

# Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Minutes for September 22, 2011

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.

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- Welcome, Invocation & Introductions
  - Chuck Fitzgerald welcomed attendees on behalf of Council Chair Gary Kinnaman who was unable to attend as he was representing Arizona (along with 11 other Arizonans) at “Movement Day” in New York City.
  - Paul Eppinger, Arizona Interfaith Movement, led attendees in an opening prayer.
  - Attendees introduced themselves: Teri Traaen, Julie O’Neal, Paul Eppinger, Marvin Murray, Jessica Major, Terrilynn Miller, Joyce Lopez-Powell, Lisa Chastain, and Chuck Fitzgerald.
- Review of previous Meeting Minutes.
  - Minutes from the August 25, 2011 meeting were review and accepted as accurate.
- Updates
  - CityServe Arizona and Season of Service 2 (<http://cityserveaz.com>).  
Chuck Fitzgerald provided a high-level overview of Billy Thrall’s (also in NYC) efforts since the last Council meeting.  
Lisa Chastain spoke in detail about HopeFest Phoenix, the culminating event at the conclusion of Season of Service 2. The one-day care event will be on March 31, 2012 in downtown Phoenix. Facility/Location information is being finalized in the coming days, at which time more detail will be provided. The care event that was part of the CityFest celebration in Tempe this past year, saw approximately 3,000 people served. HopeFest Phoenix in 2012 will be much larger, so partnerships with medical, dental and business associations are key. The HopeFest leadership team has been meeting to ensure these new partnerships are happening. Teri Traaen describes this partnership model as the new normal.  
Joyce Lopez-Powell reminded attendees that between now and March 2012, an additional 75,000 Arizonans will no longer be covered by AHCCCS.  
Lisa’s closing statement simple states that HopeFest is all about “the compassion to help those who are hurting.” The Council can help by providing communication and connection resources as these efforts proceed.  
HopeFest Tucson will happen on October 22, 2011 and will see 15,000+ served. For more information about this event, visit <http://azhopenet.org>
  - ArizonaSERVES. Chuck gave attendees a brief update on the Task Force and the website [www.arizonaserves.gov](http://www.arizonaserves.gov). Next Task Force meeting is on November 18, 2011 and is always open to the public. Save the Date: ArizonaSERVES Summit, November 4, 2011 in Coolidge. Register at <http://azsummit.org>  
Chuck gave an example of how faith-based and community organizations might use the ArizonaSERVES website. See a “Foster Care Participation” connection example at: [https://www.azdes.gov/Arizona\\_Serves.aspx?menu=332&id=6605](https://www.azdes.gov/Arizona_Serves.aspx?menu=332&id=6605)
  - Transportation for the Underserved. Chuck spoke about how the West Valley Human Services Alliance (WVHSA; <http://wvhsa.acfbci.org>) will be hosting a Summit on

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February 10, 2011 in Goodyear. This will look very much like the Benevolence and Beyond Summit held in Goodyear last February. The WVHSA plans to bring community organizations together to address transportation solutions, especially for the needy. The Council will help to promote/support this effort.

- “Arizona Impact Summit – solutions for the common good. Jessica Major spoke about this event on April 23, 2012 at ASU in Tempe. The Council Of Religious Advisors (CORA), ASU and our Council are the lead entities for delivering this one day Summit. A plenary “by invitation only” for 350 leaders will be followed by many topical breakout sessions. Anyone interested in being a part of the planning team should contact Jessica or Ben Sanders directly. An informational flyer was distributed via email to Council members this past week.

Several comments were offered by attendees:

- The summit seems too broad; you could easily find 350 leaders on a single topic; with 9 broad topics...how do you choose who to invite?
- What are the expected outcomes and actions?
- Having ASU students at the same table as community subject matter experts and leaders is an excellent idea.
- Inviting the general public to the topical breakout sessions is a great idea.
- Experience Interfaith. Paul Eppinger spoke of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual event in downtown Phoenix scheduled for November 3, 2011. He encouraged Council members to attend and to experience interfaith dialogue and cultural exchange first hand. More information is available at <http://www.azifm.org/events/6/experience-interfaith/> Paul also asked Council members to save-the-date for the 2012 Golden Rule Banquet to be held on March 29, 2012. Details to follow.
- Joyce Lopez-Powell listed a number of upcoming community events to include a Project Connect in Tempe on September 23, 2011. The number of people served at these events has nearly doubled in the past year. She also mentioned a “Reclaiming Our Community Power” event on October 5, 2011. Joyce also spoke of “Market on the Move,” an excellent opportunity for families to purchase fresh produce very cheaply (60 pounds for \$10!).
- Arizona Centennial Volunteer Challenge.
  - Bob Shogren with the Governor’s Office for Children, Youth and Families spoke to attendees about the partnership between the Arizona Centennial, the Governor’s Office, Volunteer Match, and 3TV. The purposes of the Volunteer Challenge are to provide organizations with volunteer capacity support, and to provide Arizonans with more opportunities to serve their communities...and to celebrate the 100 birthday of Arizona. Thank you, Bob, for joining us!
- Closing Remarks and Adjourn
  - Next meeting is Thursday, October 27 , 2011; 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at Grace Lutheran Church, 1124 N. 3rd Street, Phoenix, 85004.
  - Chuck thanked attendees for their participation in yet another excellent meeting; we adjourned at 11:50.

Respectfully Submitted:  
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