

Faith in Motion

Creating Effective and Lasting Faith-Based Collaboration

Orange County, Children and Family Services

Riverside County, Department of Public Social Services

Children's Services Division


Adult Services Division

Introductions

- James Deming, Senior Social Services Supervisor , Orange County
- Roylyn Burton, Community Program Specialist, Orange County
- Michael McConnell, Regional Manager, Riverside County
- Susan Mahoney, Regional Manager, Riverside County
- Erin Kim, Mariners Church
- Beth Vangness, Immanuel Lutheran Church

Bright Beginnings

Faith in Motion began with Orange County Children and Family Services in 2006 and has since branched out to incorporate other counties as well as Adult Services. With this in mind, we would like to give you some background as to how Faith in Motion came about.



Wonderful things happen when people with a heart of compassion act upon a call to make a difference in the lives of children and adults who have suffered abuse or neglect.

Security is renewed.

Hearts are mended.

Families are transformed.

- 'Ohana means family — no one gets left behind, and no one is ever forgotten.
Lilo & Stitch

History

- In 2001, the Federal Government initiated CFSR's (Child Family Service Reviews). Initially 7 outcomes for children in foster care were examined. National standards were set. No state met the standards established. Each state had to develop their own Program Improvement Plan thus leading us to AB 636 (Child Welfare Systems Improvement and Accountability Act)

AB 636

- Is data-driven and monitors results through the statewide child welfare data system that records information regarding all children served.
- **Requires counties to collaborate with community partners and encourages interagency coordination and shared responsibility for outcomes.**
- Establishes public accountability through Boards of Supervisors' approval of county system improvement plans and the use of regularly published data available on the Internet.
- Redefines accountability by measuring the results rather than the process of providing child welfare services, retaining some key process measures.
- **Promotes the sharing of promising practices among counties.**
- Requires counties to develop system improvement plans that dovetail with the goals to which the state has agreed in the federal Program Improvement Plan (PIP) and that are also based on a comprehensive analysis of each county's strengths, challenges, issues and past performance.

System Improvement Plans

- Each county's SIP looks different depending on the level of individual county's outcomes.
- Each county is responsible for developing a plan to address the improvement of their outcomes.
- Each county is tasked in doing so with the same approaches.

Collaboration with Community Partners

- **One of the requirements of AB636 is for counties to collaborate with community partners and encourage interagency coordination and shared responsibility for outcomes.**
- **Faith partners are community partners that are often forgotten or shied away from.**

Why Partner with the Faith Community

- **The Faith Community has the largest population base. More people attend a faith based service during the week than all people attend professional sporting events in an entire year.**
- **Faith Communities have the largest volunteer base in the United States and Worldwide.**

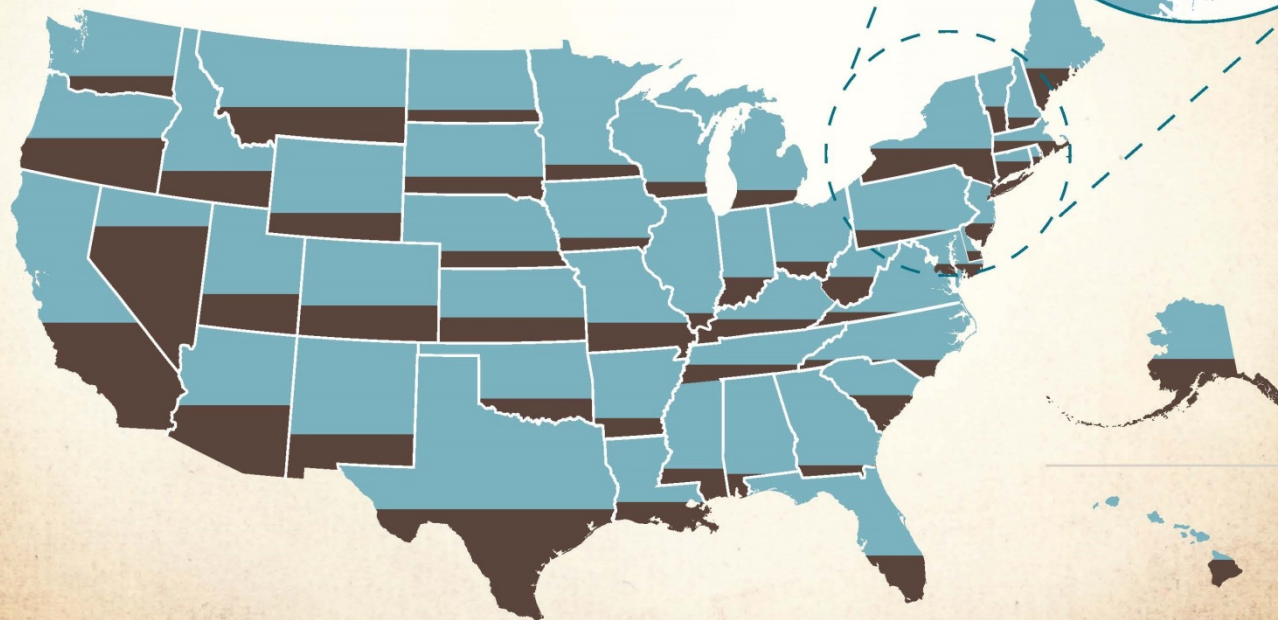
Why Partner with the Faith Community

- **The Faith Community has the longest track record taking care of “orphans”. Their experience is over 2,000 years longer than any government agency.**
- **The Faith Community has the fastest expansion.**
- **The Faith Community is motivated spiritually and not financially.**

Opportunity for Impact

348,000 Churches-102,000 Waiting Children*

- Churches
- Kids Waiting in Foster Care



* numbers rounded to the nearest thousand
© 2014 Focus on the Family

A Wealth of Resources

- Faith communities are a rich resource for recruiting resource families.
- Faith communities are a rich resource to provide support and accountability for the families we serve.
- Faith communities have a wide diversity of missions and values that encompasses families of all needs, including our elderly.
- Faith communities often encompass their own service programs that are often free to the families we serve.

Shared Mission

- CWDA mission is to promote a human services system that encourages self-sufficiency of families and communities, and protects vulnerable children and adults from abuse and neglect.
- Faith based communities are commissioned to “care for the widows and orphans”.
- Faith based communities have hope to share with those who are “hopeless” and often find themselves in the human services system.

How to Partner with the Faith Community

- Use your resources within your agency
- Many of your own staff have connections and relationships with faith partners and can open the doors to communication.
- Educate your staff on the possibilities of partnering with faith partners
- Give your staff permission to explore services “outside of the box”
- Reach out to other faith-based collaborative groups like Cops and Clergy

Building Relationships

The fuel that feeds success

- Be Real

Who is the agency?

- Meet Face to Face

Get to know each other.

- Take Notes

Unique ministry calling/organizational mission

Match activities/program to calling/mission

Know other vocabulary such as orphans vs. foster children; shut-in vs. social isolated elder.

Building Relationships

The fuel that feeds success

- Make it personal
 - Celebrate successes/contributions
 - Thank you notes
- Share ownership
 - Encourage shared ownership and decision making

Building Relationships

Communication

- Transform partners into advocates
 - Practice two-way, symmetrical communication
 - Communication exchange
 - Reciprocity
 - Mutual understanding
- Communicate regularly
 - More than an occasional “hi”
 - Be proactive
 - Regular collaborative meetings

Building Relationships

Communication

- Open communication based on trust
 - Encourage honest feedback
 - Create a positive environment
 - Accountability
 - Discuss expectations early on
 - On-going dialogue
 - Be flexible

Mixing Church and State

Know the laws that protect the partnership

- Follow leading state legislation
- The 82nd Texas Legislature passed [House Bill 1965](#), which directs the expansion of faith- and community-based initiatives in Texas. Major components of the Faith- and Community-Based Initiatives include agency liaison activities, the interagency coordinating group, and the Task Force on Improving Relations with Nonprofits.
- Colorado has partnered with faith agencies on a state level. Project 1.27 recruits and provides the mandated training for new foster homes throughout Colorado.

Mixing Church and State

Know the laws that protect the partnership

- Charitable Choice Laws - Faith-based providers are eligible to compete for funds on the same basis as any other providers, **neither excluded nor included because they are religious, too religious or of a different religion.**
- Foster Child's Bill of Rights gives foster children the right to: attend religious services and activities of his or her choice.

Children and Family Services

- Becoming a Resource Family
- Adopt a Social Worker
- College Bound Box
- Walk Alongside Me
- Once Upon a Time
- Pictures and Prayers

Adult Services

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

- You Are Not Alone (YANA)
- Adopt a Social Worker
- Elder Abuse Symposium
- Opportunities for Service

Southern California Faith in Motion Collaborative

- Orange County
- Riverside County
- San Bernardino County
- Ventura County

Each Faith in Motion program looks different for each county based on their SIP, individual resources and faith organizations.

Awards

- California State Association of Counties
Challenge Merit Award 2014
- Innovations in American Government
Bright Ideas Award 2014 (Harvard University)
- 2013 California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
recognized OC Faith in Motion as a best practice.

Statistics

- In Riverside county, from 2011-2014, over \$70,000 in donated goods and services
- Over \$12,000 to Adult Services clients in the first pilot year
- Riverside County currently partners with over 40 faith based partners
- Orange County currently partners with over 60 faith based partners

Statistics

- In Orange County, 3,876 individuals have attended agency orientation classes over the last 5 years with approximately 12% of those attendees coming from Faith in Motion
- Since 2010, over 750 requests for families submitted by social workers have been met through Faith in Motion in Orange County
- Orange County is currently working with 51 active faith and community organizations



Q & A Panel Discussion