



**Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based
Advisory Council Meeting**

Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 8:30am – 12:30pm
Jewish Federation of Broward County, Katz Building
5890 South Pine Island Road
Davie, FL 33328

Note: The following is a summary of the highlights of the proceedings and is not intended to be construed as a transcript. “Action Opportunity” items refer to activities discussed during the meeting that can be performed by the Advisory Council to fulfill its mission and vision/charge/purpose. Please contact Frenchie Yon at Frenchie.Yon@eog.myflorida.com to obtain meeting materials or visit www.flgov.com/fbcb.

Attendance Summary

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

- Mr. Tom Lukasik
- Mr. Richard Albertson
- Pastor Kirt Anderson
- Reverend Perry Davis
- Dr. Jerry Haag (via telephone)
- Dr. Gretchen Kerr
- Ms. Carolyn Ketchel
- Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner
- Dr. Leo Mesa
- Ms. Cherron Newby (via telephone)
- Ms. Pam Olsen (via telephone)
- Pastor Carl Reeves
- Ms. Pat Smith
- Mr. Karim Veerjee

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

- Rabbi Sholom Ciment
- Pastor Spike Hogan
- Mr. Matthew McCluskey
- Pastor Charles Scriven
- Mr. Sam Sipes
- Pastor Blaine Whitt
- Pastor Reno Zunz

Proceedings

I. Call to Order and Welcome

- Mr. Zackary Gibson, Chief Child Advocate and Director, Governor’s Office of Adoption and Child Protection (OACP), on behalf of Mr. Tom Lukasik, Chair of the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council and Vice President of Community Engagement, 4KIDS of South Florida, welcomed the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council (Council) members and called the meeting to order. Mr. Gibson reviewed the meeting agenda and charge to the Council members.
- The roll was called by Ms. Frenchie Yon, OACP. A quorum was confirmed.

II. Chairman Updates

- The following upcoming events were shared with the Council:
 - Black History Month Celebration – February 2014
 - Events would be held throughout the state with Council members encouraged to visit the DCF website to identify and attend events occurring within their area. Members were also encouraged to notify the OACP of their plans to attend so this could be communicated with the local organizers.
 - An overview was provided on the Tallahassee event and of the *28 Days of Amazing African-American Children* initiative where African-American children available for adoption without an identified family would be featured during the month.
- Action Opportunity** – Council members were encouraged to reach out to their local Heart Gallery (<http://www.adoptflorida.org/heartgallery.shtml>) to display pictures of available children in their place of worship and public forums to increase awareness of those seeking forever families.)

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- Florida Lifespan Respite Summit – February 21, 2014
 - This was an invitation only event led by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to obtain ideas, comments and suggestions for respite care in Florida. Council members were encouraged to share their information with Mr. Gibson to be shared with APD.
- Pinwheels for Prevention – April 2014
 - The Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign is an initiative occurring during National Child Abuse Prevention month. Local areas are planning events throughout the state and a list of local events will be shared with Council members to attend. A key element of the campaign and of efforts through the *Florida Five-Year Prevention and Permanency Plan* is the Protective Factors Framework (<http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families/the-basics/protective-factors>)
- Ms. Pat Smith presented information on the following statewide initiatives:
 - The Florida Safe Sleep Campaign (<http://www.myflfamilies.com/safesleep>)
 - Water Safety – Drowning Prevention (<http://www.waterprooffl.com>)
 - Death by Paramour – Campaign to be launched in March 2014

Action Opportunity – The Council was encouraged to share this information with their contacts to get the message out and increase awareness among communities. It was suggested for the Disaster Planning Workgroup to work with the Red Cross to facilitate CPR training.

- After discussion, the Council agreed to have the April meeting in Tallahassee to provide members the opportunity to meet with legislators regarding the work of the Council and offer support. In preparation for meetings with legislators, the following suggestions were made:
 - Speak with one voice/one agenda.
 - List of topics/talking points/key initiatives.
 - Identify key legislators in Council member areas.
 - Laminate pocket size cards for legislators with three major initiatives.

Mr. Gibson asked for Council members' input to develop a one pager of key initiatives for meeting with legislators and will also reach out to Council members to secure an April meeting date. Recommendations for issues to be discussed at next meeting are mental health and legislation.

III. Annual Reports

- An overview of information contained in the Office of Adoption and Child Protection Annual Report (http://www.flgov.com/child_advocacy/) and the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council Annual Report (<http://www.flgov.com/fbcb>) were provided by Mr. Gibson.
- Emphasis was provided on the following areas:
 - Participation in the National Faith Symposium and creation of the Champions of Hope Award.
 - Collaboration with the Council to engage other faith and community organizations to support the Pinwheels for Prevention and Explore Adoption campaigns.
 - Data contained in the OACP Annual Report can be used to leverage support on campaigns.
 - The role of the Council in the Five Year Prevention and Permanency Plan (additional information on circuit performance towards the goals of the plan will be provided to the Council).
 - Importance of attending and participating in Council meetings.
 - The Council's Vision Statement:
 - Discussion occurred with the following themes and suggestions provided to refine the statement:
 - Impact communities by broadening services for children and families.
 - Make people aware of Council and how it can help.
 - Communities in harmony.
 - Provide holistic approach to assist children and families.
 - Model to nation – faith-based and government working together.
 - Small steps to be accomplished over time.
 - Framing the body with the spirit.



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- Provide Legislature and Governor with ways to work hand in hand with Advisory Council members to meet the needs of the children and families in this great state.

The above information will be taken into consideration for refining the vision statement to be discussed at the next meeting.

IV. Facilitating Connections and Initiating Action

- Members were reminded of the importance to facilitate connections and action on the Council's efforts and that each meeting, a standing agenda item will be announced that asks each member to share what they have done/accomplished since the previous Council meeting. This is so a list can be compiled throughout the year to be included in the Council's annual report.
- Workgroup leads and members were encouraged to identify data elements they wish to review in order to measure progress of efforts towards achieving outcomes.
- Workgroup leads were reminded to share standing meeting dates and times with the OACP for their associated workgroups.

Facilitating Connections and Initiating Action continued

- Mr. Roland Gonzalez, Executive Director, gave a presentation on the Share Your Heart program. His organization has successfully partnered with the Department of Children and Families, Farm Share, Fire Departments and various faith based organizations to establish a chaplaincy program. Based on needs of families and their voluntary consent to be referred to Share Your Heart, chaplains are dispatched to provide concrete supports, such as clothes and food, and spiritual uplifting. The chaplaincy program is in process of being expanded to Broward County to duplicate effort of those in Miami-Dade County. Council members in the Broward County area were encouraged to assist and support these efforts and the Council, as a whole, was encouraged to consider how the chaplaincy program could be replicated/duplicated in their areas. Mr. Gonzalez thanked the Council for his organization receiving the Champion of Hope award at the National Faith Symposium.
- Ms. Emily Tallman with Northland Church presented information on Resource Point (<http://resourcepoint.org/>), an online resource directory to connect individuals with available resources in their area. Materials provided to Council members were reviewed to include instructions for registering on the site. While Resource Point initial focus was the Central Florida area, it is working to expand statewide. Staff are available to verify organizations who wish to be added to Resource Point and work to maintain up-to-date and accurate information.
Action Opportunity – the Council was encouraged to make others, particularly faith based organizations, aware of Resource Point and to encourage them to sign up and list their programs and services available to assist others.

V. Leadership on the Advisory Council

- Mr. Gibson announced that Ms. Sheila Hopkins has decided to resign from the Council and expressed, on her behalf, how much she has appreciated working on the Council and offered her continued support. As a result of her resignation, the Vice Chair position is vacant.
- Ms. Pat Smith nominated Dr. Gretchen Kerr to be considered as Vice Chair of the Council. This was second by Dr. Leo Mesa. There were no other nominations. Mr. Richard Albertson moved that the nominations be closed and this was second by Chair Tom Lukasik. The Council voted in favor. Dr. Gretchen Kerr accepted the role as new Vice Chair.

VI. Public Comment

- No public comments were presented.



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VII. Closing

- The next meeting will be schedule in April in Tallahassee. Additional information will be forthcoming with considerations not to schedule the meeting during the Passover holiday.
- Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz Lendner provided information in preparation of the tour of the David Posnack Jewish Community Center.
- With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.