



October 24, 2013
10:00 a.m.

Catholic Charities Community Services
4747 North 7th Avenue, Phoenix, 85013

Engaging and mobilizing faith communities to improve the quality of life for vulnerable and impoverished people through a statewide collaboration of faith-based, community and governmental organizations.

Minutes

I. Welcome, Invocation & Introductions

Vice Chair Dr. Rick Knopf welcomed attendees. Billy Thrall provided a word of prayer.

(As a reminder, information regarding this Council may be found on the Council's web site, www.GodEnriches.org. This site name was chosen because it is also our State Motto. Meeting archives may be found at the bottom of the "About Us" page.)

II. Guest Speaker, Jill Geigle, President of the Arizona Family Council

(<http://www.azfamilycouncil.org>) spoke about "How Pornography Impacts Our Communities." Here is the summary she has written:

In the past, pornography was fought on moral grounds. Today, medical, social, and mental health science has proven that pornography is an addictive substance that physical alters and can damage the brain. Because pornography is now available to almost everyone at almost any age through the internet on phones, computers, video games, and other devices, children are viewing pornography alarming ages and rates.

The average age of exposure is 9-11 years old and 90% of children ages 8-16 admit to viewing pornography mostly while doing homework. Because generations have now grown up saturated with pornography, communities are being negatively impacted. Families are failing, crime and especially children involved in sexual crime is on the rise, and more people are being raised as addicts with all of the mental and physical health problems that addiction brings.

As communities we must educate about the addictive and brain damaging nature of pornography in our communities, churches, schools, and especially in our homes. We must prosecute and enforce obscenity laws. We must not sweep pornography use under the rug.

Like England's Prime Minister David Cameron said in July, "When it comes to the Internet, in the balance between freedom and responsibility, we have neglected our responsibility to our children." It is time that we as a society realize we are damaging generations of children, and do all that we can to keep this addictive plague out of the minds of our young people.

Here are several key resources:

- <http://www.azfamilycouncil.org>, www.fightthenewdrug.org, <http://www.pornharms.org>
- Reading list at <http://azfamilycouncil.org/resources/reading-list/> includes: *What's the Big Deal about Pornography*, by Dr. Jill Manning, and *He Restoreth My Soul*, by Dr. Donald Hilton Jr.



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- Resource list from North Phoenix Baptist Church (thank you Pastor Stafford!)
<http://acfbci.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/NPBC-resource-list.pdf>

Jill invited all members to attend the Arizona Family Council's "Families Fighting Pornography" Conference on Saturday, November 2nd in Gilbert. All of the details are here: <http://azfamilycouncil.org/>

Here is a question posed by Jill: "What would happen if every so often, your child's computer spit out a hit of heroin? All of us would be outraged and would demand a solution to this problem immediately. Then why aren't we outraged when our children's computers randomly spit out pornography? This is equally appalling. We must all do something and do it now."

Here is another question: "Would you give your child a chainsaw without warning them about the dangers? Then why don't we warn our children about the dangers associated with computers, tablets and smartphones?"

Please attend the 11/2/2013 conference, or contact Jill Geigle today to learn more about what you, your family, your congregation, and your community can do to help save our children and families. Jill can be reached at jill@azfamilycouncil.org or (480) 282-1418.

III. Updates

- Billy Thrall provided an update on ArizonaSERVES. This is the Governor's Task Force to gather the faith communities around 5 critical topics, but the current focus is on Foster Care. Please visit the website at www.ArizonaSERVES.gov for more information.

Chuck urged anyone interested in foster care solutions to visit the next ArizonaSERVES Task Force meeting on Friday, November 15, 2013 in the Governor's 8th floor conference room. This meeting is open to the public, and the majority of the meeting will focus on 2014 strategies regarding foster care.

- Chuck spoke for Kevin Conroy of the Arizona Dental Mission of Mercy (MOM) regarding the need for volunteers for the December 12-14 event in Phoenix. To sign up go to <http://www.azmom.org/Volunteer.asp>. More information may be found on this flier: <http://acfbci.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/AzMOM-volunteers.pdf>
- Jane Forino with the City of Phoenix spoke to attendees about the City's efforts regarding the Affordable Care Act. The City has partnered specifically with the Region One Area Agency on Aging (www.aaaphx.org) to encourage enrollment; here is the training flier <http://acfbci.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/ACA-RSVP-Flyer.pdf>.

The open enrollment period is October 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014, with an extension of six weeks just now being announced. For current enrollment information, please visit <http://www.healthcare.gov> or <http://www.coveraz.org>.



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Billy Thrall said that enrollment services will be provided at the April 5th HopeFest Phoenix event (<http://cityserveaz.com>).

Chuck shared on behalf of Jane Wabnik regarding Informational Sessions on the Affordable Care Act at Temple Chai in Phoenix (<http://www.templechai.com>). Here is the flier <http://acfbci.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/ACA-temple-chai.pdf>

There was much discussion on the implementation and impact of the Affordable Care Act in Arizona. This will be a topic at the next few Council meetings as open enrollment continues.

- Joyce Lopez-Powell advised attendees of a December 10th Project Connect in Phoenix. Contact Valley of the Sun United Way for more details at <http://www.vsuw.org>
- Debbie DiCarlo spoke of the May 10th “Fee to Laugh: Laugh to Free” comedy fundraising event in Phoenix. Pre-register soon (early sellout will help secure future events) details are here (be sure to use the special code on the flier!): <http://acfbci.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/DIGNITY-Free-to-Laugh-PreSale-flyer.pdf>. The founder of this event, Brad Pellish, will be at the December 5th Council meeting.
- Angela Warren reminded attendees that the “Inter-faith Sex Trafficking Summit” is now just 2 weeks away. National and local expert speakers fill the agenda. The November 8th event is at Redemption Church in Tempe, here are all of the details: <http://acfbci.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Inter-Faith-Sex-Trafficking-Summit-Invitation.pdf> Please register ASAP!!!
- Brian Mancini spoke briefly about his story as a twice-wounded combat medic, and his ministry of connecting Vietnam-era veterans with those who need help today. His organization, Honor House (<http://www.thehonorhouse.org>), is a transitional home for America’s wounded warriors. Be sure to “like” Honor House on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HonorHouse>. We will hear more from Brian in the near future.

IV. Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Pastor Aubrey Barnwell closed the meeting in prayer.

The next Council meeting is Thursday, December 5, 2013 at Catholic Charities, 4747 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chuck Fitzgerald
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