

Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Minutes for March 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
 - Chair Dr. Gary Kinnaman welcomed attendees at 10:03 a.m.; Reverend Jan Flaaten led attendees in a prayer; attendees each introduced themselves.
 - Visitors: Jim Welter (One Body Collaboratives, Inc.), Stephanie Goss and Charlotte Thrall (Arizona CityFest), Linda Morris (Harvest and First Pentecostal Church)
- Review of previous Meeting Minutes.
 - Minutes from the February 24, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.
- Updates
 - Arizona CityFest / Season of Service. Billy Thrall gave a final report update on both the Arizona CityFest and the Season of Service (SoS). Churches/community organizations signed-on to the SoS was 560. SoS projects are listed on www.arizonacityfest.com - approximately 450, with 45,000 volunteers – towards the end of the process, it was difficult to track all of the involvement. Billy spoke about a few of the projects that were particularly important to him and possible sustainability efforts. He mentioned multi-denominational collaborations that "loved on a school" or provided "code compliance" relief for families in need. He also highlighted "For Our City" and "IHELP" in Tempe as a model.

The Health & Community Resource Fair on March 19th saw approximately 2,000 people served by 60 providers and 200 student nurses. The Arizona CityFest on March 19th and 20th saw an estimated 110,000 attendees. Although some believe the number was closer to 175,000.

Billy also spoke of his post-CityFest role and responsibilities. He will be leading CityServe Arizona (www.cityserveaz.com) to work on sustainability issues such as: keeping the networks together, keeping the projects and connections alive, communications, and database retention. He quipped, "our role will be to keep collaborative care rolling."

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. Chair Gary and Chuck gave attendees a brief update on the Task Force and the website www.arizonaserves.gov. Next Task Force meeting is on April 15th.

Chair Gary also mentioned the possibility of an ArizonaSERVES Summit in the Phoenix area in September. The purpose would be to educate faith leaders on ArizonaSERVES and to facilitate connections between faith organizations and existing systems of care around the Governor's five ArizonaSERVES Issues.

Chair Gary spoke of the Arizona Department of Economic Security's new Director, Clarence Carter. "The new Director's heart and mind are behind the community

service efforts we are concerned about here in our Council." Chair Gary, other attendees, asked to have Director Carter visit a future Council meeting. Chuck will work on this.

- Mass Fatality Plan, training curriculum and protocols. Jon McHatton led a follow up discussion regarding the need for credentialing protocols for Mass Fatality Counselors at the Family Assistance Center (supporting documentation used for the discussion was sent via email to Council Members prior to the meeting).

The following motion was made by Rick Knopf and seconded by Ben Sanders: The Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives supports the Arizona Spiritual Task Force and endorses the credentialing process for Mass Fatality Counselors that has been established by this Task Force. The motion passed unanimously.

- Member Updates.
 - Rick encouraged Council Members to support the Community Information & Referral (www.cir.org) annual giving campaign, including the new "\$211 for 2-1-1" campaign. More information will be forwarded to Council Members via email.
 - Arizona Interfaith Movement "Golden Rule Banquet" is April 5, 2011. Visit www.interfaitharizona.com for details.
 - Chair Gary spoke of a "pastors of influence" retreat that took place on March 9th and 10th in Sedona. 25 pastors of large evangelical churches spent to days in prayer and discussion for the economically and socially needy in Arizona.
 - Hasrah updated attendees on the Project Connect in Tempe, 200 people were served. She also handed out free prescription cards and spoke of the Valley of the Sun United Way's (www.vsuw.org) "Adopt a Pool Fence" initiative. More information is found on their website.
- New Business
 - Attendees spent much of the meeting talking about whether the Council should or shouldn't take a leadership role in Arizona regarding advocacy and policy. While there were many professional and personal comments regarding this issue, the consensus at the end of the discussion came in two parts. First, we need to further discuss this topic; it will be an Agenda item at the next meeting. Secondly, the Council would likely lose some of its support and member organizations would no longer wish to belong, if advocacy and policy work were goals of the Council. A few attendees spoke of taking the policy concerns out of the Council meetings and pursuing them as individuals or as individual organizations.
- Closing Remarks and Adjourn
 - Next meeting is Thursday, April 28, 2011; 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at Catholic Charities, 4747 N. 7th Ave. in Phoenix.
 - Chair Gary thanked the attendees, and then closed with a word of prayer. We adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Chuck Fitzgerald
Faith-Based & Community Initiatives
Arizona Department of Economic Security
cfitzgerald@azdes.gov

Convene, Connect, Communicate & Celebrate