

**MINUTES**  
**GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON**  
**ENDOWMENTS AND PHILANTHROPY**

Montana Assoc. of Healthcare Providers Conference Room  
 Thursday, May 18, 2006

**Members Present:**

Sue Talbot, Chair	
Lt. Governor Bohlinger	Dorcie Dvarishkis
Jackie Williams	Amy Kelley
Barbara Anthony	Brian Magee
Sid Armstrong	Linda Reed
Linda Carlson	Peter Sullivan
Linda Coulston	Josh Turner

**APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES**

It was noted that Amy neglected to list Josh and Dale as attendees of the April meeting. Otherwise no errors or changes were noted. Peter moved to accept the minutes as corrected; Linda Coulston seconded the motion. The group unanimously approved the corrected minutes by voice vote.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Sue reviewed the monthly Statement of Activities prepared by the Montana Community Foundation (MCF) for April 1 through April 30, 2006. It showed \$3,150 in new contributions and \$1,153 in expenses for an ending fund balance of \$4,221,20. Sue noted that she'd like to have 100% participation by Task Force members as contributors. She thanked MaryAnn from MCF for compiling a list of all past contributors to the Task Force, the years they gave, and cumulative amounts for repeat contributors.

Sue reported that she sent out fundraising letters to all past contributors, and read the list of those who've not yet replied. At the June meeting Sue will assign TF members to make follow-up phone calls to those who have not yet made a contribution. She noted that the TF will also need to discuss a strategy to fund the Governor's Conversation and the 2007 legislative session lobbying.

**WEB SITE**

Galen couldn't attend the meeting, so discussion of the web site was postponed until the June meeting. Linda Reed asked whether Galen's web software would allow Amy to access it for regular items such as updating the TF directory and uploading the minutes. **Amy will ask Galen.**

Sue asked whether Dale had completed his assignment of writing the easy-to-understand examples of the various charitable gift vehicles, which he was to send to Dennis for a final review before sending to Galen to post. Amy said she didn't think that happened. **Amy will follow up with Dale and Dennis to make sure it does.**

**10-YEAR REPORT**

Dennis was successful in getting Blue Cross/Blue Shield to agree to print 2,500 copies of the report as a donation to the Task Force. Everyone thanked Dennis for that effort, and Blue Cross for the donation. **Sue will follow up with Galen about getting the report finished and sent off to be printed.** Linda Reed wanted to make sure that the document is archived; she said MCF would retain the archive.

**PHILANTHROPIC DIVIDE PROJECT**

Mike Schechtman joined the group to give an update on the project. He distributed several handouts:

- what the philanthropic divide is and what remedy is needed;
- the history of the project;
- the “current chapter” – the recent national spotlight thanks to efforts by Peggy Beltrone, Sen. Max Baucus, and the National Council on Foundations;
- the proposed plan before the National Council on Foundations including holding a “Philanthropic Divide in Rural America” conference; and
- a preliminary inventory for the Critical Capacities Project, which outlines what is meant by the infrastructure lacking in the Divide states.

Mike explained that the project is looking at systemic changes that will be sustainable over time. He announced that Task Force Advisory Council member Bill Pratt had been recently hired to take on the Montana piece of the project. He also mentioned that they are working on setting up a Montana tour for national foundations, something that was done in Alaska with very good results.

Mike suggested that the TF might write Sen. Baucus to thank him for his speech before the National Council on Foundations, and also Steve Gunderson at the Council to tell him how important his work has been in getting the Philanthropic Divide into the national spotlight. **The group agreed that letters from the Task Force would be appropriate.** Sue added that it would be beneficial to urge the Senator, Governor, and others to remember to regularly drop into their speeches mention of the importance of both philanthropy and the nonprofit community.

Sue was reminded that we need to find out from both Rep. Rehberg and Sen. Burns who they would like to be their liaison to the Task Force. **Sue will follow up with the staff to find out, and will invite them to a future meeting.**

Sid asked Mike whether he thought it would be beneficial for the network of people in the Divide states to identify a central issue that is shared among rural states – e.g. telemedicine or education. Mike thought that it would be premature for this new network of people to take on a legislative agenda, although he is very encouraged that 7 out of the 10 Divide states are represented among members of the Senate Finance Committee.

#### **GOVERNOR’S CONVERSATION BRAINSTORM**

Josh reported that she and Sid had met and developed some preliminary ideas for the Conversation based on previous Task Force discussions, focusing on the Philanthropic Divide as the essential central problem to be solved. She noted that the goals listed for the Divide states on one of the handouts provide a good, three-part problem statement:

The Governor’s Conversation will seek solutions to the widening gap in philanthropic resources between Montana and states with substantial resources, addressing particularly the needs to:

- increase in-state philanthropic resources;
- build the in-state nonprofit sector infrastructure to strengthen and increase the capacity of individual nonprofit organizations; and
- “level the playing field” to eliminate or reduce barriers that Montana nonprofits face in the pursuit of national funding grants.

She explained that the handout prepared by Sid is meant to capture topics that provide context and set the stage regarding the Philanthropic Divide, explore what contributes to the situation, and provide examples of what is being done in certain areas of the nonprofit sector. She reiterated that the conversation steering committee will come up with a briefing paper before the conversation, which all participants will read in advance, outlining where we’ve been, how we got here, and some ideas about where we might go from here. Sid presented the following possible areas to discuss:

- The Philanthropic Landscape (the Task Force, tax credit, Philanthropic Divide and the Big Sky Institute, the Montana Nonprofit Association)
- Economic and Community Development (foundations that are currently granting in Montana and why, what projects have been successful at obtaining such grants)
- Out of State Funders
- In-state Foundations
- Governor’s Office of Community Service
- Report on Philanthropy Northwest Conference – the next steps (state and national public policy)
- Transfer of Wealth Study

Brian stressed that not only will we need a clear statement of what the problem is, but also what the outcomes we want are (as opposed to specific projects/strategies). This will dictate whom we invite. It was agreed that this would be the first job of the steering committee. Josh said that the model for the conversation dictates that participants will have made a commitment to sustain the outcome of the conversation.

Mike had a parting comment: things have changed in Montana since the first conversation in that there are MANY more local community foundations now. He remembered that at the first conversation there were several “heavy-hitter” CEOs in attendance who were part-time Montana residents, but they left without a specific connection to a solution. These people need to be engaged in their local community foundations. They need to be appreciated locally. Sid agreed, and pointed to the Whitefish Community Foundation as a very good example of bridging that gap with part-time residents, getting them involved in the community personally and financially.

There was a discussion/brainstorm about potential steering committee members. A list was started by Sid and Josh, which Sue read aloud to discuss the likelihood of these people agreeing to serve and who might best ask them. In addition to TF members Brian Magee, Donna Davis, Sue Talbot, Sid Armstrong, and Josh Turner, the following names were discussed (some from Josh and Sid’s brainstorming, others suggested at the meeting):

- |                    |                      |                  |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| • Evan Barrett     | • Jon Satre          | • Charles Schwab |
| • Peggy Beltrone   | • Jim Scott          | • Paul Eichwald  |
| • Joan Bennett     | • Tom Siebel         | • Tressa Smith   |
| • Steve Browning   | • Peter Sullivan     | • Doug Mitchell  |
| • Sherry Cladouhos | • Margie Thompson    | • Mark Kelley    |
| • Tom Elliot       | • Phyllis Washington | • Cathy Campbell |
| • Mike Halligan    | • Dan Weinberg       | • Bill Kearns    |
| • Lynn Hamilton    | • Carol Williams     | • Joel Long      |
| • Dan McLean       | (agreed to serve)    | • Steve Corning  |
| • Alan Nicholson   | • Linda Carlson      | • Craig Barrett  |
| • Sharen Peters    | • Tim Blixeth        |                  |

Sue opened the invitation to any other interested Task Force members. Lt. Governor Bohlinger agreed that it would be best for a letter to come from him and the governor inviting participation. **Sid will work with Jackie Williams and Lt. Governor Bohlinger to draft that letter.** Sid noted that it would be best to have an alternative way for people to be involved, in the event the steering committee is not of interest. All agreed that the fundraising committee should be a subgroup of the steering committee. **The goal is to get the letter out next week, with a first steering committee meeting around June 15<sup>th</sup>.** Sid added that some people will require a phone call before the letter goes out, as the mail will get lost. The Lt. Governor agreed. **Sid and Josh will give the “marching orders” on who should follow up with any of these potential steering committee members.**

**NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the regular third Thursday, which is **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. Sid will investigate whether we've already reserved the Department of Labor meeting room. **Amy will notify all of the location before the meeting.** The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.