

Border Health SI
Special Action Group
September 24, 2003

Welcome and Introductions

Marilynn Johnson welcomed SAG members. She then showed the Andale Muevete t-shirts to the group; at the end of the meeting Marilynn gave each SAG member a t-shirt.

Dawn Medler announced that Congressman Raul Grijalva recently signed up as a board member of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation whose purpose is to support and educate communities of the risks of glaucoma and other diseases. The Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation provides visual screenings at no cost to participants and has been funding the mobile eye unit, from the U of A Department of Ophthalmology to provide visual screening to participants in communities like Nogales. As a board member of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation and to show support, Congressman Grijalva will be attending the Health and Safety Fair November 8, 2003.

Updates: Policy subcommittee and Activity subcommittee

Marilynn Johnson reported that the policy Group met September 17,2003 with Lynn Slagle to discuss and assign roles for the action plan. Marilynn would like members from the policy group who were not able to attend the meeting to call her or she will contact them for an action plan role. The action plan title is, "Health First". Ila Tittelbaugh has been designated as the official spokesperson for the policy group. Joel suggested that Ila attend a community forum in Yuma so that she can experience and have ideas for future community forum in Nogales. However, Marilynn mentioned that others have said a community forum would not have much success in our community. This was discussed at the policy retreat and John Maynard stated that he did not believe a community forum in Nogales would be of much success.

Carmen Flores reported that after giving a School Health Index presentation August 18 to School Board members from District 35, there was an amazing turn around in interest and three out of four schools completed the SHI. However, for District #1 in Nogales, three schools out of twelve have participated and completed the SHI. SAG members discussed how they could encourage and motivate other schools in District #1 to participate in the School Health Index. During the discussion Dina Sanchez, JoJean Elenes and Carmen committed themselves to give a SHI presentation to School Board Members of District 1. They will decide on a meeting date to plan and discuss how and when they can present to the school board members. They will also contact Ila Tittelbaugh to include her in planning of the presentation.

JoJean Elenes gave logistics about the STEPS Grant. The five-year grant has been awarded to our state. JoJean is hoping that as part of the STEPS Grant, SAG will be able to continue. However, because there has been a budget cut from the original budget JoJean is to attend an October 7 meeting to discuss the STEPS grant with the state Department of Health Services. After October 7, JoJean will contact the partners to discuss further logistics regarding the grant.

SEAHEC will create a threefold brochure with highlighted information about Border Health SI and its components. Minnie will email Suzanne the information she has written for the threefold creation. The threefold brochure will be used as a short-term solution for presentations. As a long-term solution, Rich Polheber will contact Carondelet Holy Cross Marketing group to expand the brochure for future and long-term goals. Marilyn will meet with the marketing group to discuss the logistics and planning of the brochure. The Health Fair planning is going well. Two surveys will be handed out at the health fair, one from Cooperative Extension and another from SEAHEC.

Jill de Zapien and Joel Meister handed out a four-question discussion questionnaire. SAG members were asked to write down answers on a sheet and to share their opinions aloud with the group as well. SAG members who were not able to attend the meeting are to fill out the four-discussion questions and sent to Jill.

Closure

The next SAG meeting will be December 3, 2003. There will be no SAG meeting for October or November.