



Purpose:

The purposes of holding a community health forum were threefold: (1) with the Baseline Report completed by the North Slope Borough, we wanted to present the findings to the community so that we all have a better understanding of Point Hope's health, (2) use the information to start changes needed to address health priorities, and (3) discuss with one another how we can start that change, and exchange diverse ideas.

Attendance:

Approximately 18 participants attended the Point Hope Health Forum at the Point Hope Qalgi Center on July 11, 2013 at 6:30pm. Doreen Leavitt, NSB Health Director, facilitated the evening's agenda. Heather Dingman, NSB Mayor's Office, presented findings from the Baseline Community Health Analysis Report. Jeff Prater, Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital Administrator, was unable to attend this meeting; ASNA's jurisdiction does not include Point Hope (Point Hope's residents are served by Maniilaq Association). 16 participants attended the interagency meeting, which was held earlier at 3:30PM.

Method:

The forum was setup using the community café model; three questions were asked to attendees, to whom they discussed with other attendees at their table; at each question, attendees would discuss as a group, and later present their discussions to the rest of the meeting participants as a whole. Children/youth were encouraged to participate.

Café Questions:

The questions asked were:

- 1) What does a healthy North Slope mean to you?
- 2) What assets does the North Slope have that encourages it to be a healthy community?
- 3) What do you think are the most important health issues we face as North Slope residents?

10 minutes were given to each question.



Outcome:

Discussions from the group were recorded into an online site, www.wordle.net. The site generated a picture of words that were used most often, with larger words representing words used most often in discussions. A picture from the discussion is presented below.



After reviewing the group's discussions, common themes were highlighted and are listed below:

1. Subsistence hunting and gathering/traditional Inupiat lifestyle
2. Healthcare system
3. Social problems: drugs and alcohol, suicide, sexual assault
4. Health concerns
5. Youth education and activities



Education was among the topics most discussed at the forum. Residents expressed the need for parenting education for young parents, having a facility for youth to increase the amount of activities for them, and the need for good educational programs. The local school was listed as an important asset within Point Hope.

Other Topics

There were many other topics discussed at the forum. Some additional topics included the need for clear communication and working together as a community; emphasizing good healthy eating habits and having healthy food available to residents; and the need for employment opportunities.

Next Steps:

An interagency meeting was held previous to the evening Health Forum, with representation from the Tribal Council, ASRC, City government, Tikigaq Corporation, Maniilaq health clinic, and the NSB. During the evening forum, a presentation on the Baseline Community Health Analysis Report was given to attendees, and the community café model was used to discuss health issues by asking the three questions mentioned above. Point Hope residents would like to see more continuity of care in their healthcare delivery system; this echoed in both the interagency meeting and the evening forum. Leadership within Point Hope are working with the North Slope Borough Health Department in drafting a Memorandum of Agreement to work towards that goal.

This report will be given back to the community, and it will be uploaded online on the North Slope Borough Health Department's website with other community forum reports, found here:

http://www.north-slope.org/departments/health/Health_Impact_Report.php

Large-scale change comes from better cross-sector coordination rather than from isolated intervention of individual organizations; therefore, substantially greater progress could be made in alleviating many of our most serious and complex social issues if nonprofits, governments, businesses, and the public were brought together around a common agenda to create *collective impact*.¹ Communities on the North Slope are diverse; therefore, each community will have its own set of priorities for health. The NSB will be traveling to one remaining community to provide a community health forum similar to this one, for the purposes outlined above.

¹Kania, John, and Mark Kramer. "Collective Impact." *Stanford Social Innovation Review* (2011): 1-11. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*. 2011. Web. 24 Oct. 2012. <http://www.ssireview.org/articles/entry/collective_impact>.

Report

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A gathering on health and well being

