



VISIONEERING
WICHITA

Visioneering Wichita Racial Diversity, Opportunity & Harmony Alliance

**Meeting Notes
March 8, 2007
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Self-Help Network**

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

Attendance: Sergio Gonzalez, Ed Bricknell, Elizabeth Auer, Wanda Hughes, Brenda Dietzman, Terri Moses, Deann Smith, Lindsi Fulcher, Tommy Fulcher, Susan Leiker, Margarita LaFarelle Hunt, Geri Watts, Lola Foreman, Kenneth Harge, Kendall Heier

Purposes of the Day:

Participants approved and adopted minutes from February 8, 2007 Racial Diversity, Opportunity and Harmony Alliance meeting.

1. Debrief clergy luncheon and determine next steps
2. Update on accomplishments to date
3. What else?
4. Discussion

Diane Longfellow provided an update on Visioneering activities.

- New Alliances: Arts and Agri-business
- Annual Meeting: May 15th, WSU Metroplex, 7 p.m.
- B-K Grant: \$10,000.00 (+ \$25,000.00 – KHF, \$35,000.00)

Deann Smith provided an update on the clergy forum held on March 6. (See Clergy Forum notes). All who attended felt the activity went very well. Alliance then discussed possible next steps.

Clergy Next Steps:

- Convene another meeting to identify next steps and actionable items. Invite those who attended the 1st meeting then expand the group at future meetings. (April 17, SHN 11 – 1 p.m.)
- Suggest use ‘building bridges’ format for future “roundtable” discussions

Discussed viability of Building Bridges/Study Circles format for future community discussions around race relations. Susan Leiker and others shared information on the City of Wichita's utilization of the curriculum/format and shared that the City based program (for City of Wichita employees) has been successfully and continuously ongoing for the last seven years, per six session group commitments. In addition, the public libraries have recently initiated a public session that anyone can attend. The curriculum is available from the Study Circles Resources Center or possibly through Diversity Kansas locally, who might also be available to train facilitators.

Participants suggested the possibility of re-invigorating the 'building bridges' initiative, soliciting partners, and encouraging local churches to host circles/sessions.

Benchmarks:

Discussed benchmarks for the RDOH alliance, and where we are in accomplishing those. Also had some discussion regarding possible indicators to determine our success.

- Survey – every 2 years: Baseline survey completed, and as a result of sharing survey findings:
 - Small Business Alliance MBI
 - Clergy Focus Group
 - Opportunity to share results in community organizations and with various employers
- Income Gap – Reduction

Discussed difficulty in identifying indicators for this benchmark; group suggested that it might be helpful to have additional information. However, the group did agree that one way the Alliance can begin to use the survey findings to make an impact in this area is find ways to link minority communities with available resources that could make a difference in the achievement gap and employment/economics. One idea was to serve as a clearinghouse for information on community resources. Perhaps provide a listing or a link on the Visioneering website to relevant community resources. Other possible ideas are to do research on related community resources and also invite presenters to an Alliance meeting to talk about resources that the group might not be aware of.

Lindsay Fulcher agreed to do research on community and school based resources for academic assistance. Brenda agreed to invite someone from the Workforce Alliance to the next Alliance meeting to talk about the resources available there. Susan Leiker agreed to invite Andy Solter from the Kansas Career Pipeline to talk about his program.

RDOH Next Meeting: April 19th, 2007 (3:30 p.m.) @ Self-Help Network Building

Meeting adjourned.