CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Inaugural Webinar
CWLA Faith Based Initiative
January 29, 2014

Convener
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Agenda

- WELCOME
- Greetings – CEO Christine James-Brown
- Initiative Background
- Preliminary Data
- Presentation Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Questions and Open Discussion
Background

CWLA views Involvement with the faith community as integral to a comprehensive array of services and networks to support children and families

Plans

- Provide Data
- Assemble a National Advisory Panel
- Identify challenges
- Provide guidelines
- Identify topics, issues for subsequent webinars, calls, inclusion in conferences
We are interested in identifying:

- Faith leaders to serve on the Advisory Committee
- CWLA members to serve on the National Working Committee
- Faith Leaders in YOUR communities who would attend the Kinship Care Conference (September 17-19, 2014)
Survey Data

Response Rate

- Twenty Five Organizations Reported
- Mix of State, County agencies and Nonprofits
- Less than 5% of CWLA Membership
## Major Program Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family support</td>
<td>88.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td>72.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen parenting</td>
<td>56.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatherhood</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mentoring</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
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</table>
Reasons for Partnerships

Nearly 90% of respondents believe that working with Faith Partners would stimulate community interest/commitment to children and families.
Criteria for Selecting a Partner

- Community outreach activities/ministries of the faith organization (86%)
- Staff knowledge or experience with the faith-based entity (77%)
- The faith-based organization’s reputation in the community (91%)
Shared Activities

- Volunteer recruitment and referral identification are the major shared activities between agencies and faith organizations (65% of respondents)

- Joint Outreach and Co-hosting community activities (72% of respondents)
Challenges

- Large congregations with no strong connections to community (27.3%)

- **Small congregations with no infrastructure (63.6%)**

- Inability to align goals and missions (36.4%)
Major Initiatives

- Adoption **training; space** for teen clubs and **visitation centers**
- **Chaplaincy**
- **Volunteer recruitment**
- **Mentoring** and counsel
- **Food, clothing** and **resources** for needy families.
- Joint effort between faith community, agency and university to develop a "**needs portal**" for social workers to request assistance for families

Faith organizations are valued partners in strengthening families and communities!
Faith communities:

• provide natural support networks.
• contribute to the community safety net.
• offer a sense of refuge and support for those reluctant to seek services from the government.
Most effective connections with the faith community comes from minister to minister contact NOT from state staff outreaching to members of the faith community.
How Can CWLA HELP?

- Provide research information
- Disseminate information/guidelines for program development directed to faith organizations
- Advocacy on the Hill
Ms. Gail Gonzalez
Texas Department of Families and Protective Services

Bishop Aaron Blake
Chairperson
Faith Leaders Advisory Committee
Questions and Open Discussion
Contact Information

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