

Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2006

I. Call to order

Scott Merriner welcomed members and called to order the fifth meeting of the **FBCI Advisory Council** at **9:00am** on **June 9, 2006** in the **ChangePoint Conference Room-Anchorage**.

II. Invocation/Prayer-Lt. Governor

III. Introductions-Scott Merriner

Advisory Council members were introduced and roll call was taken. The following members were present: Lt. Governor, Scott Merriner, Robert Flint, Mike Enschede, Julie Morris, Kim Patterson, Keith Hamilton, Allen Levy, Kathleen Svenson, June Ulz, Judy Fulp, Stephanie Wheeler, Tara Horton, Kris Showalter, Judie Stoll (Americans United for the Separation of Church and State), Nancy Campbell, Karleen Jackson (via teleconference). Stephanie Wheeler and Tara Horton represented the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

* Council Members notified of absence in advance: Diane Johnson & Gloria Tokar

Approval of Minutes (3/1)-Advisory Council approved minutes recorded from last meeting.

Approval of Agenda (6/9)-Advisory Council approved the agenda as submitted for 6/9 meeting.

IV. Lt. Governor Address

Lt. Governor- spoke of the history of FBCI and thanked the council for their work.

Scott Merriner-response of thanks for Lt. Governor's 18 years of service to the State and spoke of a hope that he would continue in his efforts with the council and wished him well in his next steps.

Council members- offered words of gratitude to Lt. Governor.

V. Office Updates-Stephanie Wheeler & Tara Horton

Stephanie briefly gave an overview of what has been happening in the Office. [See Powerpoint.](#)

- Coghill's office called Office of FBCI this week. They had noticed that FBCI was not in the budget, and inquired as to what will happen to the Office of FBCI. Consensus was it is a good sign that we are on the minds of our legislators.

VI. Speaker: Ruth Schoenleben (NineStar)

Ninestar provides education and employment services. The goal is to get people into jobs and working towards self-sufficiency.

- Motto: "Get a job, keep a job and advance on the job"
 - Education literacy
 - Computer literacy and
 - Work literacy

Literacy = Jobs = Stronger Economy

Scott Merriner: *initial thoughts...* at a minimum it would be great to get one Americorps member devoted to office and making those connections.

- RFP due by Mid July
- 1700 hours for a min of 9 months.
- Ninestar requests from its members a 12 month commitment and 40 hours week.

ACTION ITEM: Stephanie and Tara will continue to work/plan with Ruth & Ninestar to develop direction/vision for what this partnership might look like.

BREAK: Scott Merriner took those Advisory Council Members who were interested on a tour of the ChangePoint facility.

VII. Year in Review: Scott Merriner

Achievements of Council

- Development of a clear/shared vision and mission
- Annual Report
- Trip to Juneau-maximizing time with legislators
- Conference (success) jointly convened with ASCSC

Challenges/Disappointments

- Office Staff Support: have not supported office staff to the extent to which initially hoped
- Legislative Education- Disappointing how big the gap is between awareness of and *understanding of* FBCI
- Some (action oriented) council members disappointed with not accomplishing something “tangible”

Related to the above: Scott expressed a desire to see Advisory Council better leveraged and to have each member’s time well used realizing that is difficult to do meeting once every quarter. Therefore committees need to be finalized in order to have more impact.

Bob Flint: Asked if a distribution plan was developed for the Annual Reports. The Annual Report is a great communication tool and should be used this year.

ACTION ITEM: It was decided that the Office should have State produce more Annual Reports. It can be done at a relatively low cost. Tara contact Mike Maad.

Alaska Native Representation: Lt. Governor expressed disappointed that we don’t have enough representation by our Alaska Native community

ACTION ITEM: Council & Office will conduct better outreach to incorporate interested Alaska Native individuals for our council, when a vacancy opens.

Council Participation: A number of council members raised the concern about lack of participation by colleagues. There are roughly 4-5 AC members that have participated less than 25% of the time to date. The challenge is that this is a governor appointed board, and thus does not have the authority to take members off. The

consensus of the group was though the Governor has the last say, it is not unreasonable to hold members accountable and inquire whether or not this is something they are committed to.

ACTION ITEM: Co-chairs Scott Merriner and Lt. Governor will talk to these council members separately to inquire commitment levels. Scott will call Susan Fischetti, and inquire of the process that occurs when AC don't show/participate.

Contact with Office: Julie Morris mentioned that the roster/contact information is not updated. Made a commitment and asked other council members to remain in contact with the Office to let staff know of changes in employers/addresses/phone/email etc.

Shelter Crisis: Allen Levy raised the issue of the Clarehouse losing funding through the (Human Service Matching Grant). This represents 60% of the program's overall budget. \$250-\$260,000 of budget. The HSMG is funding for emergency services in our community. This will affect children's and community member's lives. The Clarehouse is the only shelter that serves mothers with children in the city. Posed the question, how can we help?

ACTION ITEM: Allen Levy will follow up on this issue in the next week. Close contact will be kept with the Office and further action will be communicated once the facts are known.

LUNCH: Advisory Council had lunch and a tour of the Brother Francis Shelter-downtown Anchorage.

VII. Committee Discussion-Scott Merriner & Council

Below are the five major committees of the FBCI Advisory Council. Each has a brief description of what that committee is responsible for per discussion at the June 9th Council Meeting. Scott has designated co-chairs for each committee. Anyone concerned with this designation may contact Scott directly.

OFFICE SUPPORT

Co-Chairs: Kim Patterson & Eugene Harnett

Members: Gracie Jackson, Diane Johnson, Scott Merriner, Nancy Campbell, & June Ulz

Core Responsibilities (brainstormed)

- Alleviate staff time, by attending community meetings
- Communication
- Point person to disseminate information to AC
- Staffing decisions
- Helping put together AC meetings (planning)
- Prioritization of time/have a finger on the pulse of the Office/time/efforts/plans
- Budget preparation
- Annual Report...good publicity

LEGISLATIVE**Co-Chairs:** Nancy Campbell & Bob Flint**Members:** Eugene Harnett, Cindy Cashen, Mike Enschede**Core Responsibilities (brainstormed)**

- Keep legislators informed
- Track/monitor/propose legislation
- Building relationships with legislators
- Testifying on important bills etc.
- Keep up on Administrative Regulations...recommend Equal Treatment etc.
- Invitations to legislators to meetings and events
- Process of permanency of office and/or council
- Develop 12 month plan...steady communications

Getting governor to send out memo to all state agencies that states: this is how it is.

- Research Social service vouchers...when you give someone a choice, then the govt. doesn't have to worry about regs etc.

EDUCATION (on issues, opportunities etc.)**Chair:** Julie Morris**Members:** Judy Fulp, Diane Johnson, Kim Patterson, Kathleen Svenson, Gloria Tokar, June Ulz**Core Responsibilities (brainstormed)**

- Disseminating information to communities (not only to FBOs...but chamber of commerce, rotary etc)
- Alleviate staff time, by attending community/public meetings
- Speakers Forum-develop presentations & present
- Conference
- Coordinated education strategy-target communities
- Publicity plan...ie: annual report
- Compass columns, media stories...
- Gotta have a "story"

RURAL**Chair:** Keith Hamilton**Members:** Nancy Campbell, Judy Fulp, Jeanie Greene, Allen Levy, Gloria Tokar*Comment: If we were to map out who is most in need...this would be the population***Core Responsibilities (brainstormed)**

- Outreach to Native/Rural reps.
- Rural AK focus team or committee as a supplement to our AC
- Meeting with Denali Commission, Who are the professors that have focused on rural AK (research)
- Alaska Native Corps-orgs that are located in Anchorage we want one individual from each Native Corp to be a part of Rural Committee to tell us how fbcos might help address the needs under your area.
- Convene a one-day Conference-with a purpose to come out of this with some next steps.

- Native corps, UAA, AK Native Health Corp, Southcentral foundation,
- We need to learn what the needs are in those communities and see how fbcos can help with those needs.
- Student Intern
- Alaska Partnership for Healthy Communities needs to be a part of this committee.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES- “Go do something”**Chair:** Allen Levy**Members:** Judy Fulp, Julie Morris**Core Responsibilities (brainstormed)**

- Task Force had a list of things that needed to be looked at and responded to
 - Housing, Relational Support, Direct Services...etc.
- Should be driven by the passion of the council members
- Give Judy something to write about...☺
 - Ie: Story about new intern...

Concern was raised about becoming advocates for particular agencies etc. Advisory Council should be advocates for causes, not necessarily specific agencies. In cases such as the Clarehouse: focus on *core issue*...rather than the organization.

- “We are opposed to going backwards in social services.”
- Continuity of operating expenses is important.
- For next annual report: (work by November) that stakes out AC positions on key issues:
 - Vouchers
 - General state funding for emergency services
- Suggestion that we form policies that are for positive change...forward motion.

ACTION ITEM: Over the summer it was suggested that committees meet (via teleconference) and come up with an action plan. Suggestion: June, July and August meetings.

September 8th meeting come with a committee update and at least 60-70% of a committee plan.

VIII. Adjournment

Scott Merriner adjourned the meeting at **4:30pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Tara Horton (Associate Coordinator)

Minutes approved by: Stephanie Wheeler (Executive Director)

Attached to this document:

Office Updates Powerpoint



Memo from Stanley Carlson-Thies

