

## Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Meeting Minutes for June 23, 2011

<http://acfbci.org>

- Meeting began at 10:14am
- Chuck F had to excuse himself from the meeting. So I (Stephanie Goss) am today's scribe.
- Previous Minutes reviewed/Voted to accept
- Gary begins meeting with a review of the Arizona Task Force meeting held last week. Explained that Terry Crist stressed that the Governor wants to see action in the task force. Gary discussed the ArizonaSERVES Summit (September 8<sup>th</sup>) and the need for this particular type of event. Jane spoke of how this particular group could show some of the success stories happening so that the rest of the state could see this as an example. Present examples of how people can help in the 5 areas that the Governor has chosen: free or reduced cost child care, foster care, cps visits, elder independence, and transportation. Website ([www.arizonaserves.gov](http://www.arizonaserves.gov)) is up and live and Gary describes the site with its ease of functioning, maps etc. Billy gave his observation of the meeting. The group a year ago was trying to figure out who was in the room, what were we here for., etc. and now people get it and were trying to solve some of the problems and were ready to work together so that action could be taken. Gary states that he is impressed by Governors office involvement.
- Billy gives a background of CityServe Arizona ([www.cityserveaz.com](http://www.cityserveaz.com)). Website is on its way to be launched. Portal to be used by the communities to find service projects, churches to post projects. Try to find the "best practice models." We are focusing on.... "All the logos none of the egos". CityServe is focusing on three things: 1. Website, 2. Building Networks of Care and 3. HopeFest Phoenix 2012. We want to know about what you are doing in the community so that we can highlight these organizations. Suggestions were made by the council for our website calendars....like Google calendars. Billy stated that we are identifying networks of care. What groups of people are out there? What do you do? What do we need to help you to be stronger? Would you coach another church to do what you do? (Duplicate yourself) HopeFest Phoenix 2012 is being planned for April 2012 which will be a full care day. Mik suggested looking at Volunteer Match. Very user friendly. Tracks hours of people that have given their time.
- Gary discussed that some of the issues that need to be addressed is that there is a disparity where there are networks of anglo and Hispanic churches and African American and anglo church groups and that these groups need to help in areas where there are not large churches etc.
- West Valley Scan was discussed by United Way ([www.vsuw.org](http://www.vsuw.org)) as a positive that led to the West Valley Human Service Alliance (<http://wvhsa.acfbci.org>). Original structure happening and then great things have come out of that project which is an example of kicking something off and watching it blossom into something bigger. It was based on what great things are happening and what else can be done. Helping people realize that they are an asset and can be used in their neighborhoods.

- Gary discussed that ASU wants to be used for research and tapping into them would be beneficial. Billy mentioned that Dr. Rick Knopf has been asked to be on the CityServe Board.
- Conference call yesterday to discuss a Summit to get the Human service providers together to network. Ben Sanders leadership. Tentative date set up for April 2012 at ASU. An agenda and planning team has been established. Details to follow.
- Bob talked about Piper Family Human Service Initiative last fall Piper Family got together a small group of human resources agencies to talk about a family support network. Then there was an invitation to about 50 agencies back in March-April and then there was a meeting and a draft agenda and something to respond too. 40-50 people were there. And got reaction to the vision, took a look of the vision and then each agency was asked if their agency would be a part, and make a steering committee. Two weeks ago the Steering Committee met to refine before any effort was kicked off and real clear. He brings this up because there are lots of grassroots things springing up and wonders if there is any way to connect all of these efforts. Some kind of a master central communication center?
- Catholic Charities ([www.catholiccharitiesaz.com](http://www.catholiccharitiesaz.com)) gave a description of Paths of Hope to realize their own personal experience of prosperity. One of the issues that Catholic Charities is running into is that they are getting plenty of volunteers and serving in the various phases of Paths of Hope...we have plenty of capacity and not enough intake (clients). More people need to tap into the resources. There is clearly a need but how do you bring awareness to what's available. These services are all volunteer driven, and CC will train all of the volunteers, and can be held wherever, no requirement for special equipment etc. The opportunity is there and need more participants. This is available in many areas in Arizona. Information is available to give to others. He mentions that he brings it this up to ask how can we help expand their little network to expand into the other larger networks, it would be nice that it will be coordinated to facilitate how this could coexist with other groups and organizations springing up. How do we connect with the people that have the needs? The resources are there and need to be used. Gary states that the more people are in need the harder it is for those people to search for the resources. Linda Morris states that these peoples' voices are not heard. WE don't ask them what they need. We tell them what we have.
- The people who need services need to be asked what would help them get their lives back on track. Might be area sensitive. The needs change.
- Healthy Arizona Snack Program came out of a poverty dialogue that took place in an area asking the people with needs in a specific area what they needed. This happened quite some time ago. What came out of this type of event is to bring the services to the people on an ongoing basis. Jack
- Linda states it's the ongoing service to meet the needs that is the difficult thing to do. What can we do to meet your needs right now?
- It is asked by Jack if there are places for people to get a hot meal on a daily basis. For example the City of Phx has ordinances that churches cannot do feeding programs out of churches.
- Discussions took place around this question. Discussed CASS. Etc, St Vincent de Paul and other organizations are doing this. These programs are out there, not as much as we need but the

suggestion was made that the services that these people need to be brought to these places to meet the needs of these individuals.

- The conclusion can be made that the problems are complicated and layered and it takes time to find where the gaps are so that the problem can be solved.
- Linda asks the question about an undocumented individual that is being charged \$4500 to get a social security card from an attorney and she is seeing this pattern of exploitation. What can be done?
- Joyce/United Way discusses that July 1<sup>st</sup> is coming and they are involved in a campaign called DON'T GET DROPPED....this is to help people understand when to renew for AHCCCS and if they do not renew and get dropped they will not be able to reenroll. This is changing and some eligibility will be necessary every 6 months instead of annually. She asks for us to promote this new environment...17,000 people will lose their care just on AHCCCS. This is to promote how people on AHCCCS can keep their care as changes are coming about July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. There are law-suits are coming about...but they are not depending on the lawsuits but rather educating the people to deal with the changes.
- Hasra/United Way discusses 700 pool fences that were installed this week by United Way, Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and partners. Awareness is necessary because more pool fences are available for donation. Awareness is trying to be made in areas that would not typically have fences. Example Sun City.
- Gary discusses a Hunger Launch for Arizona Hunger Campaign ([www.endazhunger.com](http://www.endazhunger.com)) done last year. Russ Dickey is serving as the Arizona State coordinator and is planning a state wide in September blitz, to increase the awareness of what the problems are in Arizona surrounding hunger. 1 in 5 children in Arizona are food deprived. Hunger Action Week the week of September 12<sup>th</sup>. Christian radio station is going to promote it and the Christian community and the main stream media.... Jaime Rasmussen is going to take some leadership in this area as well.
- Closing remarks by Gary.
- Jack closes us in prayer
- It was decided that July will be taken off. No meeting in July.