

A community meeting was held at the Aaniiih Nakoda College, Cultural Center. The meeting took place on Wednesday, December 3, 2014. The purpose of the community gathering was to discuss whether or not the community would like to have a nursing program established here at the college on the Fort Belknap Reservation. Would you like to see ANC students go to their own nursing program here on the reservation at the college?

In attendance at the meeting:

Erica McKeon-Hanson

Linda Miller

Adrianna Yellow Robe

Rob Adams

Robe Walker

Terry Brockie

Ina Nez Perce

Pamela Azure

Carmen C. Taylor

Carole Falcon-Chandler

George Horse Capture Jr

Camille Stein

Michelle Lonebear

Noelle Boe

David Crasco

Bryar Flansburg

Jessi Archambault

Alana Gunderson

Janardan Pokharel

Kermit Horn

Minerva Allen

ANC Allied Health Instructor

ANC Allied Health Student

ANC Allied Health Student

Chairman, ANC Board of Directors

Community Member, EMT, Ambulance Driver

Superintendent of Schools, Blaine County

Tribal Director, Environmental Protection Department

Administrative Assistant I-cubed Grant

ANC Dean of Academics

ANC President

Vice-President Fort Belknap Community Council

ANC Retention Coordinator

ANC Allied Health Student

ANC Allied Health Student

Tribal Council Member, Fort Belknap Community Council

ANC Allied Health Adjunct/Tutor -BSC

ANC Allied Health Student

ANC Allied Health Student

ANC Math & Physics Instructor

ANC Board of Directors, Member

ANC Vice-Chair, Board of Directors

Elder Lodgepole Senior Center

Alpha Dean Iron Man	Community Member Elder Lodgepole Senior Center
Elizabeth McClain	ANC Instructor Co-Director I-cubed Grant
Annette Vander Ven	ANC Computer and Math Instructor

---

Community Members and Faculty at Aaniiih Nakoda College were in attendance at the Cultural Center, for the Community Meeting held on December 3, 2014, to discuss the establishment of a Nursing program here at Aaniiih Nakoda College.

Robe Walker, community member, said the opening prayer for the meeting and for everyone in attendance as well as the community.

Carole Falcon-Chandler, President, welcomed everyone in attendance and wishes a good meeting. She gave a little background about the desire to form a Nursing Program.

Carmen C. Taylor, Academic Dean, called the meeting to order and reviewed the handouts. There was discussion about the LPN program vs. doing an RN program.

Dr. Elizabeth McClain, an advocate for the Nursing program talked about her travels to Blackfeet Community College, Salish Kootenai College, Missoula College, University of Montana, Helena to the Board of Nursing, and Bozeman, for a Robert Wood Johnson meeting. Dr. Liz talked about all the nursing programs at these places. Browning BCC and Salish Kootenai College both have nursing programs: BCC has a LPN -> now ASN, and SKC has in their Nursing Department both a Associates of Science - Nursing and Bachelors of Science - Nursing.

She goes on to say that the nursing programs are all experiencing changes such as SKC has a new Nursing Director, Browning graduated 15 students with a LPN degree, and starts the first year of their ASN program. The Missoula College, University of Montana is the lead institution for the Montana Health CARE Consortium. No Tribal Colleges were included in the development of the consortium, but some are now on board.

When students want to go into Nursing, once graduated from ANC, they go on to MSU-Northern. After, twenty years of sending students to that nursing program, ANC has had nothing but problems. MSU-Northern has a new Nursing Program Director, Dr. Janice Starr. Even though the Native American population in the State of Montana is about 8% the percentage of licensed American Indian Nurses is a little over 2%. (Personal communication Dr. Cynthia Gustafson, Executive Director of Montana Board of Nursing) There are few enrolled in any of the departments of Nursing throughout the State, with the exception of Salish Kootani and Browning.

She stated the first phase in bringing the Nursing program to ANC is community support and then to bring the Nursing program here to Aaniiih Nakoda College is a series of detailed steps and documentation which then goes before the Montana Board of Nursing. We have a long way to go yet in developing the entire necessary event. Tribal colleges want to have a Nursing program at each of them; it will have to be a community program, with family members involved, and the concept of Grow our own Nurses.

George Horse Capture Jr., Vice-President Fort Belknap Community Council, talked about the Indian Health Loan Program, where it was impossible for a Nursing student to get ahead, once the student graduates they start paying back a loan. He stated that a Nursing program would be a great opportunity for the community and support from the Tribal Council could come as a Resolution. Great emphasis was placed on the funding for our students as they never seem to be able to pay back the loans. Also, IHS accountability was discussed.

Terry Brockie, Superintendent of Schools, Blaine County, stated that if the Teacher training program was not here at Aaniiih Nakoda College, he probably wouldn't have gotten a college degree, without the support of family and friends. He did not want the high cost of living, at such places like Missoula and Bozeman. He asked "Could you imagine the cost of living there now days?" It would be very high. There are a lot of benefits for having the nursing program here at ANC.

Michele Lonebear, President, Student Senate, stated that she is an Allied Health student here at ANC and wants to go on to a four year college. The MSU-Northern program makes a student feel not wanted and MSU - Bozeman is too far from home. The living expenses alone will be high and, for a student, is a disadvantage,

and she would have to leave her husband and their children as he works here. She is accepted to MSU Bozeman but decided not to go for family reasons.

Mr. Horse Capture expressed that students need to have a clear understanding of the differences living off the reservation. Carmen C. Taylor, Dean of Academics, stated that we might develop a workshop that can help prepare students for a four year college; these are ongoing discussions at ANC.

Minerva Allen, Vice-Chairman, College Board of Directors, Elder and in charge of the Senior Center at Hays/Lodgepole, has five granddaughters that are nurses, and some of them are still paying back student loans. Nursing programs are very expensive. Yes, she stated that ANC should have a RN program, and to make sure the students have what they need to complete the nursing program. The biggest stress for them is not having what they need, to be in the Nursing program. She made a suggestion to include males during recruitment. Minerva had phoned other elders and seniors who wouldn't be able to come to the community meeting and they all voiced their support for the program.

Erica McKeon-Hanson, Allied Health Instructor, has been working at ANC for seven years and is committed to having a nursing program here at ANC. She is available to listen to what the community needs about the allied health issues. She agreed that when nurses have to complete their clinical schooling, they should be able to train at one of the large hospitals in the state. She is finishing up her Master's Degree from John Hopkins and will be working on the nursing program here at ANC, with the pre-nursing already in place. She said that ANC is looking to hire another Nursing Instructor.

Kermit Horn, College Board Member, said that it is the appropriate time to be a nurse, as there is a need for home health care. Nurses are needed in all areas and if Fort Belknap had 30 or more nurses, it would be a benefit to the community. Nursing home for the elders, mental health issues for our young, hospice care and many other areas of health needs. Health care in Indian county is what is needed. He said that must be addressed. There are Senior Citizens that need to see a nurse daily and with the current PHN programs, sometimes which is not possible.

Ina Nez Perce, Tribal Director Environmental Protection Office, stated that she had attended Eastern Montana College, Bachelor of Science Biology. Ina mentioned her classes at Eastern Montana College as being small and a lot of one-on-one was available. She is for the nursing program to be here at ANC and discussed some of the gaps here on the reservation concerning Health Care.

Mrs. Allen said the prayer before lunch and discussion continued during lunch.

The majority of the lunch discussion had to do with whether or not we go straight for an RN or if we take the other pathway of LPN, ASN and then RN. One of the students stated that she felt we should go for the RN. Terry Brockie provided good rational for why the other pathway might be a better approach; that students can "stop out" and work. There was overwhelming support from students, ANC faculty and staff, and the community to move forward with the establishment of a nursing program. There was discussion about what needs to be done to move forward, including feasibility study that goes to the Montana State Board of Nursing put back in. The next steps will be the development and distribution of a survey to be completed by community members and getting letters of support.

The meeting was adjourned. 2:30 p.m.