

Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2005

I. Call to order

Scott Merriner welcomed members and called to order the second meeting of the **FBCI Advisory Council** at **9:00am** on **September 23, 2005** in the **Atwood Building-Anchorage (2nd Floor Conference Room)**.

II. Introductions

Advisory Council members were introduced. The following members were present: Lt. Governor Loren Leman (call in), Scott Merriner, Keith Hamilton, Gracie Jackson, Mike Enschede, Judy Fulp, Kathleen Svenson, Kim Patterson, Allen Levy, Julie Morris, Cindy Cashen, Nancy Campbell (newest member), Stephanie Wheeler, Robert Buttane & Tara Horton. Commissioner Karleen Jackson also attended and briefly spoke about Alaska Partnerships for Healthy Communities. Community members in attendance: Gail West (HUD-FBCI), Deb Alston (HUD), Steve Reshetar (New Hope on the Last Frontier), Dr. Richard Mandsager (DHSS- Public Health), & Al Sundquist (Americans United for Separation of Church and State), Brenda Moore (Christian Health Associates – Community Liaisons).

III. Lt. Governor Loren Leman

The Lt. Governor addressed members (via telephone), expressing his apologies for not being able to be there in-person. He was previously scheduled to attend the Lieutenant Governors' Education Symposium in North Carolina. The Lt. Governor briefly addressed the importance of the Advisory Council and thanked the members for their service. He mentions FBCI when he has the opportunity to speak to such groups as the Family Wellness Warriors Initiative, and the Amachi Mentoring Program through Big Brothers/Big Sisters. He looks forward to the future direction of the Faith-Based and Community Initiative in the State of Alaska. Family Wellness Warriors is having an event on November 4th – Hilton Hotel.

IV. Moment of Reflection – Hurricane Katrina

Dr. Mandsager presented an overview of Alaska's Coordinating Efforts to assist with Hurricane Katrina. Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs along with Department of Health and Social Services is taking the lead at the State Level. Many people have signed up to assist whenever the State Department calls for them. There is a need for eligibility workers and mental health counselors. Red Cross has trained and deployed over 100 volunteers. 47 families have relocated to

Alaska, many had friends or families living in Alaska. Housing has been provided to ten families through AHFC. Salvation Army also has sent Representatives to assist in the efforts. There are many churches that are also involved in these efforts. Individuals can continue to donate to a number of agencies including Red Cross, Salvation Army and the United Way. (More updates on Hurricane Katrina are attached to this email). Allen Levy mentioned that the Food Bank of Alaska is low on food because of donations going to hurricane victims. Allen reminded us to remember people in Anchorage and encourage individuals to also donate to Thanksgiving Blessings (Food Bank of Alaska).

Tara Horton created a powerful Power Point presentation of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina which was presented at the meeting.

V. Office Updates – Stephanie Wheeler

Brief updates were given due to time constraints. Stephanie discussed:

- Office re-structuring (Commissioner-Karleen Jackson, Deputy Commissioner-Bill Hogan, Vacant Program Coordinator position in Juneau, Vacant PCN for the office, Student Interns- April and Jolene).
- Funding for FY06 and FY07
- Recent & Upcoming Community Projects that the Office supports: Arctic Barnabus & RSVP, Thanksgiving Blessing, HUGSS, Red Ribbon Week, GIFT, Faith Information Day.
- Strengthening and Expanding Partnerships: Alaska Partnership for Healthy Communities, National FBCI Offices, Federal and State Liaisons, Regional Advisory Councils/Tribal Councils, Homeless Councils/Boards, Youth Coalitions, Networking with other State Councils, Informing Legislators.

VI. National Conference Update – Tara Horton

Due to time constraints, this update was sent to council members via email after the meeting.

VII. Office of FBCI Website Tour/Discussion – Tara Horton

Tara gave a brief tour of the Office website that will be launched within the next two weeks. Feedback from the Advisory Council included: the need for a link to the Advisory Council on the home-page rather than as a sub-section under the Office; the desire to have a calendar of events around the state updated weekly/monthly. The website URL will be: www.hss.state.ak.us/fbci

VIII. Team-Building Exercise – Tara Horton

Members were broken up into groups of three-four individuals for a team-building exercise.

IX. LUNCH – Downtown Soup Kitchen

Chris Keffalos, Executive Director of Grace Alaska transported members of the Advisory Council to the Downtown Soup Kitchen. There, the members of the Advisory Council met the Executive Director, Patty Barsalou and volunteers. They were given a tour of the facility and program. The members of the Advisory Council were served hot soup and a roll or sandwich for lunch, a meal distinct to the DSK.

X. Special Celebration – Robert Buttane

Robert was honored by Commissioner Gilbertson (via phone) and Deputy Commissioner Jackson for his 21 years of service with the State of Alaska.

XI. Advisory Council Training: Communicating with Legislators – Sherry Hill

Sherry Hill presented information helpful to the FBCI Advisory Council regarding effective practices in communicating with legislators. She had a brief overview of the Legislature website and the helpful resources that it provides. She discussed legislative session etiquette. Sherry talked about the need for a strategic plan of action when visiting the capital as well as a brief, informative script so that the message is clear and consistent, no matter who is delivering it. The handouts provided by Sherry will be sent via email to Advisory Council members who were unable to attend this meeting.

XII. Overview of Council Assignments-Scott Merriner

Scott summarized the results of the interviews that Advisory Council members were assigned from the last meeting. Communication was an important indicator for success. Council member turn-over was a consistent challenge among other state boards/councils.

This led to a discussion of the lack of participation at this meeting. It was pointed out that there was approximately a 50% turnout for this FBCI Advisory Council meeting.

- A request to have a roll-call and pledge of allegiance at the beginning of each meeting was made.
- A request that action should be taken to address the commitment level and attendance of council members was made.
- The desire for more Alaskan Native representation on the council was discussed to ensure the council reflects representation of our diverse communities.

- Better/more frequent contact and communication with the Office of FBCI was discussed. One idea: to create a sub-committee that would work more closely with the Office.
- The desire to have a FBCI resource package for Advisory Council members was raised. This might include informational resources as well as an updated PowerPoint, which could be used for community presentations.
- It was decided that prior to the creation of committees, the council wanted to address the commitment level and consistent attendance/participation of each Advisory Council member.
- One time-sensitive sub-committee was established to begin work on legislative action to be taken by the Advisory Council. The Legislative Sub-Committee will include: Nancy Campbell, Cindy Cashen, Carl Ekstrom, Mike Enschede, & Julie Morris. This sub-committee hopes to receive input from the Lt. Governor Loren Lemman and former FBCI Task Force member, Bob Flint.
- Jeff Jesse, Executive Director for the Mental Health Trust Authority and also a participating of the Interagency Council on Homelessness shared a vision for future collaboration with state councils/boards especially as it relates to the upcoming Interagency Council's Homeless Plan Homelessness is one of FBCI's priorities. We hope to continue our dialogue with the MHTA and other boards/councils about future collaborative efforts and support.
- Upcoming Meeting Dates.... Council members were informed of upcoming meeting dates (December 9th in Anchorage) and (March 8th and 9th in Juneau). The sub-committee will review the dates in March. Suggestion was made to explore March 1st and 2nd as potential dates as well due to several events occurring during the second week in March.

XIII. Next Meeting

December 9, 2005-Anchorage.

XIV. Adjournment

Scott Merriner adjourned the meeting at **3:55pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Tara Horton (Associate Coordinator)

Minutes approved by: Stephanie Wheeler (Executive Director)