

Meeting convened at 7:00 am at the Porter Conference Room, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

In Attendance: Murray Richmond, Dan Winfree, Brian Slocum, Jim Dodson, Lisa Giannusa, Kate Wood, Anna Huntington-Kriska, Robert Gould, and Torie Foote.

Jim Dodson gave some opening remarks, going over the suggested group process (choosing a leader, not scheduling meetings concurrent with other groups, and the need for groups to communicate to other groups and the community at large). The group's task is to provide vision for the community in terms of health care issues.

After brief discussion, Rob Gould was chosen as group leader.

Rob suggested we make a list of the issues we wanted to discuss. After going around and sharing issues, three emerged:

Work Force Needs/Retention of Health Care Workers
Mental Health/Substance Abuse
Access to Appropriate Health Care for All

The group was asked, "What would you like to see in terms of health care in the Fairbanks area?"

Listed were:

Adequate number of health care professionals
Adequate behavioral health and substance abuse facilities.
The University graduates appropriate number of health care professionals

A discussion ensued concerning the economic climate of Fairbanks, i.e. other communities. According to Jim Dodson, Alaska's per capita income is 16th in the nation, but because of cost of living issues, is last in terms of disposal income. That affects the climate to recruit health care professionals.

Also it was noted that groups in Fairbanks tend to organize against things, and it was suggested this group organize toward a vision. There is often not funding to do things that need to be done.

Rob spoke of the Chronic Inebriate Program, and how, even though it has proven successful, stands to lose funding. Torie pointed out that the ideas behind the program have been around for a while, but this was the first time various parts of the community organized to put them into practice.

It was suggested that the group write vision statements, and send them to Rob.

To start, Rob and Torie offered the following:

Fairbanks be a community that attracts and retains highly skilled healthcare professionals and allows affordable access, with an industry that supports healthy families.

Each member of the task force will craft a vision statement and send it to Rob, (and that they be distributed to others?) for discussion at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 am.

Next meeting, Aug 22, 8:00 at the Porter Conference Room, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.