

Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Vice-Chair Paul Martodam
Minutes for July 23, 2009

The Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is dedicated to engaging and mobilizing all faith communities to improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable and impoverished people through a statewide, action-oriented collaboration of faith-based, community and governmental organizations.

Steve Olmstead, graphic designer for Food for the Hungry, spoke about their "Community Experience" educational display. The display is a mobile, walk-in, panoramic view of an African village that typifies Food for the Hungry's community development efforts. The display allows visitors to self-educate through a visual immersion. Council members were invited to see the display at the conclusion of the meeting.

- Welcome, Invocation and Introductions
 - Vice-Chair Paul Martodam welcomed everyone at 10:20 a.m. He then led attendees in a brief prayer.
- Review previous meeting minutes
 - Minutes from the June 25th meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously (Motion-Joyce, 2nd-Jane).
- Council Mission & Purpose
 - Vice-Chair Paul briefly recounted the history of the Governor's Council and provided attendees with a document highlighting Council activities prepared by Jannah Scott, Governor Napolitano's Faith Policy Advisor, early last year. A copy of this document will be emailed to all Council members prior to the next Council meeting.
 - Attendees then entered an hour long discussion on the current Council Mission Statement (top of this page). Here are the comments offered by attendees:
 - The current statement includes the three essential pieces: action, populations served, collaboration
 - Is this only about mobilizing the faith community? Not other communities?
 - Should we be collaborating as "organizations" or as "activities or initiatives?"
 - Should the word "of" in the last sentence be changed to "with?"
 - Is the word "collaboration" the right word? Aren't community and government organizations really "resources" for the faith community?
 - We need many more Council members in this discussion. Our group is too small today.
 - This will be carried over to the next Council meeting agenda. All Council members are urged to come to the next meeting prepared to discuss and finalize the mission statement.
- Membership Process and Responsibilities

- Vice-Chair Paul began a discussion by asking “Who do we want as members?”, “How does membership work?” and “What are the responsibilities of members?” He then provided attendees with a one page draft that attempted to answer these questions. A copy will be distributed via email to all Council members prior to the next Council Meeting.
- Comments from this discussion were:
 - We should remove the word “geographic”
 - We need to decide our Organizational Model before answering the “Who, How and What” questions above. Do we have organization seats on the Council, or individual seats? Do we have a “big tent” model or a “select few” model? Is there a Board of Directors?
 - Is the Council a “governing body” or a “coordinating body?”
 - Work of the Council might mean convening, educating, providing technical assistance around specific issues such as food security, homelessness, violence, etc.
 - Perhaps it would be best to have the Faith Leaders on the Council decide the “What” and the Council will work on the “Who and How.”
 - The Council can help move faith communities from a “desire” stage to an “action” stage by providing technical assistance.
 - When action occurs, we need to ensure the Council knows about it. This feedback loop is critical to the sustainability of the Council.
 - The Council should be a knowledge base and a clearinghouse for best practices.
 - When an initiative is underway, it must be left in the faith community, not with the Council.
 - We don’t need term limits on membership; We do need term limits on membership
 - This document is a great start. Thank you, Paul!
- It was decided that it is not possible to determine the “Who, How and What” until we land on a Mission Statement. We will continue to discuss this at the next Council Meeting.
- Federal Grant Update
 - Judith reported the Arizona Community Foundation, the Arizona Alliance of Nonprofits and the Arizona Community Action Association collaborated on an application for the \$1M HHS Strengthening Communities Fund grant. No details regarding the application were provided.
 - This note was added during the review of these minutes at the 8/27/09 Council meeting: Judith Fritsch reported that the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona had also applied for the \$1M HHS Strengthening Communities Fund Grant.
 - Judith reported the DES Office of Community Partnerships and Innovative Practices (CPIP) has applied for the \$250K HHS Strengthening Communities Fund grant. CPIP will use the funds, if awarded, to add capacity for providing human service related education and technical assistance to Faith-Based and Community Organizations. Judith thanked the Council for providing a Letter of Support for this effort. She also

thanked the individual Council members who also wrote Letters of Support.

- Awardees for both grants will be announced in September.
- White House State Liaison Update
 - Susan has attempted to reach Ben O'Dell, of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, but has not yet connected with him. Susan will request CPIP's designation as the State Liaison for Ben's efforts. Susan has reconnected with Jannah Scott who is now with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Jannah is excited to have "Arizona back on the map." Jannah supports our request.
 - Jannah will be in town this coming week and Susan (who won't be in town this coming week) suggested that Chair Gary, Vice-Chair Paul, Judith and Chuck meet with her. Judith and Chuck will coordinate this meeting.
- Begin to define Council priorities
 - Vice-Chair Paul tabled this item until the Mission Statement is fully determined.
- New Business
 - Judith suggested the Council may wish to survey the faith community to better understand: what they are currently doing as service to the vulnerable and impoverished populations in Arizona; the type of education and technical assistance they would find useful; what they'd like to see the Council do.
- Closing Remarks and Adjourn
 - We need better participation at the next Council meeting to finish the mission statement, agree on membership selection and responsibilities, and determine Council structure.
 - Next meeting is Thursday, August 27th; 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at Food for the Hungry
 - Adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Present:

Dr. Paul Eppinger

Joyce Lopez-Powell (for Brian Spicker)

Scott Neuman (via phone)

Judith Fritsch

Jane Pearson

Susan Hallett

Paul Martodam

Absent:

Bishop Henry Barnwell

Dan Duncan

John Frick

Dr. Gary Kinnaman

Charles Monroe

Dr. C.T. Wright

Bishop Minerva Carcano

Rev. Jan Flaaten

Tony Garcia

Dr. Richard Knopf

Monsignor Richard O'Keefe

Jane Wabnik

Nedra Cox

Marchelle Franklin

Mitzila Hogans

Linda Leatherman

Ben Sanders

Cynthia Zwick

Guests:

Stan Rowland

Terry Dalrymple

Respectfully Submitted by
Chuck Fitzgerald