



3rd Quarterly Meeting
July 26, 2016

8:30 am– 12:30 pm
Rohan Regional Recreation Center
850 Kristine Way
The Villages, FL 34785

Note: The following is a summary of the highlights of the proceedings and is not intended to be construed as a transcript. Please contact Frenchie Yon at Frenchie.Yon@eog.myflorida.com to obtain meeting materials or visit www.flgov.com/fccb.

Attendance Summary

Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council Members in attendance:

- Ms. Pat Smith, Chair
- Mr. Richard Albertson, Vice-Chair
- Pastor Kirt Anderson
- Reverend Perry Davis
- Ms. Sheila Gomez
- Dr. Gretchen Kerr
- Mr. Thomas Lukasik
- Dr. Leo Mesa
- Pastor Pam Olsen
- Pastor Carl Reeves
- Pastor Marcus Smith (via phone)
- Mr. Karim Veerjee (via phone)
- Pastor Blaine Whitt
- Pastor Reno Zunz

Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council Members unable to attend:

- Rabbi Sholom Ciment
- Ms. Trenia Cox
- Mr. Alan Dimmitt
- Mr. Roland Gonzalez
- Dr. Jerry Haag
- Ms. Patricia Robbins



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Proceedings

I. Exhibitor Engagement

II. Call to Order and Welcome

- Chair Pat Smith called the meeting to order. The Chairman reviewed the meeting agenda and charge to the Council members.
 - Chair Pat Smith recognized the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection, the staff at the Villages, Warden Rossiter and the staff at Marion Correction Institution, and the Florida Channel for live streaming the meeting.
- The roll was called by Ms. Frenchie Yon, Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection and a quorum was confirmed.
- Opening Prayer was given by The Honorable Dennis Baxley, State Representative of the Florida House of Representatives.
- The Welcome was provided by The Honorable H. Marlene O'Toole, State Representative of the Florida House of Representatives.
- The previous meeting summary for April 2016 was included as part of the meeting packet and was reviewed and approved by the Council Members.

III. Annual Conference Workgroup Update

- Chair Pat Smith provided information on the upcoming 2016 Florida Faith Symposium in Orlando, Florida. The Council is again partnering with the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Children and Families to host the symposium. Chair Smith challenged the Council to come up with at least \$5,000 in sponsorships to support the Symposium and for each member to serve as a local ambassador to encourage awareness and participation.
 - Vice-Chair Richard Albertson encouraged those who have not before attended the symposium, to attend and experience the event.

IV. Child Welfare Workgroup Update

- Mr. Tom Lukasik provided the following updates from the Child Welfare Workgroup on behalf of Mr. Roland Gonzalez:
 - Discussed the 2016 Florida Behavioral Health Conference, scheduled from August 10th-12th at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando. This year's theme is "Providing Value in Challenging Times." He encouraged everyone to review the website: www.bhcon.org and to participate.



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- Provided information on the Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMFA) training program.
- Provided information on the Clear Warm Line: a toll free warm line available for anyone with a mental illness to speak directly with a peer support specialist.
- Provided information on the 2016 Child Protection Summit which will be held on September 7th-9th at the JW Marriott Grande Lakes Orlando. It is the largest Child Welfare event in Florida. Everyone who works with children and families is encouraged to register and attend this event.
- Commented on the important issue of babies being born, drug exposed. Information was provided on the Born Drug Free Florida website and the hotline number that pregnant women can call for assistance and information. People were encouraged to create awareness for this important support service.
- Upcoming awareness month activities that the council will be engaged include:
 - September- Suicide prevention month
 - October- Bullying prevention month and Domestic Violence prevention month
 - November- Trauma informed care day and National Adoption month
- Shared information from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities on their efforts to serve individuals with developmental disabilities and their support for foster care parent recruitment.
- **Presentation: Targeting Foster and Adoptive Parents**
 - Mr. John Cooper, CEO for Kids Central Inc., spoke about Kid Central Inc.'s efforts and strategies in recruiting foster and adoptive families. In the past four years they have created a new, strategic marketing plan, working with a renowned marketing company to strengthen their recruitment efforts. They conducted primary consumer research and interviewed 150 foster parents in their 5 county area and used that information and other research to drive the new plan. They also improved their social media platform and foster parent training, significantly reducing the time it takes to get foster parents licensed. It used to take over 200 days after the training was completed to license an adoptive parent and they have reduced that cycle time to below 60 days and are now averaging around 30 days.
 - Vice-Chair Richard Albertson asked what is the number one obstacle to doing the work that he is doing other than money, Mr. Cooper responded that a lot of people have hesitation with the type of child that may come into their homes. Many families want to foster a baby and they are encouraging families to be open, particularly larger sibling groups and teenagers.



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- Pastor Reno Zunz expressed appreciation towards Mr. Cooper for his presentation and commented that Hillsborough County is in a crisis. He asked if Kids Central is willing to help other organizations. Mr. Cooper responded by saying “absolutely” and stated they are part of the Florida Intelligence Recruitment Project, which is a state-wide initiative to help the other CBC’s around the state use certain tactics and techniques to recruit foster and adoptive parents in four areas- Tallahassee, Miami, Ocala and Lakeland.
 - Chair Pat Smith thanked and commended Mr. Cooper for the great presentation and his leadership, as well as his entire team at Kids Central for all the work they are doing.

V. **Criminal Justice Workgroup Update**

- Dr. Gretchen Kerr thanked the Council for their support in disseminating information and encouraging participation for the Just Faith Summit, which occurred earlier this year.
 - Commented on how Northland Church and Shared Hope International had a focus on how the church can partner together to help reduce the issue of juvenile sex trafficking and that the summit was a positive step forward in raising awareness amongst the faith community and understanding the role that they can play in how to address the issue.
 - Expressed the workgroup will continue to look for ideas, ways, and strategies that the faith community can support the efforts and work with state agencies in addressing and ending the horrible scourge.
 - Encouraged everyone to review website information from the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking that is led through the Attorney General’s Office.
 - Shared information on the Human Trafficking Summit on October 10th, 2016 at the Rosen Centre in Orlando, FL. Encouraged those who are involved with this issue, or those who wish to become involved, to attend the summit.
 - Brought further awareness to the issue of human trafficking by sharing World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. This day occurs on July 30th of every year and is supported by the United Nations to bring attention to the issue of human trafficking worldwide.
 - Provided information on the Children of Inmate’s program, which assists children visit their incarcerated parents as many may be unable to do so due to transportation and financial limitations. The program also assist children and their caregivers with referrals to social service partners and offers support groups and leadership training; this is in an effort to strengthen relationships between children and their parents. Encouraged the faith community and any others to visit the website for more information or to speak with a Council member.



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- Dr. Kerr asked Pastor Marcus Smith to provide an update.
 - Pastor Smith encouraged everyone to register for the National Faith Symposium in November and highlighted the participation of Representative Baxley and the Governor.
 - He stated the Department of Juvenile Justice working closely with partners and is looking at the concerns related to human trafficking. Pastor Smith highlighted that many people do not know how much of an issue this is in our state and how children are being victimized. He encouraged those who are interested in this issue to attend the Human Trafficking Summit to find out what may be going on in your neighborhood.
 - He spoke about reentry for youth, also known as transition, with the importance of preventing youth from being pulled out of their communities and equipping them to return to their community with the necessary components to succeed. Smith stated that DJJ is currently developing a tool to help identify the right services for the right person at the right dosage, and at the right time through the transition process.
 - Dr. Kerr thanked Pastor Smith for the update and for all of the important work that the Department of Juvenile Justice is doing.
 - Dr. Kerr highlighted the work they are doing with the Department of Corrections and the issue of reentry, stating that 98% of those incarcerated will return to communities and need to be equipped to become productive citizens.
 - Chair Smith encouraged everyone to be aware of their surroundings and to report if they see something unusual because they could be saving a life- especially regarding human trafficking.
 - When asked what are things people can do to be more proactive in reporting unusual behavior, Dr. Kerr reiterated the importance of everyone being aware, understanding that human trafficking is real and happening in our communities. She stated that law enforcement would rather have something be reported that is nothing than not to report it and have it become something.
 - When asked about a hotline number to call to report suspicious activity that could be linked to human trafficking, Dr. Kerr shared the Polaris national hotline number: 1-888-373-7888 and added to that the Center for Missing and Exploited Children and local law-enforcement can be called.
- **Presentation: Florida Re-entry Efforts and Circuit 5 Community Corrections**
 - Pastor Blaine Whitt thanked and recognized the support from staff with the Florida Department of Corrections and introduced Ms. Susan Cizmadia, Administrator,



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- Circuit 5 Community Corrections with the Department of Corrections. Mr. Dan Eberlein, State Community Transition Administrator, was unable to attend and Ms. Cizmadia will share information on his behalf.
- Ms. Cizmadia stated that in the past, the Department of Corrections had a disconnected system that limited the chances of an offender, who is being released from incarceration, to reach their full potential with their rehabilitation.
 - She stated the Department of Corrections is currently focused on transformative rehabilitation, and reentry efforts because individuals will be returning to communities.
 - Ms. Cizmadia explained the difference between reentry and readiness where reentry is viewed as an event, whereas readiness is viewed as a process or continuum. She stated the Department created the Division of Development, Improvement, and Readiness that has three bureaus that provide services and resources to institutions and community corrections through programs, research and community transition and readiness. There are three focused projects provided by the Department: Continuum- looks at the experience from reception to release, Spectrum- which looks at assessment and program planning, and Glacier- which looks at data management and sharing of information. Processes are based on science driven treatment programs to find the right tools to help the offender have a positive adjust and lead a successful and productive life on released. The offender are impacted in three areas- Personal Development, Improvement and Readiness. Provided information on different evidence-based programs available to inmates, different assessments the offenders go through and the process of reentry as a whole to result in a system that meets the needs of the offenders to improve their odds of returning to a life that creates value instead of crime.
 - Ms. Cizmadia spoke about her work through Community Corrections, which promotes public safety by providing effective supervision to offenders in the community, holding offenders responsible, and connecting offenders to resources in order to reduce victimization and the reoccurrence of crime.
 - Briefly outlined the types of Community Supervision provide by Community Corrections. Provide details about Drug Offender Probation in which the Florida Community Corrections funds outpatient and residential treatments for drug offenders.
 - Provided information on multiple programs provided by the Community Corrections that work to rehabilitate offenders and successfully reintegrate them into society.



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- Chair Smith emphasized the importance of providing great support and thanked Ms. Cizmadia for the information shared. Pastor Whitt acknowledged the efforts by the Department to reduce recidivism.
- Rev. Perry Davis asked if housing is available for sex offenders as this is a challenging population to serve. Ms. Cizmadia shared there are resources to assist this population upon release to make arrangements to prevent offenders from going to the woods and enable them to find secure housing.
- Pastor Pam Olsen highlighted the importance of faith based groups in helping inmates and government to make a difference in the lives of individuals. Dr. Gretchen Kerr stated that while faith based groups have traditionally provided bible study, they need to focus on how they can support individuals upon release and be resource providers to organizations that serve this population.

VI. Disaster Planning Workgroup Update

- Workgroup lead Sheila Gomez began her update by thanking those who are helping the Orlando community after the Orlando Pulse Shooting. Ms. Sheila Gomez asked community and faith leaders to donate to the Florida Disaster Fund activated by Governor Rick Scott after the terror attack in Orlando to provide financial support to those who were impacted by the event. 100% of the money raised will go to families recovering from the attack. The website to donate and find out more information about the Florida Disaster Fund is <http://www.volunteerflorida.org/emergency-management/>
- Ms. Sheila Gomez then highlighted the Hurricane Season preparedness. Hurricane Season in Florida is from June 1st through November 30th. Ms. Gomez advocated for all Florida families to have an emergency plan. Resources provided by Ms. Sheila Gomez to the community at the meeting include <http://flgetaplan.com> and <http://www.floridahealth.gov>
- At the time of the meeting there were three ongoing disasters that faith based and community based leaders and organizations were actively involved in providing relief for.
 - Northwest Florida was recovering from two tornados. The local organization Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies (BRACE) is heading up the relief effort and partnering with United Methodist Conference and Catholic Charities.
 - Central Florida is the process of storm and recovery work from 2015, Pasco country recovers together with the long term recovery organization United Methodist Conference heading the long term case management.
 - West Central Florida, Pinellas County a mobile home park that was flooded in May 2016 has several organizations meeting their needs.



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- Next Ms. Sheila Gomez talked about the zika virus and the state campaigns to reduce the spread of the devastating virus. The Department of Health has great information about preventing mosquitoes borne diseases, such as zika. Which the workgroup encourages everyone to read. The Department of Health also has created a campaign devised to limit the spread of the zika virus called “The Spill the Water” campaign which educates children about mosquito borne diseases and the actions they can take to prevent their spread. The campaign also includes information for parents, volunteers and teachers to support the efforts of prevention.
- Pastor Pam Olsen described how during the terror attack on Orlando she had the opportunity to speak with the Governor’s Office and were they expressed their gratitude to the faith based groups that stepped forward to help. She thanked the faith based groups and Ms. Sheila Gomez for the work they are doing.

VII. Family Initiatives Workgroup Update

- Vice Chair Richard Albertson began his update by asking members of the community if they personally knew someone who was having difficulty in their marriage or going through a divorce. Then asked if they knew where to send those individuals. Answers included marriage counselors and Retrouvaille.
 - To combat this lack of known resources, Vice Chair Richard Albertson described a website that began in Jacksonville and has since spread out to other areas called www.jaxrelationships.com . To find a number of resources relating to helping couples experiencing difficulties in their marriages including local locations and contact information. Another resource offered on the website is information about upcoming Hope Weekends which are intensive three-day couple counseling retreats were experts work with couples having marriage difficulties. 80% of marriages that go through a Hope Weekend have been saved.
 - The website is being expanded into Bradenton, Ft. Lauderdale and Tallahassee.
- Building Better Dads and Family Engagement Month
 - Marion County Alliance are launching a Better Dads Initiative. Which emphasizes the critical role of fathers and their engagement in the lives of their children. Research shows that when fathers are involved in their children’s lives the benefits to society are endless.
- Another state initiative is “Dads Take Your Kids to School” on September 28th and connects kids with their fathers and father figures from Department of Education.
- The Department of Education also has a Faith-Based and Community Based Advisory Council doing similar work to the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council but focuses specifically on collaborations between faith-based and community-



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based organizations and schools. Chair Pat Smith and Mr. Zackary Gibson have been working closely with Ms. Diane Vandermeer to coordinate efforts between the two councils.

- On September 19 the Department of Education will be hosting their 2016 Educational Strategies and Student Engagement Institute that highlighted the best practices and approaches to help kids be more effective.
 - During this conference, the Department of Education's Council is going to host a workshop to focus attention on how to collaborate and work together with community based organizations and schools. So that they'll work together and collaborate more.
- Vice Chair Richard Albertson recognized the efforts of Patricia Robbins who has done a lot of work with Farm Share. In addition, he thanked state food banks for their work with Florida's families.
 - Additionally, Vice Chair Richard Albertson detailed the Child Care Good Program which provides food to child care centers, day care homes, afterschool meals program and homeless children nutrition program. The website in which more information can be found is <http://www.floridahealth.gov/ccfp>.
- **Presentation: The Federal Bonding Program**
 - Ms. Nicki Brown, State Bonding Coordinator, began her presentation by describing the Federal Bonding Program is, which is an incentive program to hire at risk and high risk job seekers.
 - Ms. Brown went on to explain how the program helps a very diverse population, not just individuals recently released from prison. They serve individuals with low credit scores, individuals without a diverse work history. All of those populations might struggle when trying to find employment.
 - They offer a fidelity bond which serves as guarantee to the employers about the potential at risk or high risk employee looking to be hired. The program has been around since the early 70s and only 1% of employers have ever had to file a claim.
 - Florida has the number performing program in the nation. They process more bonds than any other state. They provide approximately 200-300 bonds a year.
 - Ms. Brown then expressed a desire for the Florida program to expand to at risk youths.
 - Pastor Blaine Whitt had a question about whether the information that Ms. Brown presented was already in the Florida Correctional Department in each institution and are the individuals that work with them aware. Ms. Brown responded that the program has had a number of referrals from correctional employment specialists.



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- After getting a job offer letter, the employer will then receive the policy lasting initially 6 months, employers can renew the policy at no cost to themselves.
- Chair Pat Smith asked who would take the initiative in seeking the bond, the employee or employer? Ms. Brown stated that she had been contacted by both job seekers and employers.
- **Presentation: One Community at a Time**
 - Ms. Debra Wise-Velez, Deputy Chief of Programs, Kids Center Inc., stated her job is tasked with the creation and implementation of child abuse prevention programs.
 - One prevention program is a Neighborhood Project, which is a network of neighborhood-based resource centers. That were created to engage families in services that promote family well-being, safety, and health. The projects involve residents, families, and resources from the community to assist families to reach their full potential. The goal is to strengthen families and build strong neighborhoods.
 - Neighborhood projects were established in communities with the highest rates of abuse and neglect.
 - Community Facilitators work with their Neighborhood Advisory Councils, resident and business leaders and community partners to:
 - Identify and use existing resources available but not necessarily accessible to families living in the target areas.
 - Connect resources to families and services to neighborhoods
 - Facilitate, network, and coordinate with other partners and stakeholders to secure additional resources.
 - Seek out new avenues for resources and accessibility to under-served communities.
 - Mr. Gene Barton Chairman of the Helping Hands Outreach Ministries, shared how the Helping Hands Outreach Ministries was started. Beginning as one of 50 New Creation United Methodist Church (NCUMC) small groups studying Rick Warren's "Better Together" where they were challenged to reach out to help others. The group of 12 decided to go out and paint & fix up a home for a needy family in the Wildwood area. Unfortunately, the home was beyond repair and had to be demolished and removed. The group then raised \$6,200 to buy a used mobile home, and with fundraisers rebuilt the home and furnished it. A family of six moved in the home in 40 days.



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- The Helping Hands Outreach Ministry has provided over 23 families in the Wildwood area with home, have rebuilt a number of others, and have provided numerous donations of furniture and appliances to families in need.
- They also assign mentors and money management classes to families as Helping Hands ask families to pay it forward and contribute to the building of another families' home.
- Every cycle Helping Hands Outreach Ministry receives 25-30 applications for the 1-2 homes they will be able to provide. Mr. Barton talked about the enormous need for help with providing homes to these families.
- More information about the program can be found in the book "God's Helping Hands – A New Beginning" which details the stories of the ministry's first 10 families.
- Mr. Gary Cantrell Director of Biblical Studies and Ministries of Helping Hands Outreach Ministries, described the variety of outreach ministries his church the New Covenant United Methodist Church has developed and implemented to address the needs of the Wildwood area.
 - Mr. Cantrell described how Kids Central and the Helping Hands Outreach Ministries became collaborative partners to provide needed services to the Wildwood area. Creating a contract of understanding, the Outreach Ministries agreed to supply a building in Wildwood and would pay the rent for one of Kids Central Resource Centers, in addition to supplying Kids Central with a list of volunteers.
 - Mr. Cantrell spoke of how their partnership has been a great collaboration and stated that "there are opportunities for all of us as faith-based leaders to reach out in union with other groups to change our community".
- Ms. Michelle Mongeluzz, Director of Prevention Services Kids Central, shared the contributions of Kids Central to the Wildwood Resource Center, to include funding for a facilitator, fiscal responsibility of utilities and insurance, computers, routine maintenance needed on the building, and responsible for all services provided at the Center.
 - Services offered at the Wildwood Resource Center include: GED resources, job search help, ACCESS FL Sites, VPK Sites, training and workshops, and family support services.
- Ms. Mongeluzz then briefly went over one of the center's first success stories. Where an individual did not have transportation to get to and from work. The Neighborhood Project Facilitator was able to assist him with getting a part-time job and a bike to get to and from work. Working with the Neighborhood Project Facilitator the individual



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establish goals to get his own car and now has two jobs. He donated the bike back to the Resource Center when he got his car, which was then given to single mother without transportation.

VIII. Legislative Workgroup Update

- Pastor Pam Olsen discussed the role of the Legislative Workgroup and the process they go through in order to decide which bills the council will sponsor or legislate against.
- Pastor Pam Olsen encourage faith-based and community-leaders to reach out when they hear about a bill that will effect Florida children and families. Pastor Olsen also reiterated the importance of faith-based and community-based organization in the role of the legislation and encourage them also to meet with their elected officials.
- Pastor Kurt Anderson talked about learning about the attack in Orlando and how he had spoken with Governor Rick Scott and Ann had gone face to face with meeting and helping those families. Pastor Anderson then recounted how Governor Scott had shared that many of the families had not known their sons were homosexuals until after they had been killed and how one father had refused to go to his son's funeral because of his sexuality. Pastor Anderson then advocated that in order to serve the community we have to love the family and that people matter.
- Pastor Pam Olsen encourage faith and community leaders to pray for the legislature and those working to help families.

IX. Public Comment

- Speaker – Ms. Shay Rayzar with the Ford Past Foundation
 - Works in Lake County with the populations of homeless youth and youth aging out of the foster care system. Made a plea to faith leaders for their help and resources. Including prayer and love. Because the organization alone cannot meet the needs of these populations.
- Speaker – Ms. Erin Hess an Administrator with the Florida Department of Health
 - Talked about how the faith based community has the unique relationship with their congregations and by default their communities to effect public health. Ms. Hess then asked faith based leaders what the Florida Department of Health could do to help their congregations to promote public and community health.
- Speaker – Mr. Howard Moon an operator of Born Drug Free Line and CLEAR Warm Line
 - Explained briefly about how both Lines are 7 days a week and encouraged faith based and community based leaders to ask questions about the Lines and how they handle different situations. Mr. Moon talked about how the Lines are both underutilized.



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X. Closing

- Next meeting date: Proposed Friday 11.04.2016, after the Florida Faith Symposium
- Meeting Adjourned