

Prince of Wales Health Network Elder Care Public Meeting

January 26, 2010
Craig High School Library

Present: Keturah Sadler, Justin Sornsin, Meredith Sornsin, Aaron Isaacs Jr, Beverlee Tyner, Linda Pendleton, James S. Williams, James Anderson, Esther Ehrmann (POW Health Network), David Nolan (Chi Partners)

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

1. Due to a repeatedly expressed need from POW communities for improved services to elders, the POW Health Network contracted with David Nolan of Chi Partners to provide market analysis for elder services on POW. The goal is to examine feasible ways to help keep elders in their homes and communities longer. This meeting was held during David Nolan's site visit to POW to provide an additional opportunity for community members to provide input on the needs of elders on POW.
2. Strengths – Services available and what works well:
 - Chore and respite services are available (note that Medicaid Waiver services have been downgraded to 10 hours/week).
 - There are dedicated staff at ARMC and the Craig Clinic.
 - There are way more services available now than what used to be available such as ambulance, medevac, pharmacy, and SEARHC services. It is important to note the vast improvement over what our parents and grandparents had.
 - People take care of each other.
 - Paved roads.
 - Senior van (Craig/Klawock).
 - Physical Therapy is available.
 - U of A - computer lab/distance learning (Need to support).
3. Needs:
 - Training in Alzheimer's and dementia.
 - Improved work ethic.
 - There is inconsistency in the level of training and services received.
 - Assisted Living – how big would be feasible?
 - It was recommended that there should be collaboration with Tlingit Haida Central Council/Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority on any projects pursued (i.e. assisted living).
 - There is an aging veteran population.

- Centralized referrals/information.
4. Ideas to support keeping elders at home:
- Community subsidies for utilities, etc (High fuel prices).
 - Senior discount at AC 7 days/week (was recently cut back to one day/week).
 - Job creation – jobs on POW were traditionally resource based, and there has been a shift to service based careers. Need to support youth in developing healthcare careers. There is also room for more jobs providing the services that are needed.
 - Trained home health care offered locally.
 - Need to understand the culture of the people being served. Native foods were given as an example.
 - Education about services available (i.e. signs and flyers).
 - Opportunities for elders to formally tell and record their history and the history of the communities.
 - Community programs for elders.
 - Getting the elders to community activities.
 - More transportation options.
 - Support and resources to access technology that supports independent living. (SAIL – Southeast Alaska Independent Living).
 - Diabetes and chronic disease education/tracking/monitoring.
 - Prevention.
 - Intergenerational programs – such as elders working with the libraries and schools.
 - It is important to focus on what is doable.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.