

Workforce Investment Board

Faith Based Committee

Thursday, June 16, 2011 – 2:00 p.m.

One Stop Service Center
2797 E Ajo Way, 3rd Floor Room 301
Tucson, AZ

MEETING SUMMARY

- I. **Call to Order** – Peg Harmon (Chair) at 2:18 p.m.
- II. **Introductions/Attendance:**

Peg Harmon, Chair	Cynthia Palmer
Jill Pearson	Linda Leatherman, Staff
Bill Fisher	Risé Hart, staff
- III. **Review Meeting Summary** – Reviewed.
- IV. **ArizonaSERVES: Review and website overview**

Linda Leatherman gave an overview about the ArizonaSERVES website. The five key service opportunities are: 1) Foster care, 2) Free or reduced child care, 3) Supervised CPS visits, 4) Elder Independence/grandparents raising grandchildren, and 5) Transportation for the underserved. Each service opportunities section on the website has an overview and toolkit Peg Harmon stated the Webmaster is working on a more user friendly-vision to allow users quicker access to the information on the site. The site has been up for approximately six months. Peggy reported that there will be an ArizonaSERVES summit on September 9. The summit is free. Peggy requested that the committee review the ArizonaSERVES Taskforce website: <https://www.azdes.gov/arizonaserveshome.aspx>.
- V. **Building coalitions for Forster Care: Job Corps & Open Table** – *Bill Fisher, Pantano Christian Church/Southern Arizona Executive Committee for Open Table*

Bill has been involved in working with Christian Family Care Agency and Arizona Baptist Children's Services to start a coalition called "No Children Waiting" (website: <http://nochildwaiting.org/resources/>). The purpose of the coalition is to bring awareness of the need for foster care to the churches in Arizona and to challenge the churches to become engaged with foster care, respite care, mentoring, and support groups. The coalition will be developing models for getting a layperson in the church involved in the program. There will be a meeting in June to finalize the mission, goals, etc. Bill mentioned the possibility of creating sub coalitions in Tucson and other cites in Arizona as currently the coalition meetings are in Phoenix. Another model is

connecting the family with other resources (e.g. Connect-One) to help the family with their foster care experience and initial adoption issues. There is a great need to address the issue of helping children who are aging out of foster care. Many of these children become homeless or incarcerated. One model (Open Table) consists of 12 people meeting to hear the homeless candidate's story and then create a life plan. The table meets weekly for an hour for one year and each member of the Open Table has a duty (chair). The relationship between the Open Table staff and the person receiving guidance is ongoing. Bill talked about how the first Open Table started which resulted in a homeless man given assistance in finding training for a security job and a loan for buying a home. He paid the loan back in approximately three months. Current Open Tables in Tucson are Pantano Christian Church, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (starts in August), and Desert Skies United Methodist Church. Open Table opportunities can be for homelessness, foster care, prisoner entry, and refugees. They are in the process of applying for a grant to study how Open Table assists children aging out of foster care in Arizona and Texas by using a model.

Open Table website: <http://theopentable.org/>.

Linda has been talking to Job Corps about the aging out foster care children issue. Linda suggested using Open Table as an avenue to inform aging out foster care children about Job Corps opportunities.

- VI. Surveying the FBCO's (faith-based & community organizations) for employment needs** – Tabled for now until the Workforce Investment Board decides on the targeted industry sectors.
- VII. Creating an information resource for the faith-based community**
Linda reported that she has been discussing the Pima County Faith-Based website issues (i.e. adding links to other faith based sites) with the Pima County Webmaster.
- X. Next Meeting:** Staff will survey members regarding their preference for time/day for the August meeting. (Tuesday or Thursday mornings at 8am)
- XI. Adjournment** – 3:26 p.m.