



VISIONEERING  
WICHITA

## Visionering Wichita Racial Diversity, Opportunity & Harmony Alliance

### Meeting Notes

**April 10, 2008**

**Attendees:** Martha Sanchez, Christina Woods, Maria Bias, Susan Leiker, Geri Watts, Lavonta Williams, Brenda Dietzman, Terri Moses

#### **Review and accept minutes from last meeting:**

Previous meeting notes were accepted as printed.

#### **Any other announcements:**

Geri Watts presented information on the Longest Walk 2. Everyone was encouraged to participate. Information can be found at [www.longestwalk.org](http://www.longestwalk.org)

#### **Update on survey participation/demographic assessment:**

Janet Harrah, WSU, presented the results of the 2008 Racial Diversity, Opportunity & Harmony perception survey. There was little change from the 2006 survey. The overall index was 57.4 compared to 56.8 in 2006. A total of 1740 individuals took the survey. Janet noted that you only need 50 respondents to know the trends. The two additional questions on healthcare and leadership didn't change the index. The attitudes of the new questions were the same as the original 10. The overall perception is that we aren't where we want to be but things will get better; there's hope. An overview of the survey results can be found on the Visionering website at:

<http://www.visioneringwichita.com/minutes/rd/Survey%202008%20Overview.pdf>

The complete report can be found on the Visionering website at:

<http://www.visioneringwichita.com/minutes/rd/2008%20RH%20Survey%20Results%20Report%20Summary%20FINAL.pdf>

#### **Discussion following the presentation:**

- How do we continue to tell the story when the results of the survey are statistically insignificant, even though we are making progress?
- In Wichita we are making progress, but often people don't perceive the progress. Maybe we have to try to look at it from the various perspectives, as we continue to try to address issues.

- Still a significant disconnect, even with those who are culturally competent.
- Need to return to ultimate goal; survey was a part of that goal. How do we take the message out to community/business groups who still need to hear the message?
- Suzie talked with Henry Luke about sustaining the momentum of the overall Visioneering initiative. He referred her back to the chart re: earnings gap (from the Vision document), and said we need to really focus efforts around that.
- Maybe not a news story, but an important reminder: takes a lot to change things over time, but if we don't stay with it, it won't ever change.
- People often perceive that there is a lot of talk and little results.
- How do we translate the higher level successes to the lay people in the community (i.e. African American city manager, mayor, chief of police, etc.)
- Perhaps we can do a better job of highlighting the positive minority role models in the community. Perhaps the newspaper is not the most meaningful medium to get the message out to the people who most need to hear it.
- May need to highlight the fact that white people are voting for minorities.
- Outreach is the biggest way to bring awareness into the community. The Longest Walk is one example of that. Brings awareness to Congress regarding pollution/environmental preservation. Also a "healing" walk. Bringing together all cultures and races.
- Exploration Place will begin this year to host a cultural awareness event – October 3 – 5, 2008. Each year will have a cultural theme. First day will focus on educational outreach – particularly to public schools.
- Visioneering's network has been a powerful medium for increasing awareness.
- Part of our process has been building the sense of transparency and trust in the community. As long as we maintain that value, and continue to hold the community accountable, we will continue to move forward.
- Would like to see other alliances kept abreast and involved re: RDOH survey results, goals, etc. RDOH alliance members have been ambassadors, and will need to continue to do so.

<b>Next Steps</b>
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- Suzie will send excerpts from the Visioneering document related to income disparities.
- Make presentations of survey results to other alliances.

- Celebrate the work of the other alliances who have responded to previous survey results with meaningful action, i.e. Small Business and Entrepreneurs, College Mecca, etc. (Don't let them be discouraged or disheartened by the small change in the survey).
- Brenda is a part of Advance Kansas. Working on a community project, and plans to bring ideas and information back to Alliance, as well as advancing the Visioneering RDOH agenda within that cohort. Maybe send out letters about what we're doing (RDOH) to invite them to partner with us.
- Perhaps do a workshop, including with City Council, County Commission, regional governing bodies and organizations, etc.
- Open-ended questions – need to be analyzed (themed, coded, etc.).

<b>Next RDOH meeting</b>
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- May 1, 2008 3:30 – CCSR Bldg.
- Diane will send reminders.

**Commitments**

WHO	WHAT	WHEN
<b>Suzie</b>	<b>Send excerpts from Visioneering document related to income disparities, etc.</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>Diane/Maas/Janet</b>	<b>Send PowerPoint to alliance members</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>Janet</b>	<b>Forward open-ended questions to Suzie</b>	<b>ASAP</b>