

MINUTES: DOUGLAS DIABETES WORKING GROUP MEETING

Thursday, March 16, 2000, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

760 10th Street

Douglas, AZ 85607

The meeting began with welcome and introductions. Several new members of the group were present, including:

- Marilyn Bowen, Cochise County Health Department, and Turning Point Facilitator
- Maria Patino, concerned community member.

The group continued with a progress report on the ongoing dissemination of survey results:

Continued Dissemination of Survey Results

- Board of Supervisors  
No presentation has taken place.
- Board of Education  
Lucia Spikes stated that a presentation with the school board has not taken place. Carol Huddleston talked to Yolanda Caruso about the presentation and stated that they would prefer to have 'a plan in-place with concrete recommendations and/or requests for the Board before approaching them. They believe they will be ready to present by May. Angie Ramirez wants to be sure that the Board is aware of Cochise County's PLAY Program and that the curriculum is already developed for grades 4-8. Carol and Yolanda will include implementation of the PLAY Program as one of their recommendations to the Board.

Lisa Staten distributed an abstract to the group of an article linking higher test scores to teacher-lead physical activities. This information will be useful in demonstrating to the Board the importance of physical activity in school curriculum. Lisa will work on finding further and more detailed information on this topic. She suggested approaching the school staff through in-services and with motivational speakers that can be invited from the University of Arizona and other places.

Mike Lebowitz mentioned that Turning Point had had some interaction with the Health Advisory Council; that their response was positive, and that there will be further discussion.

Other school-related strategies discussed include approaching school nurses and PTO groups. The group will arrange to talk with Sherri Johnson, one of the Douglas school nurses; to gain support. A planning session will be scheduled for Carol, Lisa, Yolanda, Angie, and Marilyn Bowen to strategize and discuss next steps.

Chamber of Commerce

Rosie Ortega was not present to report. The group was unsure of the status of this presentation.

### Service Clubs

No presentations to service clubs have yet taken place. ~ervice clubs suggested at the previous meeting as being important to speak with included: La Sociedad de Obreros Mexicanos, the Rotary Club, and the Lions Club.

### Community Activities

City Hall has requested a copy of the official survey report for use in their grant-writing activities. The Douglas Library has ordered books for diabetics. They have invited the group to post a display at the library and want to include a copy of the Douglas Diabetes Survey Report in their collection of materials. Carmen Ramirez sent a catalog of Spanish materials so that some will be ordered for the collection as well.

Although Carmen was not able to attend the meeting, she sent along an update of her activities in the community. One such activity is the free Diabetes Course March 15-April 19,2000 at Cochise College. Although some group members have been able to attend, the group remarked that there were problems with wrong phone numbers, missing information about dates of the classes, and transportation issues. Lucia will talk to Cochise College about offering the course in Douglas in the future and about using the college's vans to transport people.

### Grant Activities

The Community Food Bank received a grant to renovate their building. The renovation will entail the addition of two new rooms devoted to chronic diseases. Mary Robinson reminded the group that the Food Bank continues to need the support of the community to implement diabetes education and other programs. In addition to the grant, the Food Bank has received resources from community businesses, including a truck donated by Southwest Gas. She suggests that the Diabetes Working Group seek support from community businesses as well.

Ginger Ryan reported that she had not yet heard anything about the Rural Health Outreach grant proposal that was submitted several months ago. Jill Zapien said that they had just been reviewed and that the group should be informed of the outcome shortly.

### Selection of Community Facilitator for Future Meetings and Activities

Marilyn Bowen and Maria Patino have volunteered to be the new co-facilitators of the group. Marilyn is a Certified Diabetes Educator working for Cochise County Health Department. Maria is a community member with diabetes who is very concerned about the issue in Douglas. The group agreed that both individuals will make effective and complimentary facilitators. We welcome them to the group and to their new positions! The University of Arizona will continue to offer logistical support in terms of meeting minutes, agendas, etc. and technical assistance.

### Other Business

Lucia Spike reported that a group of Douglas residents are bidding to buy the local hospital. She feels that local ownership will make the hospital more responsible to the community's needs and urges the community and Tucson counterparts to support the move.

Mike Lebowitz spoke with the group regarding the work of the Southwest Center for Community Health Promotion. In Cochise County the Center is supporting a demonstration project to increase screening for chronic diseases among older women. The Center is forming a task force to focus on issues of sustainability for screening and treatment services for chronic disease. The Center is requesting participation from the Diabetes Working Group, Douglas Turning Point, and the Well Woman HealthCheck Coalition. Molly Sweeny, Ginger Ryan, Lucia Spikes, and Marilyn Bowen

volunteered to be members of the task force. A meeting of the group is tentatively scheduled for April 27, 2000 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Diabetes Work Group is scheduled for:

**Thursday, May 18, 2000  
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church  
760 10th Street  
Douglas, AZ 85607**