

**Faith-Based & Community Initiatives (FBCI)
Task Force Meeting
June 2, 2004
Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks**

Welcome & Overview by Chairman Merriner:

Today we will have a recap of the FBCI Conference, as well as discuss a grant application and summer plans.

Prayer by Renee Duncan

Pledge by Judith Kleinfeld

Recap Conference:

Our first Conference was very successful, with 300 people in attendance. The Stars of Gold Banquet had a full room with 150 people enjoying the dinner program. Great news, we were even in the black paying for everything! Everything ran very smoothly all day long. The video segments were a definite plus and received a great deal of compliments. Covenant House said it was a very valuable conference. Additionally, churches and community organizations that did not partner with the government previously have changed their mind and want to after attending our conference. The conference had a little more inclusive feeling without watering down the message. Dr. Judith Kleinfeld did an outstanding job explaining best practices. The conference survey results are in the process of being compiled into a 1-page summary. Non-profit organizations mentioned that they were leery of coming to the conference, but came away very energized and wanting to partner with more organizations in their community. The Stars of Gold Banquet awards meant a lot to the recipients – their peers noticed and nominated them for their valuable work and contributions to their communities. People volunteered to help out with next year's conference. The sponsors were very proud to be associated with the event.

Alaska FBCI Office:

We ended last meeting wanting a permanent office for FBCI in Alaska. We still need to clarify specifics. We also applied for a Compassion Capital Fund grant. This would provide funding to create a two-person office, housed in the Lieutenant Governor's Office, collaborating with the Task Force and the Department of Health and Social Services. We have a very strong application due to the hard work of the Task Force. This will be an ongoing discussion. If the grant is awarded to us there will be further discussion. We want to work to get resources for Alaska and open up options. In about 4-8 weeks we should know whether or not we received the grant, end of June or July. Meanwhile – we will have additional discussions about what other states have done in this area. Alaska is well positioned to become one of the flagship states.

What Other States Have Done:

1. Nothing in half of the states
2. 50% of the states allowed the federal government to set up liaisons within the state, with some federal doing outreach.
3. In the remaining states, an office has been set up of some sort in either the Lieutenant Governor's Office, Governor's Office, or in the Department of Health and Social Services. Alabama & Ohio are leading this. Alabama added to an existing office commission on volunteerism. Ohio set up, by state legislation and with bipartisan support, a 3-person office assisted by an advisory council.

We have recommended to the legislature the structure we think is best, a two to three-person staff similar to the Denali Commission, with the office being located in the Lieutenant Governor's Office. With such an office becoming a reality we will need to find a very qualified director; someone who will work to promote collaboration and partnership. This office would give the efforts of FBCI a permanent presence in Alaska.

Summer Plans & Next Steps:

We have accomplished a great deal in a short amount of time.

We will forgo the July 14th meeting and convene August 25th. This should give the Task Force a 12-week break, keeping work to a minimum.

Task Force members need to formulate an office proposal to give to the Lieutenant Governor to take to the legislature by August 25th.

There will be a report by Bob Buttane and his department liaisons on what each department is doing.

If we receive the grant we applied for there will be a lot of work for Task Force members to do.

Some of our members are stepping away: Chris Deck is moving to Denver, Gwen Hall is moving on to new endeavors -- campaign work.

Meeting minutes compiled by,
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