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MEETING SUMMARY

ALASKA CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION ADVISORY GROUP

Health and Culture Technical Working Group (HC TWG)

Meeting #9, 3 November 2008, 12:00 – 1:30 PM

Attendance:

Technical Working Group members: Mike Bradley, Don Callaway, Patricia Cochran, Jeff Demain, Erin Harman, Bob Gerlach, Jeff Smith, Father Thomas Weise, Kristie Ebi

Public Attendees: Sally Schlichting

Background documents:

Meeting Notice and Agenda

Summary of Meeting #8

Results of Balloting of Health and Culture Draft Catalog of State Actions

Procedural items:

1. Kristie called the meeting to order, completed the roll call, and reviewed the agenda and plans for the call.
2. The summary for meeting #8 was approved.

Discussion items, key issues, and agreements:

1. The TWG members discussed the results of the balloting and agreed to combine the following options:
 - a. 1.1 and 1.2
 - b. 8.1 and 7.2 (concerns with respirable toxins from wildfires, pollen, and other air pollutants whose concentration could be affected by climate change)
 - c. 11.1 and 11.2
2. There was a discussion of the need to balance research and monitoring with the delivery of services designed to help communities avoid, prepare for, and effectively respond to climate change risks.
3. It was agreed there should be an overarching statement of the need for community

partnerships to help ensure that community needs are addressed when adapting to climate change. Partnerships facilitate the two-way flow of information from communities to state and regional programs and activities, to address the current and projected future health and culture impacts of climate change.

4. Concerns were expressed that the combining of options did not lose the issue of the need for mental health services to address the consequences of climate change.
5. The TWG members agreed to remove option 5.1 from the top 10 because that work is underway within programs in NOAA and the Department of Homeland Security (Develop flooding early warning systems where possible, focusing on effective response actions. Identify mechanisms for increased coordination and collaboration across all actors involved in preparing for and responding to extreme weather events).
6. The TWG decided to not include option 6.3 in the top 10 (Develop statewide or other protocols for emergency deliveries of (1) fuel and (2) food where there are insufficient supplies for the winter. Reassess what is defined as an emergency level of fuel). There are comprehensive plans in place through Homeland Security, Social Services, and other organizations. There have been tabletop and functional exercises.
7. Quite a few case studies are available to illustrate the straw proposals as they are being drafted.
8. The TWG members recommended that the list of top 10 options be put in the same format as the draft catalog of actions, with headers to indicate the issues the options are designed to address

Next steps:

1. The next conference call will be Wednesday, November 12 at 8:30-10:00 am Alaska time.