

Easter Group – *Rebirth of Hope*

EIN: 80-0647738

MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, March 31, 2012, 11am – 2pm

St. Peter's See House

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Present: Mim McConnell, Julia Smith, Dorrie Farrell, Mary Wegner, Judy and Jack Ozment, Ted Laufenberg, Barbara Soukup, and Kathryn Snelling

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Added *Alliance of Alaska Dental Society (AADS)* to New Projects and Tasks – item 8. e.

3. GUESTS & PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - None

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

“Livin’ on the Edge” fundraiser with MEHS small business class/Junior Achievement students: Dorrie, Kathryn, and Mim went to Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) to meet with students who established a business designed to help individuals who are homeless; selling wristbands imprinted with “Livin’ on the Edge”. When the business closes at the end of the school year, which is a requirement of the Junior Achievement program, a percentage of the proceeds will go to support the EG. The MEHS students expressed interest in keeping alive the idea of support for individuals who are homeless, although they do not yet know how that will look.

Affordable Housing: Mim, Phyllis Hackett, Dorrie, and Ted will meet with two staff members from Senator Begich’s office, Bob Weinstein and Diane DiSanto, on Tuesday, April 3rd at the Back Door. The meeting is designed to talk about affordable housing and homelessness in Sitka.

5. VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dorrie shared that recently she was able to help distribute some bedding that remained in the Project Homeless Connect (PHC) inventory. She also commented that she would have more to share regarding the inventory, as we got further into the agenda.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Jack reported that the Easter Group currently has \$9,199.01 cash on hand, although there were a few outstanding bills that required additional information, which was taken care of at the meeting. Dorrie shared that she would be able to help Jack complete the Form 990 that is due in May. To date PHC brought in \$12,280 in addition to \$9,244 in-kind, with \$5,352 in expenses.

Easter Group – *Rebirth of Hope*

EIN: 80-0647738

7. PROJECT REPORTS

- a. **Final Report on PHC event and its future in Sitka:** Mim, Dorrie, and Kathryn shared comments and exit interview data from the event. Mim has not yet received a response from the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) regarding the PHC Intake data sent to Anchorage. The 45 event clients had 181 points of contact with service providers.

Comments: Some of the comments revolved around the timing of the PHC date, and a discussion ensued about the possibility of holding the PHC event in late October/early November, which would then impact the coordination of the Point in Time survey that happens in January. The interest in moving this event to the fall is to help homeless individuals and families better prepare for the winter. Other comments indicated a need to have less emphasis on goods and more on services, and the possible need for a Street Survey in July.

Inventory: Dorrie shared a detailed inventory of all of the items that remain in storage. Dorrie suggested that in the future it would be good to time our request with the timeframe that the manufacturers are gearing up to put out new stock, i.e. during the summer months.

White Boots: We have 36 pairs of white boots that remain in our inventory, and they take up a lot of storage space and are heavy. Discussion occurred regarding a painting contest for Running of the Boots. The thought was to have the boots painted, and then auction them off with the proceeds going to the EG. Dorrie will check with Blatchley Middle School and the Sitka Arts Council to see how many each of them would like to have with the idea to share some with both organizations.

Bedding: Dorrie commented that there is still bedding stored in inventory, and expressed a desire to get this resource out to where it is needed. Julia commented that the Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV) shelter is desperate for bedding, and comments were also made about the potential need at Hansen House, the Community Hospital, and the Salvation Army. The discussion was to share the bedding between the various organizations that would be able to put the resources to good use.

Store: We had a discussion about whether or not to have a Store with the next PHC event, and whether a voucher system would meet the need and eliminate the need for all of the pre- and post-time it has taken to manage the inventory. Both the White Elephant and the Salvation Army would likely work well with a voucher system; however, it was noted that a voucher would not work well for many of the businesses that donated PHC Store items. The decision was made not to do the Store with the next PHC event, and to work to distribute the all of the items we have in storage.

Easter Group – *Rebirth of Hope*

EIN: 80-0647738

- b. Next PHC Event: We discussed having one PHC event before the winter that is focused on vouchers and services, and then having something in January to get the Point in Time survey data, which might be similar to what was done this year minus the Store. We decided to get information out to the Arts Council for inclusion in their calendar and to secure a location in the near future, and then have meetings to plan for the event starting in August. It was also discussed to hold the event mid-week, and the ANB Hall surfaced as a viable location.

Ted will start conversations with the appropriate ANB personnel, and Dorrie will talk with the two vendors (White Elephant and Salvation Army) about setting up the vouchers. Since we will not have a Store with the next PHC event, Dorrie will contact local non-profits to find good uses for our existing inventory.

- c. **“The Store” - future location**: Dorrie shared results of a survey she had done about storage options; however, this is no longer needed given the fact that we have decided to disburse remaining inventory to local non-profits.
- d. **Drop-In Center - FIT Grant application and ESG**: The EG has \$3650.00 in Faith Into Tomorrow (FIT) funds that is sitting in an account at St. Peter’s until we figure out a plan for how to spend it. The money was given to the EG through a FIT grant partnering with the Sitka Counseling and Prevention Services program; however, barriers surfaced that made this original partnering plan unattainable. The funding request was to secure the up front money needed to open a Drop-In Center in town (rent/deposit) with ongoing funding coming from the ESG; the EG would act as an advisory board for the Center.

Discussion: We had a discussion about how to meet the need even though the situation has changed, and Mim expressed a need to have the money assigned soon, as she will need to report to the Episcopal Council in October regarding how we have used the funds. We discussed the need to have a meeting with the different agencies in town (Salvation Army, SAFV shelter, Public Library, etc.) to focus on the case management aspects of a Drop-In Center. Comments were also made about staying in touch with Sitka Ministerial Association so we can know about available funding that might become available to support a Drop-In Center. Dorrie agreed to work on an interfaith committee.

Julia moved and Dorrie seconded that the EG partner with the non-profit Sitka International Hostel, and use the FIT money to support St. Peter’s provision of shelter at the Hostel. Motion passed.

The money will be transferred to the Jericho Road account, and Mim will write a letter to the funding committee asking for a waiver.

Easter Group – *Rebirth of Hope*

EIN: 80-0647738

- e. **Community Resources class with Sitka Counseling and Carolyn Lemming:**
Moved to next meeting, as Carolyn was not able to join us today.
- f. **BMS Breakfast Program – Report:** Judy reported that the focus of the committee's work to date has been on the PHC event, and additionally there are other things happening in town that made this less of a priority. Sitka Conservation Society (SCS) hired Tracy Gagnon to start a 4H program and help to develop the Fish to Schools program. Additionally, Pacific High School (PHS) earned two food service program grants, Blatchley Middle School (BMS) has a granola bar project, and Ted reported that he and others supply Sitka High School (SHS) with granola bars and fruit leathers.

Judy commented that there is state legislative action regarding school breakfast programs - SB 3 and HB 364. It was decided that the EG will write a letter in support of the legislation. Dorrie will write the letter and contact the LIO to see when testimony is happening.

8. NEW PROJECTS and TASKS

- a. **Application for 501 (c)(3), Form 1023, status:** Dorrie has the paperwork and Jack has the check. Previously when we tried to file the paperwork it was too overwhelming, as the EG was just starting up; however, now it seems more appropriate. In addition to being able to submit grant proposals, a 501 (c)(3) status could possibly help us be part of Pick Click Give in the future.

Jack moved and Julia seconded to have the President and Vice-President file the 501 (c)(3) paperwork. Motion passed.

- b. **Backpack Grocery program and "No More Hungry Kids" program/cooking class:** Judy reported that Tracy from SCS could come and talk about the food programs. Mention was made that Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) has a *Cooking for Yourself* book that is a great resource. Judy talked about the need for the weekend food program; however, it will need funding. There was discussion about ways to get local businesses to help us transport food for a program such as this.
- c. **Vulnerability Index and 100,000 Homes project:** The 100,000 Homes national project seeks to find 100,000 homes for homeless Americans in three years. Anchorage refers to their implementation of this project as the Vulnerability Index, and Juneau recently received a grant to hire someone to help with this project implementation. The project encourages communities to go early in the morning to interview people in the homeless camps in order to gather information about what is needed to get them into a home, and then to use that data to help them secure homes.

Mim encouraged each of the Easter Group members to learn more about this project

Easter Group – *Rebirth of Hope*

EIN: 80-0647738

so we can discuss it at our next meeting (<http://100khomes.org>). If we decide to join in this movement, there was discussion about the possible need to find grant funds so we could hire someone to run the project implementation in Sitka.

Mim mentioned that the Juneau Economic Development Council (<http://www.jedc.org/>) has a listserv that provides valuable information. Please let her know if you want to be on it, and she will connect you with the right people.

- d. **Set Goals for 2012:** Each of the 2011 goals were discussed, and it was decided that a number of them were no longer needed due to the fact that another agency was already addressing the issue - or - the issue is no longer needed to be identified as a goal. Specifically, the following goals were removed:

Issue 1: Work on Homelessness Issue

- * Help the unserved
- * Develop universal confidentiality agreement form
- * Establish EG as clearinghouse for homelessness

Issue 2: Hunger and Nutrition

- * School breakfast and lunch programs – Pacific High, BMS
- * Cooking classes

The following goals were added/modified for **Issue 1:**

- * Hold two Homeless Connection events annually
- * Hold Homeless Summit in conjunction with Sitka Counseling and Prevention Services' training requirements
- * Work with community agencies to establish a homeless assistance system

Mention was made that we might add another goal after we explore the 100k Homes topic. (See *2012 Planning Document* for updated list.)

- e. **Alliance of Alaska Dental Society (AADS):** The AADS is an auxiliary of the American Dental Association who will hold a meeting in Sitka in the near future. The AADS contacted the Easter Group because they would like to create and distribute 100 dental care kits. Dorrie has been communicating with the AADS contact, and will encourage them to distribute the kits to local service providers, such as Youth Advocates of Sitka (YAS), SAFV, etc.

9. ADDITIONAL EASTER GROUP BUSINESS and COMMENTS/REPORTS

Election of Easter Group Officers: Although Mim stated she was busy with other aspects of her life and Dorrie commented that she might be moving, both agreed to continue in the role of President and Vice-President respectively. Jack agreed to continue as Treasurer, and the position of Secretary was added and filled by Mary. *Ted moved and the vote was unanimous.*

Easter Group – *Rebirth of Hope*

EIN: 80-0647738

10. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

Next Meeting: Friday, May 4th @ 12:15 pm @ St. Peter's See House

Agenda Items: * Vulnerability Index and 100,000 Homes project

* Community Resources class with Sitka Counseling

11. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned @ 2:13 pm

Easter Group – *Rebirth of Hope*

EIN: 80-0647738

2012 PLANNING DOCUMENT

THE 8 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As developed by the United Nations

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
Achieve universal primary education for children
Promote gender equality and empower women
Reduce child mortality
Improve maternal health
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
Ensure environmental sustainability
Create a global partnership for development

THE EASTER GROUP MISSION STATEMENT

The Easter Group is an ecumenical community of faith whose mission is to strive to end extreme poverty and empower people, and bring about a rebirth of hope. In support of the Millennium Development Goals, we commit to identifying and implementing local projects that serve those in need. Our actions are for the benefits of all regardless of personal faith, culture, or beliefs.

2012 GOALS

Issue 1. Work on Homelessness Issue

- * Hold Homeless Summit in conjunction with Sitka Counseling training requirements
- * Work with community agencies to establish a homeless assistance system
- * Hold two homeless connection events annually – late October/early November and January

Approximate time frame for the issue: February 2013

Issue 2. Hunger and Nutrition

- * Weekend Meal Program at Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School

Approximate time frame for the issue: February 2013