

Douglas Special Action Group Minutes  
5 April 2004  
First Presbyterian Church  
760 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Douglas, AZ

Introduction

Jenny Hunter began the meeting by passing around the sign-in sheet and giving copies of the agenda and minutes from the last SAG meeting in January 2004. Everyone introduced himself or herself (Name & Organization). Jenny asked everyone to take a moment and look over the minutes from the meeting in January to see if anything was missing or was misrepresented. Lea Dodge pointed out that on page 2 the last sentence of the second paragraph was confusing. Rosie Stewart will revise the sentence.

Updates

**Pasos Adelante—Community Nutrition/Walking Groups Program**

Lourdes Fernandez explained that 64 people were recruited for the spring group of Pasos Adelante. About 55 of these 64 people are going to the classes. Three classes a week are being offered. Two of these classes are in Spanish and one is in English. She discussed some of the challenges she has encountered with teaching the class in English for the first time. She also discussed the challenges she and Blanca Robles have encountered with the walking groups. They only have 10-14 participants walking in the walking groups. The other participants are walking on their own time. Jenny added that a lot more people from the schools are participating in the program this round. Lea, who is currently participating in the Pasos program, described her experience with attending the classes. Jill Guernsey de Zapien explained that the changes we are targeting do not occur over night.

Lourdes explained that there are already 21 persons on the waiting list for the summer group. Jenny added that we had more men sign-up for this spring group. Elsa Obregon asked where the walking groups walked? Lourdes replied that they walk on 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

**CARE (Children's Assistance and Resource Event) Fair**

Evelyn Markee explained that screenings are done at the CARE Fair and if necessary, people are referred to physicians. Many of the fair attendees come from across the line. It is a catch all of agencies that provide information. A tentative date and time has been set for this years CARE Fair: August 4, 2004 from 10 am until 4 pm. 5 committees have been created. Contact Evelyn for more information at 520-458-8278, ext. 2178. Evelyn will be out of the office the month of June. During that time, please contact Lourdes at 520-559-3175. They are looking to hold the fair at the Douglas High School Gymnasium. Per Randy Walker, the athletic director of the high school, the tentative date and time mentioned above should be okay as long as it is not the week that sports is beginning.

### **Information for Action Conference**

Jill announced that the 5<sup>th</sup> Border Health: Information for Action Conference is going to be held on April 29-30<sup>th</sup> in Rio Rico, AZ. The conference is sponsored by the Arizona Department of Health Services, the Secretaria de Salud de Sonora, the Colegio de Sonora, the Mel and Enid Zuckerman Arizona College of Public Health, and various NGOs. Attendees include researchers, community members, educators, and health organizations from Mexico and Arizona. For more information, please contact Karen Halverson of the Southeast Arizona Area Health Education Center (SEAHEC) at 520-287-4722.

### **Other**

Mary Robinson talked about the Angel Foundation located in Phoenix, which was founded by Dorothy Packerd Walkins, the granddaughter of BJ Packerd, the founder of Douglas. For the last 7 years, this foundation has held a clinic in Agua Prieta to screen and serve children with special needs. Ms. Robinson said that all of the clinicians who help with this clinic offer their services and time for free.

Evelyn announced the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension is seeking to hire a Food Nutrition Educator. It is a 20 hours per week position. This person would have office space in Sierra Vista, but they could work from home. A person who is bilingual is preferred. Responsibilities include teaching basic nutrition to Head Start programs, as well as other tasks. Travel throughout Cochise County is required, but the person could be compensated for it.

### School Activities

#### **PTSO Presentations**

PTSO presentations have been done at all 6 elementary schools. Stephenson was done on February 5, 2004, Joe Carlson on February 25<sup>th</sup>, and A Avenue on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The presentation was also given to a couple of people at the Center for Academic Success (CAS), specifically the food preparation staff. Lea and Cecilia Valdez also gave a presentation to the Med Club. In the presentation, they used a jeopardy format to engage students. Evelyn mentioned that during the course of the PTSO presentations, they had parents and school staff complete a survey. 198 parents, teachers, and principals completed the survey. She passed out the results of these surveys. Evelyn said the parents, teachers, and principals are very receptive to the presentations and are in shock at what is going on in the community with regard to diabetes. They want more information and want to see changes in the schools.

Rhea added that at Sarah Marley, when the results were passed out the principal made changes in the cafeteria by offering desserts less frequently. Rather than a dessert being offered at every meal, now they are only offered about once per month. Lourdes pointed out that the vending machines have also been taken out.

#### **Presentation to Interim School Superintendent**

Lourdes mentioned that the Interim Superintendent was very receptive to the presentation that subcommittee members gave. The Interim Superintendent is going to talk to all the principals at their staff meeting. Gary Spivey stated that principals are already trying to find alternatives to candy sale fundraisers. They are thinking ahead already.

### **School Tax Credits**

Maureen Calderon will be taking the tax credit brochure to the school district to be translated into Spanish. Carol Huddleston said that Gloria Arzate (school principal) wants to distribute tax credit information to parents at registration in the fall instead of waiting until November or December. Alumni of schools will also be approached regarding the school tax credit. Teacher buy-in is very crucial. Elsa mentioned that certificates should be given to those individuals who contribute to the school tax credit or something should be done to acknowledge their contribution.

Next Steps with Subcommittee:

- 1) Translation of the school tax credit brochure
- 2) Finish presentations with the high school and CAS
- 3) Check back with Interim School Superintendent to see if subcommittee can help or be a resource in finding fundraising alternatives

Next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Diabetes Walk**

Elsa explained that her school held a walk on March 12<sup>th</sup> for diabetes. 88 kids collected about \$2,700. The kids had to walk 5,000 steps. Lea and Cecilia passed out various goodies to the kids as they walked. Elsa also mentioned that Evelyn had attended all of her health classes to teach about diabetes. CAS donated beanie babies and Elsa handed them out to kids who raised more than \$20. The beanie babies were in the shape of vegetables and fruits. She is hoping the diabetes walk will become a district-wide event where schools compete against each other to raise the most money. It was also mentioned that for future walks Wal-Mart should be contacted since they have a program in which they match money raised. Lea pointed out that there are a lot of resources in Douglas that need to be tapped.

### **School Health Index (SHI)**

Gary mentioned that Ray Borane has completed the SHI. They came up with a number of action items, such as forming a subcommittee to look at school policies, putting on a health fair/screening for staff, and creating a walking group for staff and students.

Douglas High School will complete the SHI either this week or next. They have completed all of the modules. They had great participation by students.

### **STEPS to a HealthierUS**

Mary Jane Joyal from the Cochise County Health Department passed out a handout entitled Year One Funding Initiative. She went through her handout and briefly explained each of the Cochise County projects to be funded through the STEPS grant. Lea explained the project to train/certify promotoras/community health workers. Mary Jane explained that the funding for the program would probably start within the next 4-6 weeks. All of the projects will be funded with Year 1 STEPS funds. Can contact Mary Jane Joyal if you have any questions at 520-432-9414.

The next SAG meeting will be held:

Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
First Presbyterian Church  
760 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Douglas, AZ  
6:00-7:30 pm

There will be a subcommittee meeting held before the SAG meeting:

Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
First Presbyterian Church  
760 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Douglas, AZ  
4:30-5:30 pm