



HCBS STRATEGIES, INC.

Improving Home and Community Based Systems

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Long Term Care System Focus Groups

June 2, 2008

Hello Everyone,

As you may already be aware, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services has selected HCBS Strategies, Inc. as the contractor to study and make recommendations on Alaska's long term care system. We are a small consulting firm that specializes in Improving Home and Community-Based Supports for older adults and individuals with disabilities. More information on our experience can be found at www.HCBS.info.

The individuals participating in these focus groups should be those that are likely to be participative and reflective regarding the states long term services and supports. Participants should be consumers or family members or guardians of consumers that can speak on their behalf. For example, the individual may be the older adult or person with a disability who is receiving services if they are able to get to a meeting and provide input or family members who can represent them and their concerns. The focus group would be appropriate for adults without substantial cognitive impairment. We would also like to include individuals with developmental disabilities that either do not involve a cognitive impairment or who have been trained to be self advocates.

The sessions will take place in **Anchorage** on Tuesday, June 24th at the following times for the following categories:

| Time | FOCUS GROUP CATEGORY |
|-------------|--|
| 9:00-10:30 | <u>Focus Group A</u> : Older Adults |
| 11:00-12:30 | <u>Focus Group B</u> : DD individuals and Children with Complex Medical Conditions |
| 1:30-3:00 | <u>Focus Group C</u> : Under 65 Adults with Physical Disabilities |
| 3:30-5:00 | <u>Focus Group D</u> : TBI/HIV Individuals |

The sessions will take place in **Juneau on Wednesday, June 25th** at the following times for the following categories:

| Time | FOCUS GROUP CATEGORY |
|-------------|---|
| 10:00-11:45 | <u>Focus Group A: Older Adults</u> |
| 1:00-2:45 | <u>Focus Group B: DD and Children with Complex Medical Conditions</u> |
| 3:15-5:00 | <u>Focus Group C: Under 65 Adults with Physical disabilities</u> |

Additional sessions will also take place in **Fairbanks on Friday, June 27th** as listed below:

| Time | FOCUS GROUP CATEGORY |
|-------------|---|
| 10:00-11:45 | <u>Focus Group A: Older Adults</u> |
| 1:00-2:45 | <u>Focus Group B: DD and Children with Complex Medical Conditions</u> |
| 3:15-5:00 | <u>Focus Group C: Under 65 Adults with Physical disabilities</u> |

The focus groups will obtain input regarding what works well about the services they receive, what does not work well, and what could be improved.

In order to ensure productive sessions, we are trying to get between 5 and 12 persons per session.

We would greatly appreciate if you could identify any individuals or family members that you think would want to participate and send in their contact information to me, [Kristy Michael](#).

This is a very important project and we really want your input!

Thanks in advance for your help!

Sincerely,

Kristy Michael

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