



FLORIDA FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY-BASED ADVISORY COUNCIL RESULTS OF THE PLANNING SURVEY

1. How faith-based and community-based organizations can best compete with other organizations for the delivery of state services?
 - **The state should continue, if they have not, having a portal for faith-based and community based organizations to apply for grants. It would be most helpful if an email notification list that these groups could sign up for would receive first notification of these opportunities.**
 - They must present themselves as non-partisan, non-sectarian, and focussed on their mission. An individual seeking help must know they are going to receive the help they seek without pressure or imposition of an organization's agenda. Key is focus on the mission.
 - **There are many misconceptions about restrictions on faith-based organizations competing for government contracts. Provided the organization is willing to comply with the terms of the contract, there are few situations when a faith-based organization would be prohibited from competing. However, flexibility and a degree of pragmatism are necessary for faith-based organizations to be successful in partnering with government.**
 - Not sure-show on our website what is available??

I am willing to lead efforts with this: Yes 2 No

2. How best to develop and coordinate activities of faith-based and community-based programs and initiatives?
 - **It has been hard to get a handle on this given the geographic diversity and size of the state. First effort might be to survey the major faith communities as to their programs/initiatives. Maybe the starting point is to check with the community-based care groups that have established a working relationship. The ultimate goal could be a website where people can go to find this information.**
 - They must be indigenous, growing out of actual needs in and niches of particular communities. They cannot grow out of a governmental agenda or program, and yet state agencies may partner after the fact.
 - **Most coordination occurs at the local level, in the form of ministerial alliances and other local forums for non-profit collaboration. State government can best support these efforts by providing accurate information to local groups on opportunities.**
 - We need to develop a working list of faith-based and community-based statewide leaders and email addresses to facilitate who is doing what, where. Do we need county coordinators?

I am willing to lead efforts with this: Yes 1 No



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3. How best to ensure that state policy decisions take into account the capacity of faith-based and other community-based initiatives to assist in the achievement of state priorities?
- **A closer working relationship with DCF, APD and others so grassroots advocacy can assist state agencies in advocating for the needs in their communities. This would be a natural outgrowth if a database of fb/cb groups is developed.**
 - Money is an issue. Most FBCB organizations run on fumes. If the state chooses to partner with an organization it must be aware of the fiscal impacts and not expect what it will not fund, and when it does fund to make it specific and measurable. When state properties go on the block, real estate in particular, to inform local FBCB organizations.
 - **This is something that must be made a priority at the top, and must be frequently and publically supported by the Governor.**
 - Not sure

I am willing to lead efforts with this: Yes No

4. How best to identify and promote best practices across state government relating to the delivery of services by faith-based and other community-based organizations?
- **At one time, the council was looking at giving awards to small faith-based and community-based organizations using best practices. Maybe the departments, in their interactions, can help identify groups they interact with. Maybe Gov. Scott can come up with a way to highlight those kinda like Jeb Bush used to do points of light**
 - The successful organizations, St. Matthew's House in Naples for example, can be a resource for best practices. In virtually all instances the people on the ground already know what works and their experience can be a tremendous resource.
 - **See #3 above**
 - I think this ties into #1 identifying leaders and organizations

I am willing to lead efforts with this: Yes No

5. How best to coordinate public awareness of faith-based and community nonprofit initiatives, such as demonstration pilot programs or projects, public-private partnerships, volunteerism, and special projects?
- **One that comes to mind of extreme importance to our children, our future is what started as Safe Families and I think is called something else. Publicity by highlighting churches that have been effective may encourage other churches to participate. This can be through the Gov. newsletter, state websites, press conferences , any number of ways to get the word out.**
 - The work of the state needs a human face. Highlighting actual stories of people served works and involving state staff or volunteers in FBCB organization enables real awareness.
 - **By lifting up such projects and drawing attention to them. An appearance by the Governor or First Lady goes a long way to draw attention to such success stories.**
 - This should be on our website and Facebook, we should have a criteria set up to filter who and what goes on the site

I am willing to lead efforts with this: Yes No



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6. How best to encourage private charitable giving to support faith-based and community-based initiatives?
- **To me, this goes hand in hand with the idea of highlighting best practices of fb/cb initiatives and by publicizing these to encourage giving to support and sustain the initiatives.**
 - When religious organizations partner with local FBCB organizations, people and resources are deployed and so much is accomplished. Mision Peniel in Immokalee would not have survived without specific congregational participation.
 - **I have seen many examples of the government making it difficult for community-based organizations to raise private charitable gifts. When the government prescribes the governance structure and board composition of a community-based non-profit (such as is the case with CBC's and SAMH Managing Entities) it usually ends up in the creation of a quasi-governmental organization – and not an organization that is likely to raise much private charitable support.**
 - How much do we get involved in this part? This should be discussed –do we list groups, if so who decides who to list?

I am willing to lead efforts with this: Yes No

7. How best to bring concerns, ideas, and policy options to the Governor and Legislature for assisting, strengthening, and replicating successful faith-based and other community-based programs?
- **See answer to 10 below. The Council could also have an annual meeting with the Gov. for discussion for two way discussion.**
 - The Governor is hammered and the Legislature is only in session a few months. Probably the best avenue of influence is through the Governor's staff and appointees on the ground.
 - **Maybe we could hold a summit with the leadership and the faith/community-based non-profit community. I have participated in such summits at the federal level with the leadership of the House, Senate and White House – and they are very effective at energizing the non-profit community. It also might help to have a designated faith and community-based liaison in each department of the government, as is the case with the federal government.**
 - I think certain concerns and policies should be talked about like promoting marriage, adoption, stopping human trafficking, and being prepared for disaster – these areas should be discussed and ideas put forth.

I am willing to lead efforts with this: Yes No Maybe 1



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8. How best to develop and implement strategic initiatives to strengthen the institutions of families and communities in this state?

- **Think for families, this has to start with DCF. They have Partners for Promise (I think that is the name) and they work in the communities through CBC. Is there some kind of mechanism for feed back from the CBC back to DCF where they can propose initiatives that have been successful?**
- The Governor's efforts at enhancing the economy is probably the most important type of participation the state can perform, especially when we know that financial problems are often the prelude to broken families. Let religious institutions define marriage and the state concern itself only with contracts.
- **By sponsoring local gatherings of public and private organizations interested in collaborating on such activities.**
- Open discussion, pick top initiatives and strategize the points on how to achieve the goal

I am willing to lead efforts with this: Yes No

9. How best to showcase and herald innovative grassroots nonprofit organizations and civic initiatives?

- **This is somewhat covered in the response to 4. The Council could be the place where people send in innovative grassroots and civic initiatives. These could be highlighted on a website as mentioned in 2.**
- Utilize publicity avenues already at work within the state, encourage PSA's...I'm not well informed on this one.
- **See answer #5 above.**
- We should break them up into categories and can list them on the website

I am willing to lead efforts with this: Yes No

10. How best to eliminate unnecessary legislative, regulatory, and other bureaucratic barriers that impede effective faith-based and other community-based efforts to address social problems?

- **Having another statewide conference has been discussed. It would be good to have an "open forum session" where groups in attendance could voice the barriers they have for service delivery. Also ask input from agencies.**
- Encourage local zoning to include the most effective works to go forward. Bonita Springs allows chickens but not the homeless.
- **See answer #7 above.**
- Make sure we have an advocate in the Governor's office and the House and Senate and keep them educated on the rights of faith based efforts to address the issues

I am willing to lead efforts with this: Yes I No



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11. How best to monitor implementation of state policy affecting faith-based and other community-based organizations?

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- More than a paper reporting system, regular visits from state offices or appointees as appropriate. These contacts ought to be often, participating in a variety of activities hosted by the organizations, enabling a relationship with the state through personal contact.
- **It would be helpful to ask the faith-based and community-based organizations directly. A survey might be helpful in determining this.**
- Same as #10 and someone has to stay on top of this

I am willing to lead efforts with this: Yes No

12. How best to ensure that the efforts of faith-based and other community-based organizations meet objective criteria for performance and accountability?

- **Would have to be developed. A while back the state was going to require all groups getting funding to be accredited which would have forced them to develop performance and accountability goals.**
- Same as 11.
- **They should be held to the same contractual standards for performance as any other government contractor.**
- Not sure

I am willing to lead efforts with this: Yes No