



4th Quarterly Meeting
November 1, 2016

1:30 pm–4:30pm
Wyndham Orlando Resort
Orlando, FL 32819

Note: The following is a summary of the highlights of the proceedings and is not intended to be construed as a transcript. Please contact Frenchie Yon at Frenchie.Yon@eog.myflorida.com to obtain meeting materials or visit www.flgov.com/fbcb.

Attendance Summary

Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council Members in attendance:

- Ms. Pat Smith, Chair
- Ms. Trenia Cox
- Mr. Roland Gonzalez
- Dr. Gretchen Kerr
- Mr. Thomas Lukasik
- Pastor Marcus Smith
- Mr. Karim Veerjee
- Pastor Reno Zunz
- Mr. Richard Albertson, Vice Chair (via phone)
- Pastor Kirt Anderson (via phone)
- Mr. Alan Dimmitt (via phone)
- Pastor Pam Olsen (via phone)
- Pastor Carl Reeves (via phone)
- Pastor Blaine Whitt (via phone)

Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council Members unable to attend:

- Rabbi Sholom Ciment
- Reverend Perry Davis
- Ms. Shelia Gomez
- Dr. Jerry Haag
- Dr. Leo Mesa
- Ms. Patricia Robbins



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Proceedings

I. Call to Order and Welcome

- Chair Pat Smith welcomed the Council members and called the meeting to order.
- The roll was called by Ms. Frenchie Yon, Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection, and a quorum was confirmed.
- Opening Prayer was given by Mr. Karim Veerjee.
- Chair Smith reviewed the meeting agenda and charge to the Council members.
 - The previous meeting summary for July 2016 was inadvertently not included as part of the meeting packet and will be forwarded to Council Members for review and subsequent approval.

II. Review of Council Workgroups and Membership

A. Annual Conference/Florida Faith Symposium

- Chair Pat Smith provided an overview of this year's Faith Symposium, including the confirmed attendance of Governor Rick Scott at the event, a brief overview of musical performers and speakers, and the Symposium's schedule and luncheon.
- Pastor Reno Zunz recommended during the 1st meeting for next year's Faith Symposium, a discussion about the Council's role in the planning and assembling of the symposium should occur. He suggested looking at large corporate organizations for sponsorships that would allow the conference to grow.
- Additionally, it was recommended to further engage other faith-based organizations and to reach out to faith-based associations.
- Ms. Trena Cox asked for a clarification of the Faith Symposium as a National or State focus.
 - Chair Smith clarified that the Faith Symposium aspired to be national, however the focus of this year's event and previous ones has been on the state of Florida. The council will continue to make efforts towards the goal of making the Faith Symposium a national event.
 - Pastor Marcus Smith mentioned there would be a representative from the national Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) in attendance at this year's conference.
 - Chair Smith and Ms. Trena Cox agreed to take the lead to reach out to potential national partners, and to tap into the White House and national leaders to be a part of future symposiums.



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- Dr. Gretchen Kerr suggested the possibility of workgroup meetings being schedule before Council meetings, with the goal of discussing ideas and activities related to the workgroup before the council meeting and then reporting to the rest of the council.
 - The Council agreed with this approach and will implement the workgroup meeting structure in 2017.
- The Council reviewed the narrative description for the Annual Conference Workgroup and discussed if the workgroup should continue or become an operational component of the Council.
 - No changes were made to the narrative on the Annual Conference workgroup and the Council agreed to keep the Annual Conference workgroup.
- Mr. Roland Gonzalez suggested that the Council partner with the Department of Education and speakers on education that can support and participate in the symposium.
 - Chair Smith recommend to request a meeting with the leadership of the Department of Education’s Faith Council to discuss collaboration.
 - Chair Smith, Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Zackary Gibson with the Governor’s Office of Adoption and Child Protection agreed to facilitate this connection.
- This workgroup will now include Council Members: Ms. Trenia Cox, Mr. Roland Gonzalez, Mr. Karim Veerjee, and Pastor Marcus Smith.

B. Child Welfare

- Mr. Roland Gonzalez asked Council members to review the description of the workgroup.
 - Ms. Trenia Cox shared her desire to serve on this workgroup, but based on the proposed schedule for conducting workgroup meetings, was unsure how it would work.
 - Mr. Zackary Gibson responded that despite the proposed meeting schedule, it would not necessarily mean that all of the workgroup meetings would be schedule for the same time. He encouraged each Council member to serve on the workgroups that they are interested in and if a conflict occurred the Council would work to resolve the conflict.
 - Pastor Marcus Smith contributed, stating that conference calls could be schedule in advance of scheduled meetings to allow members to participate on other workgroups.
- Mr. Roland Gonzalez also detailed the importance of the Council in staying relevant to today’s culture and lingo, while remaining a pure moral compass for the communities in which the Council serves.
- Dr. Gretchen Kerr asked for clarification on decisions regarding workgroups.



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- Mr. Zackary Gibson shared that when a workgroup has completed the task(s) it was created to perform; the Council may consider ending the workgroup or consider operationalizing the efforts of the workgroup so it become a part of the regular function of the Council.
- The Council agreed to keep the workgroup and to correct one spelling error in the description (in the second sentence, remove the “d” so it reads, “...propose solutions...”).
- Mr. Roland Gonzalez identified the following as accomplishments of the Child Welfare workgroup in the 2016 year.
 - Many members of the workgroup participated and encouraged others to participate in the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign to raise awareness of healthy child development during Child Abuse Prevention Month.
 - Workgroup members have shared information on state initiatives and awareness months that support healthy development of children and families.
 - Through the support of the Council, the Share Your Heart program received funding through the legislature to strengthen its capacity to serve individuals and families in crisis with food, clothing, and emotional & spiritual support.
 - Through the Council’s quarterly meetings, the workgroup has shared and disseminated information to raise awareness of the need for foster and adoptive parents.
 - The workgroup has highlighted organizations who provided support to children and families to keep them out of state systems.
- Some activities that Mr. Roland Gonzalez would like the workgroup to focus on for the 2017 year include the following:
 - Expand the Share Your Heart Program to West Palm Beach and the Central Florida area.
 - For each Council member to get more faith based and community organizations to participate in the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign and assist in promoting foster care and adoption.
 - To have child care staff in faith organizations receive training/information on child development and know how to speak with families regarding concerns and available resources (to promote early identification and detection of problems that can prevent healthy development)
- Transitioning to the outcomes for the workgroup, Mr. Roland Gonzalez would like to focus on:
 - Securing funding support from the legislature to expand the Share Your Heart program to West Palm Beach and Central Florida.
 - Strengthening the relationship with the Department of Agriculture and Food Banks throughout targeted areas to provided food based on referrals received



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from organizations where there is an established MOU (Recognized the support received from Farm Share).

- Ms. Trena Cox shared in Pinellas County, they have an annual child abuse prevention conference, and is one of largest conferences in the areas and is affordable at \$25. Roughly 500 individuals attend every year. Ms. Trena Cox also shared information about Civil Citations and its implementations in her area.
- Ms. Trena Cox expanded upon a workshop that was led by the Pinellas Urban League at Dr. Gretchen Kerr's inquiry. The workshop involved a panel that took a look at issues in a mental health system. Having faith based leaders become knowledgeable on mental health disorders, so that when families come to them seeking guidance and help they know when to call in experts and how to encourage families that are distrustful of the system to work with it. Additional workshops include information about building resiliency through community resources and religious faith. The workshops has tremendous support from the community.
- Dr. Gretchen Kerr suggested the council take good ideas that communities have done and accomplished and replicate those efforts in other areas and around the state.
 - Ms. Trena Cox will send outline to OACP and show dates & times for a call with the meeting organizer.
- Mr. Roland Gonzalez mentioned how the faith community could support the community by providing school activities for teens and youth after school.
- The workgroup will now include Council members: Mr. Alan Dimmitt and Ms. Trena Cox.

C. Criminal Justice

- Workgroup lead, Dr. Gretchen Kerr, asked council members to review the description of the workgroup then share their thoughts.
 - Mr. Zack Gibson noticed a tense typo in the second sentence of the description. Notes were made to change it from "...proposed solutions..." to "...propose solutions..." Additionally, Mr. Zack Gibson mentioned that the previous workgroup, Child Welfare possessed a similar typo.
- Pastor Reno Zunz asked Dr. Gretchen Kerr how the workgroup collaborates outside of meeting. Dr. Gretchen Kerr describe how in the beginning of the year; they were able to have monthly conference calls to communicate but fell out of practice as members became very busy.
- Pastor Reno Zunz proposed the possibility of the council sending quarterly reports to other council members about initiatives and the great things that are going on in each council member's area.
- Dr. Gretchen Kerr identified the following as accomplishments of the Criminal Justice workgroup in the year 2016.



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- The workgroup initiated communication with the Department of Corrections around reentry efforts however, the workgroup will continue its efforts to strengthen the Council's relationship with the Department of Corrections.
- The workgroup has supported the state's effort to raise public awareness of human trafficking by partnering with Shared Hope International to host the Just Faith Summit and encouraged participation in the Florida Human Trafficking Summit.
 - Additionally, encouraging the participation in local taskforces.
- The workgroup conducted presentations on how faith and government can work together.
 - Reiterate to faith-based organizations that it is okay to partner with government.
 - Mr. Zack Gibson shared the following quote related to faith and government working together, "There is institutional separation but functional interaction for the greater good of all people." This quote was shared as a means to create a framework for how the Council can establish a relationship between state agencies and local faith organizations to maximize the Council's efforts to collaborate and help Florida communities.
- Through our July meeting, the workgroup has shared and disseminated information about the Federal Bonding program that support at-risk individuals in securing employment.
- Dr. Gretchen Kerr agreed with Mr. Roland Gonzalez, that the Council has highlighted organizations to provide support to children and families to keep them out of state systems.
- Ms. Trenia Cox brought up a video she had recently seen of an inmate being beaten by a correctional guard and wanted to know who she should send that video to for investigation. In addition, she mentioned that the incident and the Banning the Box could be good advocacy initiatives for the council to be involved in.
 - Mr. Zack Gibson suggested forwarding such concerns to the Governor's Office of Citizen Services, who will then reach out to the respective agency for immediate action related to an incident.
 - Pastor Marcus Smith cautioned the Council of stepping over their bounds by interjecting the council into the investigation.
 - Mr. Zack Gibson added that if anyone else come across something that caused similar concerns to contact the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection or the Governor's Office of Citizen's Services.
 - In regards to Banning the Box, Mr. Gibson shared how that initiative has passed through local levels but has yet to pass through the state level. The box has been banned in the City of Tallahassee.



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- Some activities that Dr. Gretchen Kerr would like to focus on for the 2017 year include the following:
 - Hosting a faith and government event that will highlight collaboration in addressing human trafficking.
 - Dr. Gretchen Kerr recounted a story of a central Florida church who had a volunteer who was being trafficked for years without anyone in the church knowing until something severe happened and then provided inappropriate resources for the individuals causing more distress. The church was heartbroken because they had not realized what was happening and then did not know how to best help their volunteer. The event would highlight how even though churches are great resources for the community, they still need to collaborate with government agencies to ensure the right services and supports are provided for victims.
 - Mr. Zack Gibson mentioned how individuals want to see the government leaders and these appearances would draw individuals from the community to attend events and get involved.
 - The goal of the workgroup is to have this collaborative event in the Fall of 2017.
 - In discussing this event, Mr. Zack Gibson mentioned how it is important that when council members are organizing and developing these great events in their individual areas to mention the council. Because through their individual work, council members are contributing to the overall goals of the Council and the Council needs to work on becoming more visible to Florida's citizens.
 - Dr. Gretchen Kerr mentioned that she would like to have the Council be mentioned at the event in fall and will provide an outline or framework of the event at the next meeting so it can be presented.
 - The workgroup will continue to build the relationship with DOC to support reentry efforts.
 - The workgroup will work to promote support of the Children of Inmates program. A program that works to strengthen the relationships between children and their incarcerated parents.
 - The workgroup will identify ways in which to support DJJ in its prevention efforts.
 - For the workgroup to do a better job in promoting efforts of the Council and letting others know that the workgroup serve on the Council and can help with facilitating connections to assist them with their needs.
 - Dr. Gretchen Kerr asserted the importance of establishing a strong network of connections.



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- The outcomes for the workgroup, that Dr. Gretchen Kerr feels they could focus on:
 - Hosting an event to bring faith and government together to address human trafficking that involves state leaders.
 - Have an ongoing communication with DOC and DJJ to support their initiatives and efforts.
- Pastor Marcus Smith stated the symposium should be made up all of these individuals because it is the Council's big coming together. Additionally, tying in the Council's efforts and workgroups to get buy-in from communities, and taking the opportunity to build networks with individuals in the communities and having a Council presence in communities.
- This workgroup will now include Pastor Blaine Whitt, Pastor Marcus Smith and Reverend Perry Davis.

D. Disaster Planning

- Workgroup lead, Ms. Sheila Gomez, was not present at the meeting and was unable to present on the Disaster Planning workgroup. Mr. Zack Gibson presented on her behalf from information provided before the meeting.
- The following were identified by Ms. Sheila Gomez prior to the meeting, as accomplishments of the workgroup during the 2016 year.
 - The workgroup disseminated information about hurricane preparedness activities.
 - Mr. Zack Gibson noted that while the council has been credited with the dissemination of information, the council does not have a measure of the impact that dissemination of information creates.
 - The workgroup encouraged contributions to the Florida Disaster Fund after the Pulse nightclub shooting.
 - The workgroup supported the Department of Health efforts to raise awareness of Zika and the Spill the Water campaign.
 - The workgroup had the Division of Emergency Management provide informational cards on preparedness for both adults and children, and had them provide 500 flashlights to be included in the Faith Symposium conference bags.
 - Mr. Zack Gibson mentioned how Ms. Sheila Gomez has a connection with the Catholic Representative for the State-wide Disaster and Ms. Sheila Gomez and Mr. Zack Gibson are looking into scheduling a meeting.
 - Pastor Pam Olsen shared how the faith community has stepped up to support state efforts with the all the disasters in Florida the last 4 months. Government leaders call on faith and community leaders because they know that they can get in there and start working immediately on providing relief.
- The following were identified as focuses for the workgroup in the year 2017:
 - Supporting the state's effort to encourage preparedness when the hurricane season starts June 1, 2017.



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- Determining if faith organizations are involved in the Governor's hurricane conference and if there is value in having a presentation at the conference.
- Encouraging faith and community organizations to become ACCESS partners to enable individuals and families to obtain benefits in their local areas in times of disaster.
- Encourage faith and community organizations to be certified in CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams).
- Supporting the efforts of Volunteer Florida to enlist organizations to serve in times of disaster.
- Mr. Karim Veerjee asked if Florida has a structure to connect all faith organizations.
 - Mr. Zack Gibson responded that there is a system, however it is scattered. Anytime a faith leader comes to a meeting, the council puts them on a distribution list. However, this list is incomplete which makes it important for council members to have a strong network within their communities.
- Dr. Gretchen Kerr suggested that this might present another opportunity for the use of a specific program that would help with organizing the distribution centers' information and creating a possible pilot program for disasters.
- Transitioning to the outcomes for the workgroup, the following were identified as focuses:
 - Having the Division of Emergency Management and/or Department of Health – Disaster Response participate as a sponsor in the 2017 Faith Symposium.
 - Coordinating efforts to have faith organizations provide presentations at conferences on their role to assist with preparedness, response and recovery.
- This workgroup will include Mr. Karim Veerjee.

E. Family Initiatives

- Workgroup lead, Vice-Chair Richard Albertson, identified the following as accomplishments of the Family Initiatives workgroup in the year 2016.
 - The workgroup has supported the Department of Agriculture's efforts to enlist organizations to serve as summer feeding sponsors and sites.
 - Mr. Zack Gibson has had conversations with the Department to obtain data on the increased number of providers and to identify targeted areas through the Florida Roadmap to Healthy living website.
 - The workgroup developed a website in targeted areas to promote organizations that offer free trainings/meetings to strengthen relationships and support families.
 - The workgroup supported fatherhood initiatives and activities and highlighted organizations for their efforts.
 - The workgroup supported county health departments efforts to engage faith organizations to become healthier.



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- DCF has an upcoming event with All Pro Dads on November 16th in St. Petersburg. Chair Pat Smith stated she will share information about the event next week.
 - Ms. Trenia Cox shared how Pinellas county is focusing on building protective factors and addressing food insecurity within their county.
 - University of South Florida in St. Petersburg has offered a Baby Talk series that focus on developmental stages.
 - Florida State University has a website with information on child development.
 - Chair Pat Smith and Mr. Zack Gibson will get that information to the council.
 - Dr. Amy Weatherby is a nationally recognized expert on autism and runs the Autism Center at Florida State University.
- Some activities that Vice Chair Richard Albertson would like to focus on for the 2017 year include the following:
 - Tripling the number of family and healthy marriage resource providers.
 - Strengthening the partnership with All Pro Dads and bring together various fatherhood groups to share information, ideas and resources.
 - Furthering the development of the workgroup and the council's relationship with the Department of Health and county health offices to support their efforts in engaging faith and community organizations to promote healthy weight, nutrition and chronic disease prevention.
 - The Department of Health has a campaign called a Heart Partnership and their goal is to have over 100 churches be their Heart Partners with at least two churches in every community.
 - During a meeting with the Department of Health, Mr. Zack Gibson shared they spoke about the possibility of churches considering to have resource room in which state agency could provide materials about state resources and/or programs.
 - Chair Pat Smith mentioned that most churches have ministries for these specific populations and the key is packaging the information in a way that makes it easy to disseminate.
 - Encouraging faith organizations to support adoption finalizations, child reunifications, and Health Families Florida graduations.
 - Encouraging faith organizations to establish a resource room where health and other information can be accessed by individuals and families.
 - Exploring opportunities to provide presentations at Florida conferences on healthy relationships and marriages.
 - Supporting efforts by Farm Share to provide free food distributions.
 - Promoting peer to peer training and professional development among Council members.



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- Additionally, having community conversation and bring in outside experts to present. One group that Vice-Chair Richard Albertson would like to invite to speak is Fight a New Drug, which discusses the devastating effects of pornography on the brain and on the family. That way, each meeting can have a theme or concentrated issue to focus on.
 - Chair Pat Smith mentioned the option of bringing in churches to help host this project or program and getting the communities involved.
 - Dr. Gretchen Kerr followed up with additional information gleaned from new research which shows pornography being more addictive than cocaine and increasing the desire for violence in the individuals who watch it and acting it out. Additionally, she provided information about Bob Tratrillion, who is doing research on pornography and how that ties in with sexual abuse in the church. Dr. Gretchen Kerr also mentioned how Mr. Bob Tratrillion is working on getting churches certified and trained to recognize abuse, because of its rampant prevalence in churches.
- Transitioning to the outcomes for the workgroup, Vice-Chair Richard Albertson would like to focus on:
 - Having a regular call with fatherhood groups from throughout the state to share information, ideas and strategies.
 - Enlisting faith organizations to partner with Department of Health on specific health initiatives, and creating resource room with in churches.
 - Chair Pat Smith shared that churches have many ministries and the workgroup should think about how they can bring it all together.
 - Agencies can offer a lot of materials to help families.
- This workgroup will include Chair Pat Smith, Pastor Reno Zunz and Mr. Tom Lukasik.

F. Legislative

- Pastor Pam Olsen asked that council members please pray for Representative Scott Plakon's wife Susie. She was diagnosed with Alzheimer and the couple was in a car accident earlier this year.
- Workgroup lead Pastor Pam Olsen identified the following as accomplishments of the Legislative workgroup in the year 2016.
 - The workgroup supported the bills HB 545 and HB 784 which increased human trafficking penalties.
 - One of the bills passed expanded scholarships for students with special needs, including those with autism.
- Pastor Reno Zunz brought up a previous bill regarding religious freedom that was voted on in 2015, however this bill was not brought to legislation during the 2016 session.



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- Pastor Pam Olsen has already met with the Governor's Legislative Office and has scheduled a meeting to meet with the House and Senate to discuss 2017 legislation agendas.
- Pastor Pam Olsen encouraged Council members that if come across bills while working on their workgroups, or if they know of one being put forward by one of their representatives to bring it to the Legislative workgroup so the Council can review and determine whether to get behind it.
- Some activities that Pastor Pam Olsen would like to focus on for the 2017 year include the following:
 - Working with the Governor's Legislative Office and the Office of Policy and Budget to identify policies that align with Council efforts and statutory charge.
 - Assessing opportunities for the Council to support targeted legislation through letters of support.
- This workgroup will include Pastor Marcus Smith.

III. Nominations for Vice-Chair Position

- Dr. Gretchen Kerr has volunteered to serve as Vice-Chair.
- Chair Pat Smith nominated Pastor Marcus Smith to serve as Vice-Chair and Pastor Marcus Smith accepted.
- Pastor Marcus Smith nominated Pastor Carl Reeves to serve as Vice-Chair.
- Mr. Zack Gibson will send out an email to council members regarding their vote for Vice-Chair which will then be announced.
- Chair Pat Smith took a minute to thank everyone for a great year and for Council's support during her tenure as Council Chair.
- Mr. Zack Gibson mentioned that there will be an email sent to remind Council members to update their photos and bios. The email will also ask Council members to identify which workgroups they would like to serve on and what other areas Council members can offer assistance to individuals in the community.

IV. Council Meeting Schedule for 2017

- Proposed location included Tallahassee, St. Petersburg, Orlando (outside of the Faith Symposium), and Ft. Lauderdale
- After meeting with 2017 Chair Richard Albertson, an email will go out with a proposed schedule for 2017 from the OACP, which will contain two proposed dates within each quarter for the meetings.

V. Closing

- A. Welcome to the Council's new Chair Richard Albertson.
- B. Next Meeting Date: TBA 2017
- C. Meeting Adjourned