



**VISIONEERING  
WICHITA**

Creating the future for our regional community.

## **Visioneering Wichita Racial Diversity, Opportunity & Harmony Alliance**

### **Meeting Notes February 8, 2007 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Wichita Chamber Board Room**

#### **Mission of RDOH Alliance:**

**“To create a culture that promotes and celebrates racial, diversity, opportunities & harmony within the Wichita MSA.”**

**Leadership Team:** Brian Black, Doug Hye, Lavonta Williams, Deann Smith, Susan Leiker, Gail Finney, Sandra Harrison

**Attendance:** Brenda Dietzman, Margarita LaFarelle Hunt, Irene Hart, Lavonta Williams, Maria Bias, Susan Leiker, Wanda Hughes, Rich Hanley, Deann Smith, Sue Castile, Terri Moses, Ed Bricknell, Brian Black, Sharon Fearey

Lavonta Williams welcomed participants and shared the purposes of the meeting:

- Update on Community Presentations to date
  
- Update on planned Community Meetings
  - St. Mark
  - Black Legislators’ Town Hall Meeting
  
- Explanation and Planning for Ecumenical Community Outreach

Participants approved and adopted minutes from November 8, 2006 Racial Diversity, Opportunity and Harmony Alliance meeting.

Suzie Ahlstrand provided updates on the Unified Legislative Agenda, Entrepreneurs and Small Business, the Annual Meeting, and the News Challenge Grant. As a response to survey results, the Entrepreneurs and Small Business Alliance is getting closer to launching its Minority Business Initiative, a mentoring program for minority businesses supported in part by funding from the Kauffman Foundation. [See Visioneering website for more complete details.]

Leadership Team then led a discussion to update alliance members on community meetings, and to review plans for future community outreach activities. Gail Finney has provided an opportunity for the Leadership Team to present survey results at the upcoming Black Legislative Caucus’ Town Hall Meeting scheduled on 2/10 at the WSU Metroplex. Melody Miller has agreed to make that presentation. It was determined that the meeting originally planned for St. Mark had gotten somehow “off-track” related to

purposes and that the idea of a Ecumenical Forum was more in line with the original idea. Alliance members attempted to clarify purposes for that meeting (How do we involve Wichita Faith Community? What would be expected outcomes?) and to identify next steps.

### **Initial Notes on Ecumenical Community Forum**

Deann Smith explained that initial idea for forum at St. Mark was to bring religious leaders/clergy together to share survey results and invite them to assist in expanding the dialogue about racial diversity, opportunity and harmony.

### ***How do we involve Wichita Faith Community?***

Alliance members suggested that faith leaders be invited to a forum/focus group where survey results would be presented, using prepared presentation, which includes an invitation to be involved in a continued dialogue and activities addressing issues raised by the survey.

### ***What would be expected outcomes?***

Alliance members felt that invited clergy should be allowed to brainstorm/discuss possible responses and their willingness to assist with expanding the dialogue, potentially through their own congregations/faith communities. How that could actually look would be dependent upon what faith leaders/clergy are willing to do.

### ***What are next steps?***

Set date for meeting/focus group.

Luncheon  
March 6, 2007  
11:00 a.m.  
Chamber of Commerce

Who to invite/Who will invite?

Dave Foulton – Sharon

Pastor Verge – LaVonta

Fr. Patrick Malone – Maria

Rabbi Davis – Terri

Fr. Jim Haney – Margarita

Kevis Harding – Terri

Cheryl Bell – Wanda

Dotson – Brian (Ron Jones)  
Charles Maxey – Brian

Lincoln Montgomery – Brian

Hispanic Ministerial Alliance – Margarita

Peggy Elliot – Margarita

Kathy Northrup – Deann

Sam Muyskens – Deann

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**Next steps:**

Leadership Team to meet February 14, 2007, 8:30 @ SHN to:

- Develop invitation (e-mail and snail-mail)
- Draft talking points for conversation with faith leaders/clergy

Next Alliance Meeting: Thursday, March 8 3:30 @ SHN

Adjournment and Thank You