

Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Task Force Meeting
September 24th, 2003
9:00 AM - noon

In attendance

- Lieutenant Governor Loren Leman
- Chairman Scott Merriner
- Task Force members:

<i>Sharon Clausen</i>	<i>Robert Flint</i>	<i>Lamarr Jensen</i>	<i>Dr. Rory Schneeberger</i>
<i>Chris Deck</i>	<i>Dr. Brian Green</i>	<i>Pete Kelly</i>	<i>Dr. Stan Tucker</i>
<i>Fr. Innocent Dresdow</i>	<i>Jack Gwaltney</i>	<i>Dr. Judith Kleinfeld</i>	
<i>Renee Duncan</i>	<i>Kristin Hamerski</i>	<i>William Nicholson</i>	
<i>Carl Ekstrom</i>	<i>Chris Hayes</i>	<i>Kim Patterson</i>	

- Various Ex-officio members

Absent

David Carrillo *Marie Greene* *Talakai Finau*

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Remarks by Lt. Governor Loren Leman *Please see FBCI website for details.*

III. Remarks by Task Force Chairman Scott Merriner *Please see FBCI website for details.*

IV. Presentation by Chairman Merriner on the constitutionality of faith-based initiatives *Please see FBCI website for details.*

V. Logistics

- The task force will meet every 6 weeks for the next several months
- We will meet the morning of Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Task Force members who have a strong preference for one of those days should email Gwen Hall. A decision will be made in the next week and the dates of the next four meetings announced.

VI. Interviews of faith-based and community organizations

- Task Force members were each given the assignment of interviewing at least three faith-based or community organizations.
- Materials and organization assignments were delivered by Chairman Merriner
- Comment and questions:
 - Bob Flint: Can we add the question; what do you think the objective of the Task Force should be?

- Rev. Jackson: We should have the information in hand when we go to the interviews.
- Lt. Governor Leman: We will provide a letter of introduction.
- Sen. Fred Dyson: Two more questions should be added. “Is there a faith component in your organization” and “Are there government obstacles or barriers inhibiting work in your organization?”
- Renee Duncan: Can we ask for a breakdown of the organization’s funding? What percentage is public money and what percentage is private money?
- Kim Patterson: We should define faith-based.
- Jack Gwaltney: Interviewees will want to know what we are going to do with the information.
- Judith Kleinfeld: We should ask what they would like the Task Force to do.
- Renee Duncan: We should ask what kind of training do the people in your organization get?
- Sen. Seekins: Ask, is there an accreditation process with your people?
- Scott Merriner: Can we place an interview guide on the Internet?

VII. Brainstorming Task Force goals and objectives

- Define what partnership between State government and FBCI organizations should look like.
- Define the areas where State agencies need help and where FBCI organizations can assist.
- Identify the major gaps in social services in Alaska.
 - Do this from a grassroots assessment, not just from State agencies’ views.
- Identify case studies of best-practices FBCI examples and glean best practices.
- Spur a greater number of individuals to begin taking personal action to assist others.
- Develop a complete list of all the tools and resources that are available for FBCI organizations.
- Develop a complete list of all FBCI organizations.
- Each State agency develop an internal assessment of what is needed for it to more effectively partner with FBCI organizations.
- Recommend any legislative action that is needed to facilitate greater impact from FBCI.
- Help FBCI organizations expand their impact by providing:
 - Information
 - Training (e.g. how to apply for grants)
- Educate public officials and leaders of FBCI organizations on the legal issues surrounding government-FBCI partnerships.
- Develop measurements that we can use to obtain hard data FBCI impact.
- Develop recommendations on how service providers can more effectively communicate with each other to deliver better service and avoid duplication and inappropriate use of services.

VIII. Other issues

- Gwen Hall: Conference on Volunteerism coming up in April.

- Members should read Texas' "Faith in Action" handout: possible action Alaska should take?

IX. Remarks by Governor Frank Murkowski *Please see FBCI website for details.*

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Minutes taken by Lamar Jensen.