

Northwest Infant Survival & SIDS Alliance (NISSA)

Board Meeting Minutes  
September 7, 2010, 7:00-8:30pm  
Telemeeting

Board Members Present: Aileen Carrell, Melissa Allen, Stacey Branom, Nora Davis, Kandy Paulson, Jeff Norman, Penny Gay, Caroline Law

Board Members Absent: Laura Martini, Andrea Berndt, Stephanie Gebhardt (fka Hoel)

Guests Present: Kathy Lee, Sue Mickey Krinbring

Staff Present: Deborah Robinson (Interim Director)

- Call to order – 7:09pm
- Agenda – no changes, stands approved
- Minutes of 8/2/10 – no changes, stands approved
- **Note: Penny requested hard copies of all materials be mailed to her prior to each meeting – computer not able to open electronic attachments from NISSA**

**INTERIM DIRECTOR REPORT (DEBORAH)** (sent to board prior to meeting)

**Office Details**

- Phones & modem updated and on line except with the ED computer
- Insurance has been updated to include the run and auction, contractors are not covered under our current insurance plan.
- Audit is still in process, fraud documentation has been sent by Stephanie and I am working on the control monitoring forms requested by our auditor. Anticipate completion date of Sept 15 on my end.
- Dick completed the 2009 - 990 to the IRS
- Upgrade of GiftMaker donor software
- Protocol in place with the King County Medical Examiner on death notification & NISSA
- Auction initiations will be sent no later than 9-8. We are 97 items short of our goal to date.

**Community Activities**

- 2-day site visit for SUIDI case registry at the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. Continued federal support pledged for ongoing training to standardize death certification.
- Washington State highlighted in the upcoming CDC “State Spotlight”
- Equal Start Summit planning for January featuring Sen. Claudia Kauffman, (Muckleshoot Tribe), Dr Maxine Hayes (DOH) & national community speakers Camera Jones, Tonya Lewis Lee (wife of Spike Lee producer).

- Safe Sleep Coalition, Child Profile mailer submitted a mini grant from the CJ Foundation. Grants Administrator contacted me and I believe the project will get funded through Children's Trust.
- Fiscal sponsor for NAWDIM grant and King County-Seattle Public Health as a call to action from the Governors Interagency Council on Health Disparities (07) on Infant Mortality. The index of disparity was 85% in the American Indian/Alaskan Native(9.7 per live births) African American (8.9) White (4.7) Hispanic & Asians 4.8 & 3.8 , respectively.
- Baby boost Oct 1, On Solid Ground
- Combined Federal Campaign exhibit on Sept 30
- Children's Hospital Infant Safety Conference Purple, Sept 23
- Dept of Health is responding to a request from a Native American group regarding specialized training for tribal police, elders, EMS and CPS workers to improve death scene investigations and a cost analysis. They have asked for our help in identifying shortfalls and training suggestions.
- Legislative briefing King County Council regarding infant death certifications

### **Grants**

- Sept 30 the final report for the CJ grant is due. Lynn Roesch will help draft
- We owe the Dore grant a report, checking with them to confirm deadline date

### **Eastern Washington: Liz Montgomery**

In the last month, I have participated in two resource/health fairs in Spokane and I visited a local maternity home/shelter for unmarried teens to do a safe sleep class twice. Caroline Law and I are teaming up to work with this shelter on a regular basis as new women come in to stay. I will be participating in a health fair in Ritzville on Sept. 11 and Valley Fest on Sep. 25<sup>th</sup> with the NISSA info booth. I will also be attending a resource fair at Gonzaga University to begin to build our volunteer base with PR students.

Additional info from Deborah:

- NISSA did not receive the \$10,000 grant from the Empire Foundation that was to be used for Safe Sleep materials (cribs, etc.) in Eastern Washington

### **PRIORITY TOPICS TO DISCUSS (AILEEN)**

#### **Update from Program Committee**

Committee identified Bereavement Support and Prevention as the two areas of NISSA's work.

Thoughts on Bereavement activities:

- Families should receive a personal note, not the form letter being used now.
- The referral process by which the King County Medical Examiner's Office talks with bereaved families about NISSA support services needs to be more consistent and collegial.
- NISSA should make only initial contact with families and then refer to the Journey program at Children's Hospital for continued services. Journey can assist families throughout Washington, per Nora.
- All referrals (including Eastern WA) should come through the Seattle NISSA office – will build consistency and accountability

- The Peer Companion program (volunteers who receive brief training and then provide support services to newly bereaved families) is no longer the best way to support families: unlike past SIDS deaths, most infant deaths are preventable (suffocation, exposure to known risk factors) – makes family work more complex; many SUID families have multiple life stresses as well as Child Protective Services involvement; these factors mean risk for NISSA and its volunteers.
- Support groups are poorly attended - no longer a useful NISSA program.

Thoughts on Prevention activities:

- NISSA's Cribs for Kids program has distributed 1000 cribs to date (cost \$50/crib). We need to keep better records and follow up with distributors (CPS, Public Health, Police) as to whether the Safe Sleep message is being included and cribs are actually being used.
- NISSA is recognized as the expert on Safe Sleep messaging but we need to think strategically about how to deploy that message.

After discussion, the board asked the Program Committee to develop the above thoughts into a recommendation for NISSA's work over the coming year. This will be presented for a vote at the October meeting. Aileen reminded the members that the board must vote on the program committee's recommendation before voting on the Auction "Fund a Need" focus.

**Treasurer's Report: (Stephanie)**

Stephanie absent. Monthly report was distributed electronically to board members – no decisions needed this month.

**Board Committee Updates:**

**Fundraising Committee (Aileen):**

- All Board members need to procure items for the auction – SOON!
- Volunteers needed for day-of-auction setup

**Board Development Committee: (Melissa)**

- New member orientation planned but not yet implemented. Melissa thanked members for their patience. This committee needs more members – just Stephanie & Melissa right now.

**Program Committee: (Nora)**

- See notes above

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 6, 2010. 7-8:30pm teleconference

Adjourned at 8:35 pm

Minutes submitted by Melissa Allen