

Thorne Bay Community Meeting February 23, 2010

Participants: Cindy Edenfield, Betty Marsh, Diane Stittgen, Denise Boyle, Colleen Watson, Keturah Sadler, Lavenia Sylvia, Judy Moffit, Esther Hammerschlag (POW Health Network)

- An overview of the Prince of Wales Health Network and its purpose was provided.
- The POW behavioral health needs assessment and planning project and process were discussed.
- Public health nursing clinics in Thorne Bay are a real benefit.
- Residents feel lucky to have the clinic, and for it to be staffed.
- Distribution of healthcare and clinic information was discussed.
 - Flyers generally don't work well in Thorne Bay, and the best way to distribute information is to put it in all the PO Boxes.
 - Ads, as opposed to articles, were suggested for the newspaper.
 - Setting out business cards is often successful, as well as the KRBD Craig Recreation Report and libraries.
 - Information can be distributed through the Thorne Bay Business Association.
- Visiting clinics to the island have been a great asset, especially the mobile mammogram. Residents would like to see colonoscopy and bone density testing available. Also, more information is needed about optometrist visits.
- There is a need for better ways to circulate health information, such as the recent case of whooping cough in Ketchikan.
- Safe drinking water is a big concern. Would like to see a shift from disinfecting water to purifying it.
- There is a need for education about harmful chemicals.
- Senior Services were discussed.
 - Adult/Senior day services would be nice – similar to Rendezvous in Ketchikan. Especially for people with Alzheimer's, and for respite care.
 - Cindy Edenfield is submitting a Pepsi grant for a senior van in Thorne Bay. She is also looking into setting up senior meals.
 - It would be great to have a senior center in Thorne Bay. There currently is nothing.
 - It was suggested that the Visiting Nurse Association might be a good resource for some of these issues.
- Support for parents, especially single parents, in the form of respite services was suggested.
- There is a high rate of alcoholism, teen alcoholism, and methadone use.
- Residents would like to see more vocational programs and life skills taught in the schools. (Schools need more funding)
- A vocational day in the clinic to promote health careers for students was suggested.