as to identify what was planned and accomplished since that time. There was also the intent to re-evaluate the goals and objectives as the board planed again for the future.

*The mission statement was reviewed and discussed. Following discussion on simplifying the statement and removing reference to the age of persons served, a motion was made to change the statement to read

The mission of Stand Out Youth, Inc. is to foster support and to promote understanding of issues facing gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, and questioning youth.

*Outlook

- To increase number of youth participants
- To increase Stand Out's visibility in the community
- To identify geographical boundaries, both physical and virtual (Internet/web)

*DJ and Jamie pointed out that defining boundaries relate to funding & marketing initiatives.

*There was the notation that transportation also is a consideration when thinking of physical boundaries.

- To identify barriers to attendance: conduct a needs assessment

*Transportation: whether a person is not old enough to drive, or must rely on public transportation, or lives outside the city

*Fear of being out/openly gay

*The rainbow flag at current meeting space addresses identity issues for those not openly gay

*Current facility needs improvement in décor and general ambiance. Ernie supports looking for an alternative facility, including the consideration of a suite at the Senior Citizens' building.

***Identified goal:** Educate the community and ourselves for removing barriers and increasing publicity

- Jason & DJ spoke about creating a virtual community to include monitored chat sessions. It was identified that the needed software already exists and that grants are available to help with funding a virtual community.

- Nev suggested Diversity Builders as an online source for building publicity using the internet
- There was the suggestion to develop a media packet to include updated brochures, business cards, & print ads
- Update the website in collaboration with our web administrator
- Outreach to schools, hospitals, and other institutions
- Attend and present at conferences
- Outreach to parents

***Identified goal:** Support the youth

- Increase website activity, consider video streaming
- Improve meeting space/location: Jamie proposed the Jewish Education Alliance Center as an option. Nev expressed concern about an affiliation with a religious entity
- Identify and remove barriers to youth participation
- Maintain fundraising/grant efforts
- Continue weekly meetings
- Refine process of facilitator selection/screening, and continue recruitment of facilitators
- Continue support via cellular phone communication & access
- Incorporate youth representation on board

***Identified goal:** Empower youth (ultimately incorporated under Support the youth)

- Develop relevant weekly topics that provide resources and information for growth, e.g. socialization skills, health issues, life skills, religious issues

*Identified goal: Organizational Growth & Development

- To consist of public relations and funding efforts
- To establish a media packet
- To establish a list of direct contributors and supporters
- To establish contribution capacity via the website
- To develop grant applications and broader fundraiser ideas

***Identified committees** following planning session:

- Education via technology/web expansion: Jason is chairperson. Other members are DJ and Fred.
- Education & development via public relations: Nev is chairperson. Other members are DJ, Jason, & Trish.
- Development & growth via fundraising: DJ is chairperson. Other members are Larry, Trish, Fred, & Nev.
- Support youth via evaluation of facilitators and alternative facilities: Leo is chairperson. Other members are Larry and Jamie.

Next board meeting will be at Jamie's office space, February 21, 2006, 7:15 PM.

With there being no more business to discuss, a motion was made and seconded to close the meeting. A vote was taken. Motion carried. The meeting closed at 3:00.

Dated this the 21st day of January, 2006.

Leo J. Monroe

Secretary of the Corporation