

FBCI Task Force Meeting Minutes from Aug. 25, 2005, 9:00 a.m.
Minutes taken by Judy Fulp

9:00 a.m.

- Welcome by Chairman Scott Merriner
- Roll call of teleconference Fairbanks group – Focus on the Family
Roll call of teleconference Juneau group – Love Inc.
- Lamarr Jensen – opens with prayer
Sharon Clausen – leads pledge

9:10 a.m.

- Modification to Agenda. Lt. Governor Leman introduces Governor Frank Murkowski
- Task Force – Scott said get focused to help provide lasting results. Form a permanent office. A grant from Federal Compassion Fund. Exciting announcements today.
- Lt. Governor Loren Leman – “Give Scott Merriner and the Task Force a hand. How can we maximize services to those in need? In 1989 as a freshman member in the House – I asked, “Why it is that government is mainly reaching out to those in need. Why not people getting involved in other people’s lives? Our success in the last year and a half has been because we have help from people of different nationalities, religions, etc. It is the strength of this grassroots organization.” Lt. Governor has been out actively looking for financial support.
- Governor Murkowski – Thanks Task Force members and Lt. Governor Leman. With input from Task Force, plans to formalize FBCI. In a very short time, Gov. Murkowski said that FBCI has worked well with government and been led by Lt. Gov. Loren Leman. Governor’s proposal is to establish a permanent Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives within the Department of Health and Social Services. The Governor said, “It will contribute more to reaching out. The office of FBCI will take the initiative to try and coordinate local efforts with the way government is going. The issue of division of church and state is there but with this sensitivity Alaska still recognizes the importance of Faith Based groups. Will staff the office with 3 to 4 people and build capacity to obtain grants.”
- Commissioner of Health & Social Services, Joel Gilbertson – My Dept is excited about this news. This effort has been lead by Lt. Governor Leman and the Task Force. He distributed a draft proposal.
 - Draft Proposal:
Fully autonomous office to include representation from:
 - Dept of Labor
 - Education
 - Corrections
 - Dept of Health & Social Services

- Governor's FY06 Budget proposal:
 - Advisory Council to include:
 - Commissioner, Lt. Gov.
 - Faith Communities and Business groups
 - Grant making function and training
 - Staffing
 - Budget: a little under \$500,000
- We all have a common goal – “A passion for helping people” The needs are growing out there, said Joel Gilbertson.
- Governor's idea: a pilot program in rural areas for FBCI. People need to volunteer to help others.
- Lt. Governor Loren Leman – doesn't see the FBCI issue as a partisan issue. Whole area of western Alaska has real needs. Needs in rural Alaska are a priority, in particular to our native communities.
- Thanks went to Governor Murkowski and Commissioner Gilbertson
- Governor Murkowski – “This is part of this administration's view but this will be controversial. Not being defensive and we will be in the business of helping people. Government helping people who help people – not associated with traditional politics.”

Break

- Scott Merriner – Thank you to Karleen and Bob in the State's Department of Health and Social Services the announcement is due in part to them and to Lt. Governor Loren Leman and his vision. Didn't get grant but potential legislation for constructing something permanent was drafted.
- Bob Flint – permanent commission active not passive. Active recruiter to help meet tremendous needs. When needs are determined then activity must happen and there has to be a big “buy in” by those providing the services. The job needs to get done. Right kind of staff to get things done. “It's (FBCI) a work in progress.” Lt. Gov. Loren Leman said advisory panels would be needed.
- Judith Kleinfeld – was thinking of third wave of life folks. Those 65-90 years old. How to get those people interested?
- Bob Flint – Direction – Commission hires the director?
- Scott – don't just want great success for FBCI.

Final Program - Neglect and abuse of children in Alaska.

- Trying to teach children what to like to live in happy family
- The Alaska Center for Resource Families
- Youth for Christ
- The Alaska Adoption Center