

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110801
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0601
PHONE: (907) 465-3030
FAX: (907) 465-3088

Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2006

Call to order

Scott Merriner welcomed members and called to order the seventh meeting of the **FBCI Advisory Council** at **9:00am** on **December 15, 2006** at ChangePoint in Anchorage.

Invocation

Michael Curran led the invocation, a reading of Black Elk, an Oglala Sioux Prophet's prayer in remembrance of Timothy Fox, Office of FBCI Program Coordinator who passed away late 2006.

Introductions

Advisory Council members introduced themselves and roll was taken.

The following members were present: DHSS Commissioner Karleen Jackson (via teleconference), Loren Leman, Eugene Harnett, Allen Levy, Judy Fulp, Jeanie Greene, Bob Flint, Keith Hamilton, Kim Patterson, Lucy Hansen, Cindy Cashen, Julie Morris, Scott Merriner, Gracie Jackson, Nancy Campbell and Mike Enschede. Stephanie Wheeler, Michael Curran and Tara Horton represented the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

Council Members not present: Glenn Clary, Diane Johnson, Ryan Ray, Kathleen Svenson, Gloria Tokar, & June Ulz

Community Members present: Joel Azure-Ketchikan Indian Community Housing Authority, Chaplain Barbara Young, Edward McGourn-Love INC Mat-Su, Adrienne Active-Alaska Federation of Natives, Susannah Morgan-Food Bank of Alaska, Denis LeBlanc-Anchorage Municipal Manager, Kim Vu-Dinh-Alaska Housing Trust.

Approval of Minutes (9/8)-Advisory Council reviewed and approved minutes.

Approval of Agenda (12/15)-Advisory Council approved the agenda as submitted for 12/15 meeting.

Office Updates

Stephanie Wheeler gave an update on office activities, budget and status due to the change in Administration since the September Advisory Council meeting.

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Michael Curran gave an update on the Kotzebue Funding Forum, Southeast Office presentations, Juneau Faith Information Day, The Roundtable Conference and the CCF Grant Training OFBCI staff attended in Washington DC.

Tara Horton gave an update on the Compassion Capital Fund (CCF) grant award as well as plans and a timeline for Alaska's CCF program "Compassion Alaska." She also spoke about the 2007 Volunteerism and FBCI Summit that will be held in Anchorage, April 23-24 at the Sheraton Anchorage in collaboration with the Alaska State Community Service Commission.

Annual Report

Scott led a discussion on the 2007 FBCI Annual Report. It was decided that the Office staff would draft the report and submit it to the Council for revisions by mid-January. It should be completed by February 15th in order to submit it to the Legislature prior to the Advisory Council meeting held in Juneau March 7th and 8th.

It was agreed that the Advisory Council should submit an Executive Memo to the Governor including 2-3 specific recommendations relative to Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

Lunch/Presentations

The Advisory Council held a working lunch which entailed presentations by:

Denis LeBlanc, Anchorage Municipal Manager on progress and needs of the Anchorage Gang Initiative; Kim Vu-Dinh of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority on the Alaska Housing Trust; and Susannah Morgan of the Food Bank of Alaska on Rural Alaska hunger needs.

Resolutions of Support

The Council supports the concept of a Housing Trust, but would like to explore different options regarding how it should be funded. Scott Merriner and Loren Leman will re-draft the resolution provided at the meeting to include changes agreed upon by the Council.

Tour of the ChangePoint facility and new Sports Dome

Advisory Council members had a 10 minute tour of a portion of the remodeled facility at ChangePoint as well as the Sports Dome located behind the building.

Sub-Committees

Re-assignments were made to the committees to improve 1 distribution of dedication and representation.

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Judy Fulp

Members: Eugene Harnett, Diane Johnson, Kim Patterson, Kathleen Svenson, Gloria Tokar, June Ulz

Core Responsibilities

- Disseminating information to communities
- Alleviate staff time, by attending community/public meetings
- Speakers Forum-develop presentations & present
- Annual Conference planning
- Coordinated education strategy-target communities
- Publicity plan (ie: Annual Report)
- Produce Compass columns, media pieces-*get our "story" out.*

Goals

- Focus specifically on the gang/gun issue in Anchorage
- Address #9 recommendation by the Mayor's Gang Taskforce, by determining how fbco's can contribute/help
- Draft letter to Mayor Begich/Invite to next FBCI AC Mtg.

RURAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Keith Hamilton

Members: Jeanie Greene, Allen Levy, Julie Morris

Core Responsibilities

- Outreach to Native/Rural representatives
- Rural AK focus team or committee as a supplement to Advisory Council
- Connect with:
 - Denali Commission
 - Alaska Native Corporation representation on rural committee
 - Native Health Corp
 - Southcentral Foundation
 - UAA/APU
 - Professors (rural focused/research)
- Convene a one-day Conference-with a purpose to come out of this with some next steps.
- Identify needs in rural villages and connect fbco's with those needs.

Goals:

- Recruit and add 1-4 members from the Alaska Native community to the Advisory Council.
- Have a representative/speaker/expert educate the AC on the needs of Rural AK.

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- Liaisons from other boards/commissions give status updates on efforts, successes, challenges etc.
- Have one Advisory Council meeting in rural AK.

OFFICE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Chair: Scott Merriner

Members: Gracie Jackson, Diane Johnson, Loren Leman

Core Responsibilities

- Alleviate staff time, by attending community meetings
- Communication
- Be a part of staffing decisions
- Help plan and organize Advisory Council meetings
- Assist office staff with prioritization of time
- Office/time/efforts/plans
- Be a part of budget preparation
- Point team to disseminate information to Advisory Council

Goals:

- Get media attention/by telling our story/help identify success stories
 - Monthly basis
 - Do the research and get to the office to disseminate
- Keep finger on the pulse of Office needs support /further strategic planning
- Priority area breakdown-each council member add his/her name as backup
- Help plan the conference-ensure that it reflects fbco needs

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Nancy Campbell & Bob Flint

Members: Cindy Cashen, Mike Ensich

Core Responsibilities

- Keep legislators informed
- Track/monitor/propose legislation
- Build relationships with legislators
- Testify on important bills etc.
- Keep up on Administrative Regulations: recommend Equal Treatment of faith-based organizations in the government processes ie: RFP
- Invite legislators to meetings and events
- Establish permanent office and/or Council
- Develop 12 month plan...steady communications
- Research social service vouchers

Goals:

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- Keep legislators informed-before Dec. (each committee member has legislators)
- Have an open house in Office of FBCI (Nov./Dec)/Reception
- Educate and advocate for Social Service Block Grant funding
- Educate and advocate for State-paid chaplains FY08 [or some State support for the volunteer chaplaincy program, ie, reimbursement for auto mileage]

SPECIAL INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Chair: Allen Levy

Members: Judy Fulp, Julie Morris

Core Responsibilities

- Identify and respond to gaps Task Force Report identified
 - Housing, Relational Support, Direct Services
- For next annual report: identify Advisory Council position on key issues
 - Vouchers
 - General State funding for emergency services
- **Goals:**
 - Possibility of extending the Thanksgiving Blessing model across the state in partnership with the Food Bank of Alaska and FBO's in communities.

Action Steps

- I. Jeanie Greene has offered her assistance and resources to enable more efficient and effective communication of FBCI success stories and the CCF program "Compassion Alaska" to Rural Alaska.
- II. Staff will continue strategic planning efforts and seek Co-Chair and Council feedback when plan is more complete.
- III. Staff will continue Annual Report efforts and submit to Council for feedback.
- IV. Office staff will assist in meeting teleconference needs when sought by committee chairs.

Closing

Eugene Harnett led the closing reflection, focusing on the importance of family.

Adjournment

Scott Merriner adjourned the meeting at **4:00pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Tara Horton (Associate Coordinator)

Minutes approved by: Stephanie Wheeler (Executive Director)