

Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Minutes for February 24, 2011

The Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives <http://acfbci.org> 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.

- Welcome, Invocation & Introductions
 - Vice-Chair Dr. Richard Knopf welcomed attendees at 10:03 a.m.; Captain Chris Melvin led attendees in a prayer; attendees each introduced themselves.
 - Visitors: Irene Agustin, Director of Fund Development for Central Arizona Shelter Services www.cass-az.org.
- Review of previous Meeting Minutes.
 - Minutes from January 27, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved (1st-Rick Knopf, 2nd-Jon McHatton).
- Updates
 - Arizona CityFest / Season of Service. Billy Thrall gave an update on both the Arizona CityFest and the Season of Service (SoS). Churches/community organizations signed-on to the SoS now stands at over 550. SoS projects are listed on www.arizonacityfest.com - approximately 400, with 30,000 hours of service logged. Billy spoke about a number of projects and their impact.
Arizona CityFest has joined forces with The Collaboration for a New Century www.thecollab.org to deliver a Health & Community Resource Fair on March 19, 2011 at Tempe Town Lake. The four service pillars for the Resource Fair are Housing, Jobs, Food and Health Care.
Billy also spoke of his post-CityFest role and responsibilities. He will be leading CityServe Arizona to work on sustainability issues such as: keeping the networks together, keeping the projects and connections alive, communications, and database retention.
He believes training is a key part of sustainability – many faith organizations are scared to make mistakes when it comes to projects and community partnerships. It is easier to work as an isolated organization than to collaborate – but in this season of no money, organizations are being forced out of their comfort zones.
Billy's role may also involve convening faith forums throughout Arizona to teach of collaborating and partnering. The Council can be a key partner in this effort.
 - ArizonaSERVES. Chuck gave attendees a brief update on the Task Force and the website www.arizonaserves.gov. Next Task Force meeting is on March 18th. Council members are encouraged to distribute the Governor's Call to Serve. This document will be sent as an email attachment to Council members along with these meeting Minutes.
A roundtable discussion on policy issues ensued. A number of attendees viewed their opinions on the current poverty related policy discussions in the state. It was

suggested that the Council meeting in March would contain a more formal policy discussion.

- Benevolence & Beyond Summit. Chuck led a discussion on the February 11th summit sponsored by the Community Network Team the West Valley Human Services Alliance <http://wvhsa.acfbci.org> in Goodyear. At the event, 91 organizations participated - 70 of them were faith-based.
 - The key messages for the event were:
 - transactions do not move people out of poverty, people do
 - while emergency/crisis help is necessary, a relationship-based service model is also needed
 - Transforming people and communities requires healthy and helpful relationships.
 - Key comments from other Council members who attended the summit include:
 - Justice only happens thru relationships
 - Sustainability requires relationships
 - Future events should include more on the “principles” and less of agency commercials
 - Audio recordings of all the sessions will be made available ... soon.
- Member Updates.
 - Reverend Rula Colvin has been assigned to represent Bishop Carcaño and the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church www.desertsouthwestconference.org on our Council. Welcome, Rula!
 - Roxy Rocker has been asked to represent Dr. Paul Eppinger and the Arizona Interfaith Movement on our Council. Welcome, Roxy!
 - Arizona Interfaith Movement “Golden Rule Banquet” is April 5, 2011. Visit www.interfaitharizona.com for details.
 - Captain Melvin reported the Military Immersion Training on February 9th and 10th was a huge success. This training provides civilians with no military background with an immersion experience to help them better understand military culture and the experiences of service members and their families. Activities included staying overnight in barracks, eating an MRE, hearing firsthand experiences of service members and learning about key issues affecting the military and veteran population. Look for future training dates soon. www.arizonacoalition.org
 - Central Arizona Shelter Services www.cass-az.org is having a community breakfast on March 24th from 8 to 9:15 a.m. There is just enough time to attend the breakfast and then our Council meeting. Contact iajustin@cass-az.org for details.
- New Business
 - Jon McHatton and Captain Melvin provided information regarding the Family Assistance Center’s effort to inform the Mass Fatality Plan of Arizona’s Department of Emergency Management.

With the Council’s support, the newly crafted training curriculum and protocol components of the Plan would likely be adopted by ADEM. We will talk about this

again at the March 24th Council meeting and vote regarding our support of the curriculum. Please review details in the related documents (emailed to Council members), and be prepared to discuss and vote on March 24th.

- Billy Thrall invited Irene Agustin to come and speak to attendees about her role at Central Arizona Shelter Services (www.cass-az.org). She is the Director of Fund Development (also means Resource Development) and is taking a very serious look and course of action for developing strong, sustainable community partnerships. While there are many great relationships, much more needs to be done. Volunteer opportunity documents will be provided via email to Council members.

If you have not met Irene, please contact her iagustin@cass-az.org and set up a tour for your organization at CASS. CASS sees approximately 1,300 people every day on its campus, and housing approximately 1,000 every night. Their mission statement is to help men, women and children with diverse needs to end their homelessness.

- Closing Remarks and Adjourn
 - Next meeting is Thursday, March 24, 2011; 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at Catholic Charities, 4747 North 7th Avenue, Phoenix.
 - Vice-Chair Rick thanked the attendees, and we adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
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