

Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Minutes for January 26, 2012

The Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (<http://acfbci.org>) is dedicated to engaging and mobilizing faith communities to improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable and impoverished people through a statewide collaboration of faith-based, community and governmental organizations.

- Welcome, Invocation & Introductions

Chair Gary Kinnaman welcomed attendees at 10:04; Jose Gonzales opened the meeting with prayer in Spanish and English!

Attendees introduced themselves: Gary Kinnaman, Liliana Jorge, Mark Upton, Marvin Murray, Teresa Kartler, Dabi Adeyemi, Bob Burns, Jack Hanstein, Denise Muller, Rick Knopf, Linda Morris, Terrilyn Miller, Jose Gonzalez, Billy Thrall, Elaine Sullivan, Joyce Lopez-Powell, Tom Fenner, Jim Welter, Ina Copeland, Aubrey Barnwell, Ben Sanders, Jane Wabnik, Scott Neuman and Chuck Fitzgerald.

- Guest Speaker: Mark Upton, President, Christian Family Care Agency www.cfcare.org

Mark spoke about his agency and many of the initiatives he is involved with. Here are just a few of the highlights from his talk. I apologize, but these notes do not do justice to the amazing things Mark and his organization do every day!

- CFCA specializes in “open adoptions” that keep a connection between the adopted child and the birth family
- CFCA provides counseling and mentoring services
- Connect One is an initiative that provides connection points for anyone who wants to help in the area of foster/adoptive care, no matter what the help looks like
www.connectonenow.org
- Mark is a founding member of the No Child Waiting Coalition of churches.
www.nochildwaiting.org
- Mark is a member of Governor Brewer’s ArizonaSERVES Task Force
www.arizonaserves.gov
- February 11, 2012 will see the Focus on the Family “Wait No More – finding families for Arizona’s waiting kids” adoption event at Scottsdale Bible www.icarefororphans.org
- February 1, 2012 premiere of “Life Connected” at Phoenix First Assembly Church.
<http://www.connectonenow.org/about-us/>
- Keys to success:
 - Prayer
 - Go where God is moving
 - Support existing church projects and initiatives
 - Perseverance through 1 on 1 relationships with faith leaders

- Updates

- ArizonaSERVES. Chuck Fitzgerald gave attendees a brief update on the Task Force and the website www.arizonaserves.gov. At the January 20th meeting, the Task Force agreed to re-focus its efforts in 2012 on “Child Well-being.” More details to follow. Next Task Force meeting is on March 16, 2012 and is always open to the public.
- CityServe Arizona and Season of Service 2 (<http://cityserveaz.com>). Billy Thrall provided an update on HopeFest Phoenix. It will take place on April 14, 2012 at Chase Field. 160 community and government agencies will provide services during this one day event to the working poor.

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- Transportation for the Underserved. Chuck Fitzgerald spoke about how the West Valley Human Services Alliance (<http://wvhsa.acfbci.org>) will be hosting a Summit on February 10, 2011 in Goodyear. The WVHSA plans to bring community organizations together to address transportation solutions for those who are underserved.
- Ben Sanders updated attendees on the Arizona Impact Summit on April 23, 2012 to take place at ASU, Tempe Campus. The format for the event has not yet been finalized. The purpose of the event is to connect community leaders with campus leaders and with one another, around pressing issues in Arizona. Human Services, Health Care, the Environment, Interfaith cooperation, Peace Initiatives, Education and more.
- Military / Veteran Faith-Based Summit is on February 9, 2012. Details at www.arizonacoalition.org
- Military Immersion Training is on March 12-13, 2012. Details at www.arizonacoalition.org
- Veterans Stand Down is at the Veterans Coliseum in Phoenix on February 2 – 4, 2012.
- New Business
 - There are now three ways to get to the Council's website. They are:
 - www.ACFBCI.org
 - www.FaithCouncilAZ.org
 - www.GodEnriches.org (this is our state motto)
 - Joyce Lopez-Powell provided a brief legislative update to include, AHCCCS 3% provider increase, no change to KidsCare or "childless adults", proposed bill to allow school districts to opt-out of Free/Reduced Breakfast and Lunch Program.
 - Joyce suggested that everyone should read the Stanford article on Collective Impact. Here it is: <http://acfbci.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Collective-Impact-Stanford-article.pdf>
 - Chuck asked for volunteers to help inform a "community human services navigation" plan he is developing. If you are interested in helping (about 2 hours total time), please contact Chuck.
 - Bob Burns would like for us to be more intentional about who the "underserved" are in our communities. For instance, two "groups" of underserved people were mentioned at today's meeting (grandparents raising grandchildren, and refugee foster children) that do not seem to be on many folks radar.
 - Chair Gary informed attendees of the March 4, 2012 "Faith and the Fence: An Inter-Religious Youth Conference on Immigration" in Phoenix; details at <http://www.aecunity.net/>
 - Jack Hanstein mentioned an Episcopal Diocese "Crossing the Border" conference slated for April 11-14, 2012 in Douglas and Nogales. Details at: http://azdiocese.org/digital_faith/news/3151008
- Closing Remarks and Adjourn
 - Next meeting is Thursday, February 23, 2012; 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at Catholic Charities, 4747 N 7th Avenue, Phoenix.
 - Chair Gary Kinnaman thanked attendees for their participation in yet another excellent meeting; Rick Knopf led us in prayer, and we adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
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