



Faith-Based & Community Initiatives Task Force

Legislative Briefing

Senate Finance Committee Room

State Capitol

Juneau, Alaska

February 23, 2004

Agenda

| Topic | Presenter | Time |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Introduction | Lt. Governor Loren Leman | 5 min |
| Summary of progress to date | Scott Merriner | 15 min |
| Social service gaps and needs survey | Robert Buttane | 10 minutes |
| Looking ahead | Scott Merriner | 5 minutes |
| Q&A | | 15 minutes |

Contents

| | |
|---|-------|
| Task Force Mission Statement..... | p. 1 |
| Summary of accomplishments to date..... | p. 2 |
| FBCI interview guide and organizations interviewed..... | p. 3 |
| Social Service Gaps and Needs Survey Report..... | p. 5 |
| Task Force Resolution on Social Service Gaps and Needs..... | p. 17 |
| Looking ahead..... | p. 18 |
| FBCI Task Force Members..... | p. 19 |

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Faith-Based and Community Initiative Task Force is:

- To enhance Alaska's health and social service capabilities by expanding the contribution of faith-based and community initiatives.

To accomplish its mission, the Task Force will:

- Develop and help launch innovative ideas for increasing the contribution of faith-based and community initiatives.
- Foster partnerships between and among government agencies and faith-based and community organizations.
- Identify and work to eliminate barriers that hinder faith-based and community initiatives.
- Promote the expansion of volunteerism and highlight outstanding examples of neighbors helping neighbors.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- The FBCI Task Force has been running for five months and has met four times.
- Task Force members have completed more than 60 interviews with organizations that provide services in Alaskan communities.
- Task Force members have educated themselves on the legal issues surrounding faith-based initiatives.
- The Task Force has reviewed FBCI legislation in other states.
- The Task Force has worked to identify the most pressing social needs and gaps in services in Alaskan communities.
- As a result of the Task Force's efforts, the White House has identified Alaska as a FBCI Role Model State.

INTERVIEWS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Objectives

One of the FBCI Task Force's primary objectives is to obtain input from a wide range of organizations that are currently providing services to communities throughout Alaska. The extent of our impact depends on the quality of our information; so this "front-line" perspective is critical to success. Consequently, Task Force members will be proactively interviewing numerous entities throughout the coming months. These interviews will accomplish a number of goals:

- Broaden and deepen the Task Force's knowledge base—both individually and collectively.
- Stimulate fresh thinking about potential new ways for faith-based and other community initiatives to expand their positive impact throughout Alaska.
- Clarify how the Task Force can be of maximum service to our state.
- Surface issues and obstacles that need to be addressed.
- Expand the Task Force's visibility and help defuse any community concerns about its role.

Interview Questions

Task Force members will ask the following questions in their interviews:

1. What is your organization's core mission/purpose? What are the primary goals you are trying to accomplish?
2. How are you accomplishing your mission? What programs/services do you offer? Is there a faith component to your organization?
3. How do you measure success?
4. What steps do you take to help your people be successful in their roles? What kinds of training do you provide? Do you use an accreditation process of any kind?
5. What other organizations are critical to your success? Who are your key partners? Do you have connections to any State or Federal agency?
6. From where do you receive your funding and how much comes from each source?
7. What are the three greatest obstacles or barriers you face in accomplishing your mission? Are there any government-related obstacles or barriers?
8. How can the FBCI Task Force help your organization be even more successful?
9. Overall, what should the Task Force try to accomplish?
10. What would you like the Task Force to know?

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS INTERVIEWED

Juneau Youth Services
Catholic Social Services
Covenant House
Crisis Pregnancy Center
Alaska Bible College
SEND International of Alaska
Cordova Family Resource Center
Cross Road Medical Center
Victory Ministry
Alaska Women's Resource Center
Southcentral Foundation
National Association for the Education of
 Young People
Reach, Inc.
Gastineau Human Services
Nugen's Ranch
Hope Community Resources, Mat-Su Region
Love, Inc.
Narcotic Drug Treatment Center, Inc.
Center for Drug Problems
Interact Ministries
Frontier Community Services
Women's Resource and Crisis Center
Salvation Army Clitheroe Center
Cook Inlet Tribal Council (New Beginning
 Healthy Family Program)
Community Councils Center
Skate to Greatness, Inc.
Alaska Youth and Family Network
Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation
Alaska Child Abuse Response and Evaluation
 Services (CARES)
The Christian Business Men's Forum
Alaska Center for Children and Adults
Anchorage Literacy Project
Challenge Alaska

Alaska Children Services
Christian Health Associates
Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually
 Impaired
National Association for the Mentally Ill
KCAM Radio
Literacy Council
Salvation Army
Upper Tanana Head Start Program
Upper Tanana Aging Program
Whitestone Care Services
Southcentral Counseling Center Day Break
Christmas in May
Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc.
Kodiak Mental Health Center
Kodiak Senior Citizen's Center
Kodiak Women's Resource Center
Tanana Valley Conference of Churches
Careline Crisis Intervention
LOVE Social Services Center, Inc.
Make a Wish Foundation
Catholic Community Services
Christian Homes and Special Kids
Cook Inlet Housing Authority
"Let's Talk" Healthy Relationships Program
Relief Offered by the Congregations of the
 Kenai Peninsula (ROCK)
Cook Inlet Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Soldotna United Methodist Church
South Peninsula Women's Services INC
Division of Public Assistance
Alaska Police Chaplaincy Program
Family Medical Center
Cook Inlet Housing Authority
Salvation Army: Adult Rehabilitation Program

**Alaska Faith Based and Community Initiatives Task Force
Gaps and Needs Survey Report
February 2004**

This survey was undertaken to provide the members of Alaska's Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Task Force with a sense of what people saw as the gaps and needs in Alaska's social service system and where and how they thought faith and community organizations might help to fill those gaps and needs. More importantly this survey gave people an opportunity to share their vision and ideas as to how we might ignite a new momentum to rally the spirited volunteer resources of Alaska's faith and community groups to minister to those in need.

Countless reports and studies have been completed to document the gaps and needs in social services, education, services for seniors, health care systems, safe and affordable housing, job opportunities and economic development. This survey is not intended to replace any of these existing assessments, in fact the views and perspectives of those who participated in this survey serves to corroborate the findings of these more scientific and objective snapshots of our human and social condition.

This survey is not an exhaustive inventory of every gap and need in our social systems. The Task Force acknowledges there are challenges facing Alaska that were not identified by those who participated in the discussions that lead to this report. Faith and community groups are strongly encouraged to come together to help solve any need or concern whether it is or is not included in this survey.

The Task Force appreciates the input and involvement of everyone who participated in the gap and needs inquiry conducted by Group 1. It is hoped this survey will be viewed as a primer to what is to come as Alaska moves forward to improve the lives of its citizens through our faith-based and community initiatives.

Background

In 2003 Lieutenant Governor Leman appointed 21 citizens from around Alaska to the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (FBCI) Task Force. The Task Force was asked to identify how Alaska could maximize its resources of compassion to meet the challenges faced by those in need. At the November 5, 2003 Task Force meeting, Chairman Scott Merriner established working groups to examine key questions to help this task force meet its mission. Group 1 was asked to identify the

major gaps and needs in Alaska’s social service system and to identify ways FBCI organizations could become involved to help meet those gaps and needs.

Group 1 solicited written comments from around the State to identify major gaps in social services in Alaska. People were also asked how and in what areas they felt faith and community based groups could assist the State in meeting its social service program objectives. The group hosted public video and audio conferences on November 18 and December 2, 2003 and received verbal and written responses. Forty individuals from faith, community and State agency groups submitted 125 gap/need statements to the working group. These 125 statements were reviewed and assessed and are presented in this report.

Social Services gap and needs

Gaps and needs in social services systems can limit a person’s progress toward self-sufficiency and hamper program efforts to effectively support the health and well being of Alaskans in need. Most of those who provided input to the work group generally expressed their concerns with regard to specific client populations including women, children and teens, seniors, those leaving adult or juvenile correctional facilities, single women with children, families, veterans, disabled persons, the homeless, those receiving public assistance and victims of sexual abuse or other crimes. Looking at the 125 statements as a whole, people generally focused their concerns on just a few gaps and need categories or subject areas. Regardless of which specific client group someone spoke to, the concerns raised most often related to one of these three subject areas:

- Housing
- Personalized care and services
- Relational support

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| ❖ At any given time there are between 3-5,000 families on the Section 8 and Public Housing statewide wait lists and close to 5,300 households in Alaska are receiving housing assistance from AHFC. (Alaska Housing Finance Corporation FY 2003 Annual Public Hosing Agency Plan 07-01-2003) |
| ❖ In 2002 among the 2,000 plus applicants on the Anchorage Housing Choice Voucher wait list, 20% were on the wait list for more than two years. (Alaska Housing Finance Corporation FY 2003 Annual Public Hosing Agency Plan 07-01-2003) |
| ❖ Market analysis suggests that upward of 50% of landlords in Fairbanks and Anchorage will not accept voucher assistance. (Alaska Housing Finance Corporation FY 2003 Annual Public Hosing Agency Plan 07-01-2003) |
| ❖ The number of homeless in Anchorage shelters has grown 8 to 9 percent per year and the increase is projected to continue at the same rate in the near future. (Final Report of the Anchorage Comprehensive Homeless Program Strategy Group, June 2002) |

A few statements were submitted relating to gaps and needs in single and unique subject areas like rural subsistence preference or development of international trade. While concerns in these areas are valid, this report will focus on the common concerns over the gaps and needs related to these three main subject areas identified above.

Housing

The concern voiced most often was the need for safe and affordable housing. Those who provided input to the work group identified housing as the greatest challenge and the most significant barrier to a person's progress or success.

Gaps and needs related to housing include:

1. Transitional housing for those moving into the community from closed programs;
2. Foster and group homes and half ways houses;
3. Emergency shelters for families, especially single parents with children;
4. Assistance to cover expenses (security deposits, utilities) not included in housing subsidy payments;
5. Drug and alcohol free low income housing;
6. Affordable housing, especially for the elderly;
7. Housing for special populations including the disabled, former offenders, addicts, etc.;

The statements below are indicative of those made with regard to gaps and needs in housing:

- *There is a need for affordable, drug and alcohol free housing for individuals and families. Those who complete treatment or who are waiting to get into treatment have a hard time finding safe, affordable, sober housing.*
- *Many prisoners return right back to the situations that contributed to their incarceration. There is a need for safe housing for felons re-entering society.*
- *The "working poor" can't qualify for housing assistance because they make too much money, but don't earn enough to acquire decent housing.*
- *There is insufficient shelter space for homeless, 2-parent families.*

- *Most federal housing programs don't cover various rent or utility deposit costs set by landlords, the power or water and sewer companies. A person who would otherwise qualify for housing assistance continues to be homeless because they can't come up with the cash to cover these ancillary expenses.*
- *Housing lenders don't provide enough financing for multi-unit housing.*
- *Homeless people trying to get their lives together by getting a job need an address they can list on an application or a message phone number where a prospective employer can contact them for work.*
- *Released inmates, recovering substance abusers, homeless, older teens and low-income families need both transitional and long-term housing.*
- *Convicted felons who need help re-entering society after they are released from jail don't qualify for housing assistance, and all too often they either end up on the street or back in bad living situations like those they were in before they went to jail.*
- *There are not enough foster or group homes to meet the needs of children under the state's care.*

People listed a host of housing problems including lengthy waiting lists for the few shelter beds that are available, no safe and supportive housing alternatives for single fathers with children or for felons who have completed their jail sentences, delays in completing simple inspections to get a home on an approved housing list, and market prices that put 2-bedroom rental units out of the reach of the working poor and those who are underemployed. Many of those who voiced concerns for safe and affordable housing said that without adequate housing, little else mattered.

Examples of how faith and community groups can meet needs and close gaps.

- Promote and recruit foster and adoptive families from the congregation or membership of the organization.
- Develop and operate a group home or transitional housing program for teens, women with children or other client groups.
- Group members can be trained to complete simple home and rental unit surveys to help housing authorities expedite the approval process to qualify a home for a housing subsidy program.
- Groups could offer classes or personal mentoring and transportation support to those in a housing subsidy program.
- Groups could construct and then lease and manage affordable multi-unit apartments for low-income individuals and families.
- Encourage group members to offer rental units to those who may be involved in social service, classes or mentoring programs provided by the church or community group.
- Group members could mentor or befriend people in public housing units to help them continue their progress once they return home after completing substance abuse

Personalized care and services

This broad subject category serves as a heading for the care and service activities provided directly to an individual or family to ameliorate an undesirable condition or circumstance.

Gaps and needs related to personalized care and services to support a person's physical, emotional, behavioral or spiritual well being, include:

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| 1. Mental health and substance abuse treatment, especially in rural areas; | 11. Health care access for working families; |
| 2. Childcare; | 12. Support for a range of senior services; |
| 3. Housing for seniors, the disabled, former offenders, addicts, etc.; | 13. After school study and tutoring programs, especially in rural areas; |
| 4. Domestic violence; | 14. Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders; |
| 5. Transportation; | 15. Coordination of care by service providers for individual cases; |
| 6. Job Training; | 16. Suicide prevention; |
| 7. Sex offender and victim support; | 17. Early intervention emphasis; |
| 8. Resources for court referrals in rural areas; | 18. Resources for court referrals in rural areas; |
| 9. In state long term mental health treatment, especially for youth; | 19. Food programs for seniors and the poor; |
| 10. Resources to fill gaps in state funding; | 20. Support and assistance for distance and home schooling programs |

The following comments were made with regard to the gaps and needs in the personal care and service category.

- *More mental health and substance abuse treatment services are needed in rural Alaska, for both adults and juveniles. There is a significant difference in the number of direct services available to meet needs of those in urban areas compared to what is available in most rural communities.*
- *There aren't enough services, programs and placements for children, adolescents and adults impacted with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.*

- ❖ Alaska's FAS rate is 4 times the national average at 1.4 per 1,000 population. The lifetime cost of care for one FAS infant is about \$1.5 million. (1999 Annual Report of the Alaska Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse)
- ❖ Alaska's rate of alcohol dependence and alcohol abuse is nearly 14 percent, compared to about 7 percent nationally. (State of Alaska, DHSS, *An Integrated Substance Abuse Treatment Needs Assessment for Alaska*, January 2002)
- ❖ In fiscal year 2002, DHSS provided at least one episode of mental health care to 5,930 children in Alaska. (Children and Youth Needs Assessment, ACSES Report by UAA, 10-29-02)
- ❖ Over 97% of crimes committed by Alaska Natives are committed under the influence of alcohol or drugs. (Alaska Commission on Rural Governance and Employment, Final Report to the Governor, p 106, 1999)

- *Families need help dealing with issues of domestic violence and spousal abuse. Training in conflict resolution would help people find ways to deal with conflict without violence.*
- *People who suffer from undiagnosed mental illness often self medicate with drugs and alcohol. Mental illness, substance abuse and domestic violence play a huge part in child abuse and neglect cases and more services are needed to meet demands in these areas.*
- *Suicide is a big problem for many Alaskan communities. There is a need for screening, diagnosis and professional care to help those who may pose a danger to themselves or others.*
- *There is a need for treatment on demand for substance abusing parents. We need programs that allow parents to have their children with them while they are in treatment.*
- *Teens need after school programs, study and tutoring assistance and the support of positive adult role models. It is difficult for people in rural areas to get help to prepare for and pass GED exams.*

- *Those who make too much money to qualify for Medicaid, do not have health insurance or are not eligible for Native health services need access to doctors, medicines and health care.*
- *Families wanting to home school their children need support to get started and stay on track.*
- *More supervision and treatment services are needed for sex offenders and more counseling and support resources are needed for victims of sexual assault, especially in rural Alaska.*
- *Transportation is a big issue for those moving from welfare into the work place. Public transportation is either not available or is limited in service.*
- *There is a need for service providers to become informed about the state's behavioral health integration efforts. Families can face a set of uncoordinated requirements when they participate in more than one program. Agencies providing direct care to clients need to communicate and coordinate more effectively when serving the same clients.*
- *There aren't enough services, programs and placements for children, adolescents and adults impacted with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.*
- *Families entering the workforce need a lot of help with childcare. There is little or no childcare in rural areas and parents don't feel they have safe alternatives for their children as they pursue work or job training.*
- *People and communities need sustainable economies. We need to work together to develop resources, generate jobs, provide job training while protecting our environment and beauty of Alaska.*
- *Disadvantaged persons can suffer from a variety of issues ranging from mental health, poverty, alcoholism,*

Examples of how faith and community groups can meet needs and close gaps.

- Faith groups can offer scriptural based substance abuse intervention programs
- Groups can offer parenting classes and child care services
- Faith and community groups can offer after school programs for teens that would include some recreation and academic skill development opportunities
- Congregations, service clubs and group members can offer rides to seniors, women with children and others who need transportation assistance.
- Groups can host a suicide prevention training event for their congregation and the community at large.
- Groups can encourage their members to offer job or job training opportunities to those wanting to get off welfare or those coming back into the community from a correctional program.
- Groups can conduct special fund raising events to provide money to individuals or families to buy furniture, dentures, car repair, etc.

homelessness, etc. There is a need for coordinated, comprehensive case management. Integrated case management would help maximize the service benefits of individual programs and agencies serving those in need.

- *Before the system is able to help someone, they must reach bottom. We need more services dedicated to earlier interventions so people don't have to get so bad off before they can get help.*
- *There is a need to increase efforts to promote abstinence education.*
- *Services are needed to help families and children deal with a variety of issues when one or both of the parents are incarcerated.*
- *When the court makes a referral for services such as anger management, batterers intervention, etc. there are few if any of these services available in smaller communities.*
- *Alaska doesn't have a long-term mental health treatment program for youth so youth needing this help have to be sent out of state.*
- *Some on public assistance or fixed incomes like SSI only qualify for \$10 in food stamps per month. Income qualified seniors need higher food stamp allowances.*

Some individuals commented that their faith organization or faith coalitions provide a variety of mental health, anger management, couples counseling and treatment services for substance abusers but their programs are not approved to receive State funding. Groups have an interest and desire to work with the State to establish a mechanism that would open a governmental funding stream to support these faith centered mental health and substance abuse treatment services.

This subject category also includes gaps and needs for materials, equipment, and special needs funding to meet expenses that are not funded through State and Federal social service programs. This would include dentures or baby cribs as an example.

Relationship support

Individuals who are confronted with difficult challenges in life often times need a friend or helper, someone who can provide encouragement and support to see them through. This category speaks to relationships between individuals that would be more

personal rather than professional. These support relationships would be informal and much less structured than the interactions that typify the relationships between a counselor and client, therapist and patient. People saw a need to support those who were moving into the community after they completed treatment or finished a period of incarceration. In various ways people identified the need of social service client populations to have a companion or friend supporting them as they moved towards greater self-sufficiency and independence. In this category, a volunteer wouldn't necessarily do something for another, but rather would do things with the other person.

The following gaps and needs were identified as barriers to providing more effective and efficient relationship support to individuals in need:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transitional support to aid ex-offenders in making successful transitions into the community; 2. Respite care for families; 3. Support for victims of crime; | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Advocacy and moral support for those negotiating with landlords or navigating their way through the court or welfare system. 5. Support to strengthen marriages; |
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These statements illustrate the concerns related to the gaps and needs in the area of relationship support.

- *Youth returning home from a detention or youth facility need relationships with healthy adults willing to help the youth “make it.” This would be the same for an adult leaving jail too.*
- *Students need assistance and support to engage in distance education and home school services.*
- *Families and caretakers who care for a disabled person need support and help. There are services for the disabled person, but families and caretakers need support too.*

Examples of how faith and community groups can meet needs and close gaps.

- Groups can “adopt” someone transitioning back into the community from a treatment or correctional program and provide them with companionship, recreational and social activities.
- Group members can volunteer as victim advocates, tutors or playground attendants at the local school during lunch periods.
- Group members could be a “buddy” and be available to others after hours to talk on the phone or help when some challenge comes up after the caseworker is off duty.

- *Women re-entering the community following release from jail are often returning to the same environment they left. These women need help to develop social skills, increase their self worth and transportation to help them re-integrate into the community.*
- *Agencies and families would benefit if volunteer “grandma/grandpa” could watch the children during court hearings or appointments with caseworkers.*
- *Victims of crime need support and advocacy.*
- *Volunteers are needed to supervise visits between children and parents involved in the child protective services system.*
- *Relationships can be strengthened between husbands and wives through involvement in faith group activities and classes.*
- *A person eligible for a housing subsidy sometimes doesn’t know how to present or sell themselves to landlords. They may find a suitable apartment to meet their needs, but they don’t know quite how to interact with the landlord to complete a rental agreement. Maybe if these people had a “friend” or “buddy” to go with them to look at apartments and to talk with landlords and apartment managers to finalize rental agreements, perhaps more of these people could get off of the street and into homes.*

Success may be easier to find when the person has the support of a friend or mentor as they make their way through a transition processes, learn appropriate social skills or finish school and training programs. Beyond the formalities of our structured social service assistance and treatment programs, people need the help, understanding and encouragement of friends and neighbors long after the social service program case files have been closed. This category is as much about being a good neighbor as it is meeting a program gap in our State social service system.

Areas of need for state agencies and community groups

Agencies were invited to identify areas of need where they thought faith and community groups might render assistance to help them meet their missions. Programs often have a variety of requirements and constraints place on them that limit their organization’s ability to meet all of the needs of those they serve.

Some of the gaps and needs identified by State agencies include:

1. Cash grants to cover the ancillary costs of housing and medical care;
2. Vehicle maintenance;
3. Training for staff and volunteers;
4. Volunteer school tutors, mentors and class room aides;
5. Pastoral visits with those in facilities and treatment programs;
6. Meal delivery for shut-ins.

The following is a list of goods and services state agencies and community groups said would help them help those in need.

- *Clients need cash grants to cover rent and utility deposits. Sometimes for the want of \$250 cash, a person remains homeless because they can't come up with the funds for rent and utility deposits.*
- *Low-income people need help to keep their vehicles operational. They could use the help of a friend who could help them learn how to change the oil or do minor maintenance of their vehicles. Sometimes they need financial help to get emissions inspection or vehicle registration.*
- *Schools need volunteers to help mentor students in reading, math and science. Volunteers can also help as classroom aides, lunch room and play ground monitors. Volunteers can also help supervise after hours sporting or social events.*
- *Funds have been cut for services and staff training. When someone has a training session, it would be good if the training could be opened to others who otherwise might not be able to afford or have access to that training.*
- *Youth need adult mentors to help them learn good social skills and appropriate behaviors.*
- *State funds usually don't cover the costs of a baby crib, linens, kitchen utensils, personal care items like hairbrushes, deodorant, etc. Women's shelters, foster families or families moving into a new apartment for the first time are some of those who could use help with these things.*

- *Youth and adults in residential, treatment and correctional facilities welcome opportunities to visit with ministers and lay people who are willing to provide moral and spiritual guidance and support.*
- *People in rural communities and those who are disadvantaged need others to advocate for them so policy makers can be made aware of their needs and concerns.*
- *Volunteers are needed to deliver meals to homebound seniors. Volunteers are also needed to help seniors with transportation to appointments or the grocery store. Volunteers might also help with routine cleaning tasks around their homes.*
- *Volunteers are needed to teach home economics (simple cooking, budgeting, cleaning, etc.) to teens with mental health issues.*
- *Due to Senator Stevens' efforts, Alaska has created Community Health Centers (CHC) to offer health care to patients who meet poverty guidelines at a substantially discounted cost. People need to be better informed about the availability of these local health centers.*

Conclusion and Recommendation

There are numerous gaps and unmet needs in our social service system in Alaska. Most of the gaps and needs identified by those who provided input to the work group could be classified under three general subject categories of:

- Housing
- Personalized care and services
- Relationship support

As we in the faith-based and community groups, tribes, local governments, state and federal governments work together we can respond to these gaps in service and answer the unmet needs of Alaska's people. The work group recommends the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Task Force adopt a policy statement to encourage faith and community groups to marshal their resources to address the challenges of housing, personalized care and services and relationship support for those in need throughout Alaska.

**FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE TASK FORCE
Resolution on Social Service Gaps and Needs**

Adopted January 28, 2004

WHEREAS, the mission of the Faith-Based And Community Initiative (FBCI) Task Force is to enhance Alaska's social service capabilities by expanding the contribution of faith-based and community initiatives,

WHEREAS, the Task Force has identified a number of gaps and needs in Alaska's social service network,

WHEREAS, the most critical gaps and needs identified can be classified under the three general categories of Housing, Personalized Care and Services, and Relationship Support,

WHEREAS, the spirited volunteers of Alaska's faith and community groups are well positioned to address many of the gaps and needs identified,

IT IS RESOLVED, that the FBCI Task Force calls upon all Alaskan faith and community organizations to marshal their resources to address the following areas of need:

1. Housing
2. Personalized Care and Services
3. Relationship Support

LOOKING AHEAD

- The Task Force is studying 68 carefully selected faith-based and community organizations in order to understand the keys to successful initiatives and partnerships.
- The Task Force will hold a statewide FBCI conference at the Egan Center in Anchorage on April 30.
- The Task Force will develop a prioritized list of specific ideas for new faith-based and community initiatives to address the social service gaps and needs identified.
- The Task Force will be working specifically to understand the unique issues and opportunities present in rural Alaskan communities.
- The Task Force State Department liaisons will report on the FBCI barriers identified by each department and the actions being taken to address them.

FAITH-BASED & COMMUNITY INITIATIVES TASK FORCE MEMBERS

David Carrillo

David, a Filipino-American, has served as a leader in the youth ministry at Juneau Christian Center for the last seven years. In the last two years he has expanded this ministry to additional communities in Southeast Alaska, including Wrangell, Ketchikan, Hoonah and Gustavus. David was raised in Juneau, and graduated from Juneau-Douglas High School, where he was also active in soccer. Following graduation David traveled to South America where he took additional training in soccer before returning full-time to Juneau last year.

Sharon Clausen

Sharon is the Program Director for Faith Christian Community Church in Anchorage. She also serves as an Anchorage church event planner, is active with Churches of Anchorage and coordinated the September 11, 2002, memorial services. Sharon taught English, drama, art and choir for 12 years at Grace Christian School and is a member of the Anchorage Concert Chorus. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Education and did graduate work at Oklahoma University.

Chris Deck

Chris Deck is the Chief Executive Officer of Cross Road Medical Center in Glennallen, a 50-year old non-profit faith-based medical clinic serving the Copper River Basin. Chris also serves as the Treasurer of the Copper Valley Economic Development Council. He is married with two young children. He also teaches at the First Baptist Church of Copper Valley and is finishing his Masters in Biblical Studies from Tyndale Seminary.

Father Innocent Dresdow

Father Innocent Dresdow serves in the Russian Orthodox Diocese of Alaska and is assigned as assistant rector of Saint Innocent Cathedral in Anchorage. He also serves as Administrative Assistant to His Grace Bishop Nikolai and as the Administrative Assistant to ROSSIA Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring historic Russian Orthodox Churches throughout Alaska. He has specialized in youth ministry during the last 15 years and has been active in college campus and prison ministries as well. Through the nurturing of their own mentally handicapped daughter, Father Innocent and his wife Veronica are involved in supporting other families with mentally handicapped children. Fr. Dresdow received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology from Multnomah Bible College in Portland, Oregon and his Master of Divinity Degree from Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania

Renee Duncan

Renee serves as the chairman of the Kenai Peninsula Emergency Food and Shelter Program in Soldotna and works closely with Kenai Peninsula homeless planning. She is also president of her chapter of Soroptimist International, the world's largest classified volunteer service organization for women in business, management and the professions. She is a board member for Women of Impact and Adelphi, both non-profit organizations serving women. Renee is the co-founder of Aurora Borealis Charter School, assistant chairman of the Alaska Women of Excellence Task Force and is the former director for Alaska District Women of Assembly of God. Renee, a vocalist, holds an Associate of Arts degree from Northwest College.

Carl Ekstrom

Carl is the vice president of Whitestone Community Association in Delta Junction. Since moving to Alaska in 1989, he has contributed to several non-profit endeavors. Carl graduated from Westminster College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Behavioral Science and served in the United States Army for four years. He has worked with the Salt Lake Tribune and was employed by the State of Utah for seven years.

Talakai Finau

Talakai works for Federal Express in Anchorage as a senior International Documentation Agent and owns TKO Services, a landscape/construction company. He is a lay speaker and chairman of the Tongan Fellowship of Anchor Park United Methodist Church and is the 1st Vice President of Bridge Builders of Alaska, an organization dedicated to bridging racial gaps. Talakai serves on the board of the Tongan-American Society of Alaska and the Minority Community Police Relation Task Force. He is also a member of Child Care Connection's "Success by 6" governance board. He was awarded the "Racial Justice" award by the United Methodist Women of Alaska in 2002.

Robert Flint

Bob, an attorney in Anchorage, serves as the chief fiscal officer of the Archdiocese of Anchorage and as the executive director of the Catholic Foundation of Alaska and the Alaska Catholic Conference. He has a long history of volunteer work with faith-based charities and social service organizations. Bob assisted in creating the Brother Francis Shelter, the Clare House and the Covenant House in Anchorage. He was a board member and officer of Catholic Social Services from 1974 to 1991 and has been a board member of Covenant House Alaska since 1988. Bob graduated from Yale University with a BA in economics and received a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University.

Dr. Brian Green

Raised on an Alaska homestead, Brian pioneered and is president of Christian Health Associates, a non-profit health, social service and mission organization in Anchorage. This ministry now oversees a number of affiliated ministries including Cornerstone Clinic, Medical & Counseling Center, Alaska Medical Missions, and Point of View Radio Outreach. Ordained a pastor in 1982, Brian led the pastoral-counseling ministry of Abbott Loop Community Church. He also serves on the Alaska School of Ministry and Missions Board, Child Care Connection's "Success by 6" governance board and is the Alaska Representative for Certified Christian Counselors International. Dr. Green graduated from Dimond High School and has a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Christian Counseling Psychology.

Marie Greene

Originally from Deering, Marie serves as the President of NANA Regional Corporation. She is also Chairman of the Northwest Arctic Higher Education Consortium and served on the Governor's Tolerance Commission. Previously, she served as the President of Maniilaq Association, the regional non-profit health corporation serving northwest Alaska. She was also the Executive Director for the Aqqaluk Trust, a non-profit organization founded by NANA to preserve and enhance the Inupiat culture. Marie has a Bachelor's Degree in Rural Development and is pursuing her Master's Degree in Rural Development from the University of Alaska.

Jack Gwaltney

Jack is the development director of the Salvation Army in Anchorage. He is heavily involved in the Salvation Army's Disaster Relief program and coordinates a variety of fund raising events. His community service includes serving on the Youth for Christ board of directors and the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission. He was a business owner and held a variety of positions in the insurance field for 41 years, serving clients all over Alaska. Jack taught the preparatory course for the Alaska insurance exam for many years. A graduate of Anchorage High School, Jack attended Anchorage Community College and graduated from the Technical Management School at Purdue University.

Kristin Lee Hamerski

Kristin, an Anchorage resident, is the reigning Miss Alaska American Teen and recently graduated with honors from the Galena I.D.E.A. home school program. She has contributed more than 5,000 hours of volunteer service and has a special passion for people with disabilities. This year she coached her brother Erik to a Special Olympics Alaska figure skating gold medal. Kristin is a columnist for Practical Homeschooling magazine and serves as a council member for the Spirit of Youth Campaign. After college Kristin plans to go into law and politics, continuing to be active in her community

M. Chris Hayes

A life-long Alaskan, Chris serves in Fairbanks as the executive director for Love Social Services Center, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the assistance of disadvantaged youth and adult education. She is a district missionary with the Church of God in Christ and an active participant in the Boys and Girls Club. Chris directs the women's department at Lily of the Valley Church of God in Christ and is also its residing church mother. She also serves on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Alaska Workforce Investment Board. Chris holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and has completed courses toward an MBA in Communications.

E. Lamarr Jensen

Lamarr is an advertising consultant for KTUU-TV (Channel 2 in Anchorage) and is an adjunct professor of journalism at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He is also spearheading a program, along with NBA great Thurl Bailey, entitled "No to Drugs...Yes to Life", a campaign that reaches young Alaskans. His service with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints includes serving as the district young men's president and as district councilman for many communities in western and northwest Alaska. Lamarr holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Brigham Young University.

Pete Kelly

A lifelong Alaskan, Pete currently is associated with the University of Alaska Fairbanks. As a former Senator and Representative from Fairbanks, Senator Kelly was widely recognized as a champion for the family. Pete has a background in broadcast management, public relations and media production and is also the owner/manager of Kelly Communications. Pete and his family are members of the Door of Hope Church. Pete volunteers with youth sports and served on the Volunteers in Policing board of directors. Senator Kelly graduated from Monroe High School and attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Liberty University.

Dr. Judith Kleinfeld

As founder of the Northern Studies program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Judith's scholarly contribution to Alaska is recognized by the academic community. She was awarded the Emil Usibelli Award for Distinguished Research for her work, particularly her contribution to the education of those affected by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Judith has done extensive research in teacher education, particularly on cross-cultural education and the success of different types of teachers and school environments on Alaska Native children. She also serves on the Governor's Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the American Education Reform Association Task Force and as president of the Alaska Association of Scholars. Dr. Kleinfeld writes a regular column for major Alaska newspapers on current research in psychology and education. Her latest book, "Go For It! Finding Your Own Frontier," will be published in fall 2003. Judith is an active member of the Jewish Congregation in Fairbanks. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and Harvard University.

Scott Merriner

Scott is the chairman of the Task Force. He currently serves ChangePoint (formerly Grace Community Church) in Anchorage as an administrative pastor. He is on the board of the Downtown Soup Kitchen, an organization that serves 350 meals daily to Anchorage's homeless and working poor, and serves on the board of GraceAlaska, a non-profit organization focused on creating partnerships among the faith community to meet practical needs in the community. Scott has worked as an analyst at the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, and as a management consultant for McKinsey & Company in its Chicago and South African offices. Reared in Juneau, Anchorage and Dillingham, Scott graduated from Dillingham High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Harvard University. He is the fourth Alaskan to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship for study at Oxford University where he received a Masters Degree in International Relations.

Reverend William "Doc" Nicholson

Originally from Dillingham, Rev. Nicholson is currently the pastor of the Anchorage Moravian Church. He has been an ordained minister for 26 years and as Alaska Army National Guard Chaplain, has responded to domestic abuse, led suicide awareness workshops and promoted family wellness. Rev. Nicholson supports the SALT program and Family Wellness Warriors Initiatives program administered through Southcentral Foundation. For the past 11 years, he has worked as a representative of the Alaska Moravian Church to the Chukotka Native Christian Ministry, a multi-denominational effort of mission outreach and humanitarian aid. A Yup'ik Eskimo, he has been a Bristol Bay salmon fisherman for more than 37 seasons and is a licensed pilot. He served on the Traditional Councils for Togiak and New Stuyahok and he has been the pastor in the Bethel and Dillingham Moravian churches. A published author, he has also worked with several fisheries organizations. Rev. Nicholson holds a Master of Divinity degree from Moravian Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts degree from George Fox College.

Kim Patterson

Kim serves the University of Alaska - Anchorage as an Educational Talent Search Advisor in the Pre-College Program department. His ten years of pastoral and human services experience has afforded him the opportunity to serve in several faith-based and community venues to include pastoral ministry within Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church and, most recently, ministry within Anchorage City Church. Kim received his Master of Divinity degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School, in New York; and will receive his Doctor of Ministry degree from Regent University School of Divinity, in Virginia, in May of 2004.

Dr. Rory Schneeberger

A “retired” legislative aide, Dr. Schneeberger has served communities since 1980 as a volunteer family, marital and teen counselor, living in both Sitka and Hoonah. She is currently a volunteer tutor and English as a Second Language instructor, as well as a motivational speaker with Christian women’s clubs through Stonecroft Ministries. She is also a jingle singer and song writer, arranger, vocalist, musician and producer. Rory also works alongside her husband, Peter, as a financial budgeting counselor. In addition to homeschooling her four children for twenty years, Rory’s passion for education shows through numerous positions she has held as a volunteer instructor, an overseas teaching missionary through the Evangelical Free Church, and adjunct professor at the University of Alaska Southeast. She has been an administrator/principal of three non-profit, private schools in Colorado and Alaska, and vice-president of the Sitka Citizens' Police Academy. Rory has a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Educational Psychology.

Dr. Stan Tucker

Stan has served in pastoral ministries for more than 25 years and is now the pastor of Pilgrims Baptist Church in Wasilla. He also is the treasurer of the Valley Pastors Prayer Network. His community involvement includes service on the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly, Valley Hospital Board and Wasilla Planning Commission. Dr. Tucker and his wife Karen have lived in the Valley for more than 50 years and have ten children. He received his Doctor of Theology degree from Bob Jones University.

EX-OFFICIO TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Deputy Commissioner Karleen Jackson

Karleen serves as Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Deputy Commissioner Ray Matiashowski

Ray serves as Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Administration.

Deputy Commissioner Bill Noll

Bill serves as the Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Chaplain Mike Ensich

Mike is the chaplaincy coordinator for the Alaska Department of Corrections.

Chaplain David Frain

David serves as chaplain at Alaska Pioneer Home.

Gracie Jackson

Gracie serves as a Job Developer for the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Major Richard Koch

Richard serves as the Alaska Air National Guard Chaplain for the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs.

Denise Shanklin

Denise serves as the Outreach Liaison for the Division of Child Support Enforcement in the Department of Revenue.

Paul Sugar

Paul serves as an Education Specialist for the Division of Teaching and Learning Support in the Department of Education and Early Development.

Ken Truitt

Ken serves as an Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division in the Department of Law.

Lieutenant Charlie Yoder

Charlie serves as the Regional Commander for the Mat-Su region of the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement in the Department of Public Safety.

Senator Fred Dyson

Senator Dyson represents Senate District I (Eagle River-Elmendorf AFB-Fort Richardson) and is the Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, and Social Services Committee.

Senator Ralph Seekins

Senator Seekins represents Senate District D (Fairbanks) and is the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee.

Senator Scott Ogan

Senator Ogan represents Senate District H (Palmer to Birchwood) and is the Chairman of the Senate Resources Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Senator Donny Olson

Senator Olson represents Senate District T (Northwest Alaska and Arctic Slope) and is a member of the Senate Finance Committee.

Representative John Coghill

Representative Coghill represents House District 11 (Fairbanks) and is the House Majority Leader.

Representative Nancy Dahlstrom

Representative Dahlstrom represents House District 18 (Elmendorf AFB-Fort Richardson-Eagle River) and is the Co-Chairman of the House Resource Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Legislature's Joint Armed Services Committee.

STAFF

Gwen Hall

Special Assistant to Lieutenant Governor Leman

Robert Buttane

FBCI Coordinator for the Department of Health and Social Services

Marilyn Stewart

FBCI Liaison for the Department of Community and Economic Development