



## Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 1:00pm – 5:00pm  
Florida Capitol, Governor's Cabinet Meeting Room  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399



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](mailto:Frenchie.Yon@eog.myflorida.com) to obtain meeting materials or visit [www.flgov.com/fbcb](http://www.flgov.com/fbcb).

### Attendance Summary

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

- Ms. Pat Smith, Chair
- Mr. Richard Albertson, Vice Chair
- Pastor Kirt Anderson (via phone)
- Reverend Perry Davis
- Mr. Alan Dimmitt
- Mr. Roland Gonzalez
- Dr. Jerry Haag (via phone)
- Reverend Spike Hogan
- Dr. Gretchen Kerr
- Ms. Carolyn Ketchel
- Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner
- Pastor Pam Olsen
- Pastor Carl Reeves
- Ms. Patricia Robbins (via phone)
- Pastor Marcus Smith
- Mr. Karim Veerjee
- Pastor Blaine Whitt
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#### **Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council Members unable to attend:**

- Rabbi Sholom Ciment
- Mr. Tom Lukasik
- Dr. Leo Mesa
- Pastor Reno Zunz

### Proceedings

#### **I. Call to Order and Welcome**

- Ms. Pat Smith, Chair of the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council (FBCBAC) and Community Relations Director for the Florida Department of Children and Families welcomed the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council (Council) members and called the meeting to order. The Chairman reviewed the meeting agenda and charge to the Council members.
- Opening Prayer was given by Reverend Dr. R. B. Holmes, Jr., Senior Pastor of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Tallahassee.
- The roll was called by Ms. Frenchie Yon, Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection and a quorum was confirmed.

## **II. Chair Updates**

- Chair Smith thanked Dr. Gretchen Kerr for her leadership as immediate Past-Chair of the Council and recognized Mr. Richard Albertson as the incoming Vice-Chair of the Council for 2016.
- Mr. Zackary Gibson, Chief Child Advocate and Director of the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection provided information on the following upcoming activities and events:
  - National Human Trafficking Awareness Month – January
  - National Child Abuse Prevention Month – April
  - Youth Mental Health First Aid Training
- Dr. Gretchen Kerr shared information regarding the JUST Faith Summit being held at Northland Church in Longwood, FL on April 20-22, 2016

## **III. Activities and Initiatives to Engage Faith and Community Organizations**

- A. Surgeon General John Armstrong, Florida Department of Health.
- a. Surgeon General states, "I am committed to a network effort amongst the communities, including the Faith based community to ensure the overall health of the citizens of the state of Florida".
  - b. Surgeon General Armstrong mentions the importance of healthy eating and living an active life style.
  - c. The state has launched Florida Healthy Babies to eliminate health disparity and infant mortality in the state.
  - d. The state has launched Healthiest Way Florida to promote healthy choices in life styles, and diet.
  - e. *Questions for the Surgeon General:*
    - i. Member of the Advisory Council, Mr. Roland Gonzalez from Victory from Youth commends the Surgeon General for his great efforts and team in Miami-Dade County.
    - ii. Member of the Advisory Council, Mr. Richard Albertson asks, what are the three points that have been difficult for you to accomplish and what are the strides that you are making to change it?
    - iii. *Response:* The threat that we see in our state is weight problems. This is why we have launched "Healthiest Ways Florida" two years ago to make people get started on thinking of healthier choices for their lives. We have also invested efforts in communities such as schools, corporations and organizations so that they can join our efforts to promoting healthier choices.
    - iv. Member of the Advisory Council, Ms. Patricia Robbins thanks the Surgeon General for participating in the quarterly vegetable and fruit distribution in Miami Dade County.
    - v. Member of the Advisory Council, Ms. Carolyn Ketchel speaks about an initiative by Dr. Chapman that has been created in conjunction with farmer markets to provide healthier food options to communities.

- vi. Member of the Advisory Council asks Surgeon General whether there are any initiatives from the Health Department with the Department of Corrections to promote health in the inmate population.
  - vii. *Response:* Yes, we are taking steps towards initiatives between these two departments.
- B. Florida Senator Eleanor Sobel, Chairwoman of the Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee.
  - a. Senator Sobel hopes to continue to work alongside the Faith and Community Based Advisory Council on protecting Florida Children, working against Human Trafficking and making strides toward prison reform.
- C. Florida Representative Gayle B. Harrell, Chairwoman of the Children, Families and Seniors Subcommittee.
  - a. My role as chairwoman is to oversee and promote legislation that solves some of the basic problems that we have in our state dealing with children, family and seniors. Faith plays a significant part on how I address these issues. Everything the Faith based and Community based Advisory Council does is a key component of the way we analyze and promote legislation. Without our faith-based community, we cannot move forward to fix the issues dealing with the most vulnerable citizens in Florida.
  - b. *Questions for the Representative:*
    - i. Member of the Advisory Council, Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner asks, when it comes to Human Trafficking, what are the efforts being done with the legislature to address not only the supply, but the demand of these services in the State of Florida?
    - ii. *Response:* Yes, we are starting to see increased penalties for those citizens that play into human traffic and get involved in relationship with minors. We are also beginning to observe the drug usage in human trafficking. I believe in public shaming, among other factors, when it comes to the citizens who partake into prostitution of minors.
    - iii. Member of the Advisory Council, Dr. Jerry Haag comments on the great job that the Representative has done against Human Trafficking.
- D. Secretary for the Department of Children and Families, Mike Carroll.
  - a. The Department of Children and Families provides services from cradle to grave. We are aligned with the Faith- Based Council in making sure that families and children have the best of care. The Council has the credibility in the communities to provide assistance and positive role models for young children.
  - b. *Questions for Secretary Carroll:*
    - i. Member of the Advisory Council, Ms. Carolyn Ketchel commends the Secretary for his job.
    - ii. Member of the Advisory Council, Mr. Roland Gonzalez thanks the Secretary for his willingness to collaborate with the council regarding the improvement of the most vulnerable citizens.
- E. The Honorable, Dennis Baxley, Representative and Chair, Local and Federal Affairs Committee, Florida House of Representatives.

- F. Ms. Janine Rogers, Director of Volunteer and Community Outreach, Florida Department of Education.
  - a. We are actively looking for partners throughout the state of Florida to join us in our Dementia Care and Cure Initiative.
  - b. Senior Day at the Capitol – January 1/27/16
- G. Mr. Patrick Mahoney, Bureau Chief, Division of Development, Improvement and Readiness, Florida Department of Corrections.
  - a. The department has a new mission statement. The statement is the following: To provide a continuum of services to meet the needs of those instructed to our care. Providing a professional and safe environment to lower victimization and ensuring the premium of life.
  - b. Rebranding initiative has taken place in the Division of Development, Improvement and Readiness.
  - c. Created Spectrum Needs Assessment Tool.
- H. Ms. Angela Rivers, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Family and Community Outreach, Florida Department of Education.
  - a. These are the following ways in which the Faith Based and Community Council can aid the Department of Education. Leveraging resources to support schools, more faith organizations can partner with schools to provide resources. These resources don't have to be strictly monetarily, rather, they can be a variety of resources such as back to school readiness events. Encourage members of the faith based community to serve as volunteer in schools. Creating mentorship opportunities for young children and creating after school center in your respective church for local school children.
- I. Secretary Christina Daly, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.
  - a. In the last five years, we have seen a decrease in juvenile arrest and delinquency to 32% in the State of Florida. The percentage of juvenile delinquency is at its lowest it has been in thirty years.
  - b. In 2011, the department established its roadmap to system excellence to create reform in the Florida Juvenile Justice.
  - c. One of the initiatives that have contributed to the decrease of juvenile arrest is the use of civil citations. Another one is Juvenile Justice System for Improvement Project. The project builds a system in dealing with children in communities. It created a validated disposition assessment which evaluates what type of service the children need.
- J. Mr. Bryan Koon, Florida Division of Emergency Management
  - a. No recent catastrophic emergencies.
- K. Ms. Meghan Murry, Director of Community Supports, Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities
  - a. The Resource Directory was created by the agency to fulfill the needs of people with disabilities that could not be met by the agency. The Directory has 9000 different resources for people with disabilities to utilize and receive assistance. We ask that the Faith Based Council united to provide resources to add to the Directory.
- L. Ms. LaKeisha Hood, Assistant Director, Division of Food, Nutrition, and Wellness, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

- a. The Faith based council can help us with the following initiatives. The Lunch Program Initiative, Summer Food Service Program, Milk Service Program, After School Snack Program, Emergency Food Program, Supplemental Food Program, and Farmers to School Food Program.
- b. The Summer Food Service Program needs the help of community based and faith based organizations in order to increase the amount of meals that are given to children during the summer.
- c. The Farm to School Programs encourages schools to have a school garden. The Department has learned that these garden projects require a stable person who can guide the students and support the school to create and sustain the school garden. The department urges the faith based council to encourage members to be part of this initiative.

#### **IV. Presentations**

- A. Overview of the Florida Council of Churches and Collaboration Opportunities, Reverend Dr. Russell Meyer, Executive Director, Florida Council of Churches.
  - a. The Reverend urges the Council to address racial disparities, discrimination and incarceration of people of color.
- B. Jabari Paul (Faith in Florida)
  - a. The organization seeks to provide advancement in health care expansion, civil rights and immigration reform. Our organization is composed of various religions and denominations.
- C. Reverend Anthony Evans, the National Black Church Initiative and the President, National Black Church Initiative.
  - a. The Initiative partners with different faith based organizations to advance their causes.
- D. The 111 Project, Mr. Charles McDonald, Executive Director, Children’s Home Society, and Mrs. Missy Albritton.
  - a. March 1<sup>st</sup> – Get Rid of Foster Care Event
  - b. The Project creates resources for foster parents and gives the opportunity to volunteer to help out by creating meals or offering a home to foster parents.

#### **V. Public Comment**

- A. Pastor Gary Montgomery’s comment is to create awareness about the Children of Inmates Program. The program advocates for legislation that supports communication between the children and the incarcerated parent, mentors children and provides support to the children and family members in this difficult process.

#### **VI. Closing**

- A. 2016 Advisory Council Meeting Dates and Locations
  - a. April 26, 2016 – Pensacola, FL
  - b. July 26, 2016 – Ocala, FL
  - c. October 2016 – Orlando, FL (Date TBD; National Faith Symposium)