



October 23, 2014  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Catholic Charities  
4747 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Phoenix

---

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

Richard Knopf, Vice-Chair welcomed attendees and Billy Thrall opened the meeting with a prayer. Everyone briefly introduced themselves. Attendee listing and all meeting archives are found here: <http://acfbci.org/meeting-archives/>

Paul Mulligan, the new President and CEO of Catholic Charities introduced himself and gave a special welcome to all.

#### II. School Connect

Tracey Beal, Pastor of Community Development at Pure Heart Christian Fellowship and Leader of School Connect ([tbeal@pureheart.org](mailto:tbeal@pureheart.org)) started her presentation with a short video (<http://vimeo.com/110426868>). She has seen that the faith and school community can work together. She discovered that God is doing great work in our schools and communities and Billy Thrall introduced her to Jill Hicks and Dr. Cook the superintendent of the Washington Elementary School District. Dick Stafford of North Phoenix Baptist Church is also on the School Connect board. Previous partnership successes include North Phoenix Baptist with Central High School, Palomino with the local community and 4Tucson, to name a few.

Washington Elementary School District is largest in AZ and of 32 schools they now have a relationship with 12. They have also built 6 collaboratives around the schools that work directly with the principal and help to gather community partners, 4 of which are facilitated by pastors. Orangewood has 5 different churches that participate together. A great story is from Palo Verde Middle School (<http://acfbci.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Story-of-Palo-Verde-Middle-School.pdf>).

In October of 2012, early adopters were part of a summit about Hunger, Foster Care and Schools and the summit had wonderful result. She saw that a movement was happening and wanted to “blow wind in the sails” of this movement. So School Connect was formed.

An invitation-only summit will be held on December 2, 2014 at Grand Canyon University to further cast the vision for what is possible and to bring people together and connect, network and share best practices. If anyone wishes, the team will come alongside them and help them in any way they can.

Some key ideas:

- Solutions are in the community and people are just waiting to be asked.



October 23, 2014  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Catholic Charities  
4747 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Phoenix

- When we say a church relates to a school, those are 2 institutions but what it really takes is a person relating to another person – it has to happen at a personal level before it can happen at an institutional level.
- Do not go in with an agenda, rather start with asking the principle what is the priority for them and connect them to those resources relationally and then the principals have the option to say yes or no to those resources.

Please let Tracey know if there are any key people that you feel they should reach out to or should attend the summit in December.

Dorothy Watkins ([dorothy.watkins@wesdschools.org](mailto:dorothy.watkins@wesdschools.org)) is the Administrator of Social Services for Washington Elementary School District and also serves on the School Connect board. If you have programs that can help children, please reach out to her.

### III. Updates

- Brenda Gifford, Run Against Trafficking - R.A.T. Race ([www.RATraceaz.org](http://www.RATraceaz.org)), shared that they now have 475 runners and 21 nonprofits for the inaugural run on this Saturday, October 25, 2014 to raise funds for organizations working to end sex trafficking in Arizona and southeast Asia and they are expecting lots of late registrants. They have a Governor's Proclamation for the event. Please pray for the success of the event. Brenda's number is 602.809.2314 and email [Brenda.Gifford@gmail.com](mailto:Brenda.Gifford@gmail.com).
- April Jones, Community Engagement Director, Governor's Office of Faith and Community Partnerships informed the group that the Governor's office now has a new website - End Sex Trafficking AZ ([www.endsextrafficking.az.gov](http://www.endsextrafficking.az.gov)) with lots of resources and links. We encourage everyone to check it out.
- Chaplain Chris Melvin, Arizona Army National Guard, shared an invitation (<http://acfbci.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Arizona-DEMA-Muster-Expo-Vendor-Flyer-handout.pdf>) to the Arizona National Guard Muster event at 11:00 am on December 7, 2014 (Pearl Harbor Day) at ASU Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe. There will also be an Expo following the event from 12:30 – 4:00 pm. If you or your organization helps military families, please come and have a table at the expo.
- Dr. Paul Eppinger, Arizona Interfaith Movement, invited everyone to 3 upcoming events:  
The Experience Interfaith dinner and conversation is on October 30, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at Heritage Park (<http://www.azifm.org/interfaith-news/experience-interfaith-oct-30-2014/>).  
The Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast on December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 8 a.m. at the Carver Community Center; the cost is \$40. The speaker will be Dr. Lawrence Carter from Morehouse College, GA.  
The Souper Bowl on the weekend of January 30, 2015 where youth will collect \$1 from worshipers as they exit their service and there will also be a luncheon in mid-January at St Vincent de Paul from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. (meal will be a bowl of soup) and all proceeds



October 23, 2014  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Catholic Charities  
4747 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Phoenix

---

will go to “soup kitchens” throughout the state. Contact the AZIM office to make reservations (602-261-6703, <http://www.azifm.org/>).

- Chaplain Daniel Butler, Carl Hayden VA Medical Center shared about the Crosier Cross Ministries conducting stations of the cross veterans journey for healing (those who have served in the war theater) this will be done on a regular basis. For more information call 602-443-7115.
- Schuyler Hall, Enroll America reminded us that open enrollment for medical insurance begins November 15<sup>th</sup>. Recent data shows that 90% of newly insured individuals do not know that open enrollment is coming again. Enroll American can help with physical resources, presentation or anything else you need to help those in your community. Ready to Enroll Partner Coalition meeting is Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Contact Schuyler for more information at [shall@enrollamerica.org](mailto:shall@enrollamerica.org).
- Linda Morris shared that First Pentecostal Church is celebrating a partnership with Mentor Kids and Valley Presbyterian as they continue to work on the community park. The Community mosaic wall is beautiful and there is still an opportunity to place tiles on the wall so contact her if you would like to participate ([mlmorris@loveliberates.com](mailto:mlmorris@loveliberates.com)). The children named the park “God’s Garden”.
- Julie Bank, Voices for CASA Children informed us that there are over 11,000 children in foster care in Maricopa with only 500 CASA advocates. They encourage you to consider CASA as another opportunity to help foster families. If you can’t foster a child, you can help by being their advocate. Voices can also help you if you want to provide holiday resources to children in foster care (<http://www.voicesforcasachildren.org/>).
- Sharon LaRue, Saltmine shared that they still have open dates on their human-trafficking awareness tour and would love to fill them! They are looking for schools, churches, community groups to host a performance during Saltmine's "Love Struck" tour - January 22 - February 7, 2015. Here are the details: [http://acfbci.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Promo-Letter\\_AZ-Communities\\_Love-Struck\\_USA-tour-2015.pdf](http://acfbci.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Promo-Letter_AZ-Communities_Love-Struck_USA-tour-2015.pdf).

IV. Adjourned with a word of prayer by Dr. Paul Eppinger. The next Council meeting is on **December 4, 2014** at 10:00 a.m. at Catholic Charities, 4747 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Phoenix.

Submitted by  
April Jones  
[ajones@az.gov](mailto:ajones@az.gov)