



FLORIDA FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY-BASED ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, June 11, 2013, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

304 Druid Hills Road

Temple Terrace, FL 33617

Conference Number 888-670-3525, Conference Code 5615137892#

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
- Ms. Sheila Hopkins
- Mr. Richard Albertson
- Pastor Kirt Anderson
- Chaplain Perry Davis
- Dr. Jerry Haag
- Pastor Stephen "Spike" Hogan
- Dr. Gretchen Kerr
- Dr. Leo Mesa
- Ms. Pam Olsen
- Pastor Charles Scriven
- Mr. Sam Sipes
- Ms. Pat Smith
- Mr. Karim Veerjee
- Pastor Reno Zunz

Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council Members attending by telephone:

- Ms. Cherron Newby

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

- Rabbi Sholom Ciment
- Ms. Carolyn Ketchel
- Rabbi Jeffery Kurtz-Lendner
- Mr. Matthew McCluskey
- Mr. Jay Polachek
- Pastor Carl Reeves



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Proceedings

I. Introduction of New Appointments and Re-Appointments

- New appointees were introduced by Mr. Tom Lukasik.
- Re-appointments were introduced by Mr. Zackary Gibson.

II. Review of DJJ Faith Forum in Sarasota, FL:

- Attended a well-planned, full day event with breakout sessions- DJJ did a great job.
- While Lutheran Services has been engaged in the Sarasota community for a long time, there were a lot of new people who haven't been met before.
- There is a lot to be learned about how churches are involved in the community; it's not being organized by us or any grand scheme, it is happening organically.
- Take aways- we have a lot to learn about how state agencies are engaging churches and how churches are figuring out ways to engage in the community- if we can learn these things, there are opportunities to replicate them.
- Also had the opportunity to attend the Clearwater Human Trafficking Taskforce- it provided examples of how the faith community is engaged in this effort.
- Attendees of the DJJ event were appreciative that a member from the FFCB Advisory Council was in attendance. Encouraged members to attend events when available.
- **Action Opportunity**- if Advisory Council members are available to attend meetings and events in their areas organized by state agencies or partners, seek opportunities to:
 - Raise awareness of the Advisory Council,
 - Express thanks and appreciation of the work occurring locally, and
 - Network and facilitate connections.

If unable to attend, seek opportunities to raise awareness and express thanks and appreciation, as appropriate, via email or phone calls.

III. Heart Galleries of Florida:

- Independent community based organizations throughout Florida who take professional photographs to capture the character and spirit of children, who are available for adoption, and display the pictures in high traffic areas to raise awareness and support.
- These photographs facilitate an emotional tie between children and potential adoptive parents.
- Need more Heart Galleries involvement in faith-based communities and other high traffic areas (i.e. hospitals, airports, libraries, churches, etc.).
- **Action Opportunity** - encourage Advisory Council members and faith organizations to link the local Heart Gallery on church/organization websites.
- **Action Opportunity** - for each Advisory Council member to host and/or facilitate connections to have Heart Gallery photos displayed within churches and other high traffic areas within the community. Also to have the local Heart Gallery website linked on the church websites (having the Explore Adoption website linked is also encouraged).



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IV. Department of Children and Families – Faith Based Initiatives:

- Erik Braun's role is to be a liaison between DCF leadership, lead agencies (i.e., CBCs), and faith organizations. This involves educating faith-based communities on DCF initiatives and working with DCF and lead agencies on how to strategically engage faith communities.
- While there is a global "orphan crisis", there is a state, regional, and local "orphan crisis" through the foster care system.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Wait No More Campaign (encourage adoption of available children)- August 24, 2013 at First Baptist Church in Orlando
 - Pastor/church leader Luncheon for more information- July 16, 2013
 - Orphan Sunday- November 2013
 - Faith Symposium- November 6 and 7, 2013
 - Statewide Summit with the Christian Alliance for Orphans- November 8, 2013
- Working to develop foster care ministries within churches throughout the state to encompass an ongoing system of care through recruitment, training, and ongoing support.
- Foster care/adoption process needs to be "faith-friendly", particularly when engaging churches. Examples discussed include:
 - Training material for potential foster care/adoptive families,
 - Protecting the integrity of the families' desire to raise children as part of their faith,
 - Governance structures identified through Invitations to Negotiate (ITNs) and Request for Proposals (RFPs),
 - Focusing on the level of customer service provided to potential families from staff working in adoption/foster care,
 - Building trust between the faith community, lead agencies, and DCF, and
 - Working together so work gets completed, reducing duplication and ensuring everyone can achieve collective outcomes.
- Make faith-based community a force to be reckoned with in the child welfare system.
- **Action Opportunity** - connect with Erik to host/connect him with other churches for an event to speak with attendees about foster care and adoption.

V. Defining Advisory Council Initiatives and Discussion:

- **Action Opportunity** - Regardless of what initiatives the FBCB Advisory Council takes on, if there are topics/initiatives that are important to individuals on this Advisory Council that can advance and support the efforts of the state, they should work to facilitate connections on those initiatives.
- Topics for questions #3 from the *Follow-up to Meeting Survey* were strategically identified to fit within the existing work of Advisory Council members to build off their strengths.
 - Disaster relief- Reminder that when a disaster hits, this will become the priority of the state.



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- Background information provided on state initiatives include:
 - Florida Mentoring Partnership- engaging state employees to provide one hour of mentoring per week to youth in schools.
 - Healthy Weight Initiative- DOH initiative being developed that emphasizes increased physical activity, awareness of food choices and healthy eating in order to improve the health of our state.
 - Emphasis on Prevention- recognizing the cost benefits of addressing problems and issues on the front end that can result in stronger families and communities, and cost savings.
- Create a database/clearinghouse with all community contacts:
 - There are existing web-based services to address needs within the community, similar to a “211” approach, and serve as a single point of entry to include:
 - Meet the Need- <http://meettheneed.org/>
 - Resource Point- <http://resourcepoint.org/>
 - National Resource Directory (for military)- <https://www.nrd.gov/state/florida>
 - Network of Care- <http://www.networkofcare.org>
 - The Advisory Council discussed the importance of having an information database to identify programs and services that are available and accessible. While it was discussed to have this under the Advisory Council, it was expressed that information contained on any centralized directory should be broad based and holistic to include all aspects. It was suggested that an icon could be included with an organization’s information so if people desire to have a faith component to the services they receive, they’ll have the ability to make those choices. This is an on-going topic that requires more information to be collected before any decision by the Advisory Council could be considered.
 - One example that was discussed related to disasters is VOAD- voluntary organizations active in disaster (<http://www.nvoad.org/>). This is a well organized network that meets regularly and drives the agenda on what needs to be done. As it relates to our work, why don’t the organizations who provide services meet regularly on how we can work best in order to develop an agenda to share with the state?
 - Many of the issues the state encounters are family oriented. Advisory Council members can bring the best minds together across the state so they can collaborate and develop coordinated solutions.
 - Suggestion to develop a public relations concept called, “We Care Florida”, or something similar, that brings together all agencies that want to help people and is separate from government entities.
 - How can the Advisory Council help nondenominational churches have a voice and connection that can be as large as other faiths?

VI. Lunch and Resource Sharing:

- Networking amongst Advisory Council members and sharing of ideas and resources occurred.



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Action for Facilitating Connections to Achieve Outcomes:

- Mission Statement: **The Council exists to facilitate connections to strengthen communities and families in the state of Florida.**
 - This was voted and approved by all Advisory Council members in attendance.
- Vision/Goals/Purpose: **To advise the Governor and the Legislature on policies, priorities and objectives for the state's comprehensive efforts to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and expand the work of faith-based, volunteer, and other community organizations to the full extent permitted by law.**
 - This will be included on the FBCB website along with the mission statement.
- Suggestion to bring members of the Advisory Council and other minds throughout the state together in order to advise our state leaders on what is most important for faith and community organizations. These meetings will be noticed through the Advisory Council's website.
- Is there value of bringing the state leaders of different denominations together?
 - We need to define the purpose and value of why we would bring these folks together.
 - What are the "touch points" that we would want to share with them?
 - **Action Opportunity** - Would we like to invite these leaders to the next meeting so they are aware of the Advisory Council and to obtain their support on the work of the Advisory Council? Should we invite the Governor and legislative leaders so they could have an opportunity to share their heart and perspectives? Consider this meeting to potentially occur at the Faith Based Symposium? OACP will work to coordinate this.
- Workgroup Formation:
 - The workgroups identified below were voted and approved by all Advisory Council members in attendance. Members were identified at the meeting or through the *Follow-up to Meeting Survey*.

Annual Conference Workgroup

- Ms. Pat Smith- Chair
- Mr. Richard Albertson
- Dr. Jerry Haag
- Pastor Stephen "Spike" Hogan
- Ms. Sheila Hopkins
- Ms. Carolyn Ketchel
- Mr. Tom Lukasik
- Dr. Leo Mesa
- Pastor Carl Reeves

Annual Report Workgroup

- Mr. Tom Lukasik- Chair
- Ms. Sheila Hopkins
- Ms. Pam Olsen
- OACP
- Workgroup Chairs



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Child Welfare Workgroup

- Dr. Jerry Haag- Chair
- Mr. Tom Lukasik
- Dr. Leo Mesa
- Ms. Pam Olsen
- Mr. Sam Sipes
- Ms. Pat Smith
- Pastor Reno Zunz

Criminal Justice Workgroup

- Dr. Gretchen Kerr- Chair
- Chaplain Perry Davis
- Ms. Sheila Hopkins
- Ms. Cherron Newby *
- Pastor Charles Scrivens
- Mr. Blaine Whitt *

**= Recommended*

Disaster Planning Workgroup

- Mr. Sam Sipes- Chair
 - Pastor Stephen "Spike" Hogan
 - Dr. Gretchen Kerr
 - Ms. Pam Olsen
 - Mr. Karim Veerjee
- * Should a disaster occur, all Advisory Council members will be mobilized **

Family Initiatives Workgroup

- Mr. Richard Albertson- Chair
- Pastor Kirt Anderson *
- Pastor Stephen "Spike" Hogan
- Mr. Tom Lukasik
- Dr. Leo Mesa

**= Recommended*

Legislative Workgroup

- Ms. Sheila Hopkins- Chair
- Pastor Kirt Anderson
- Dr. Jerry Haag
- Ms. Cherron Newby
- Ms. Pam Olsen
- OACP
- Workgroup Chairs

VII. Summary of Action Steps:

- In addition to *Action Opportunity* items listed throughout this summary, formation of workgroups, and identification of workgroup members, the following are additional action items:
 - Descriptions of each workgroup are needed to identify the focus that includes best practices for connecting and working with state agencies, recommendations for policies and legislation, and opportunities for regional calls/summits that bring together groups and organizations for networking, sharing of ideas and strategies, and coordination.
 - With three open vacancies (one Governor, two Senate), and five positions ending due to term limits, the Advisory Council is encouraged to identify candidates who could add value to the



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work of the Advisory Council (with consideration to identify candidates from the South Florida area). Members whose terms are ending are encouraged to reapply.

- Revisions to individual bios and pictures that can be posted to the FBCB website are needed as soon as possible.

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 10, 2013, Naples Community Church, Naples, FL

FUTURE MEETING DATE (to secure on your calendars): November 5, 2013 (day before the Faith Symposium); selection for FBCB Chair and Vice-Chair for 2014 will occur.