

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**

Right Now

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

Family support	88.0%
Mental health	72.0%
Teen parenting	56.0%
Fatherhood	52.0%
Mentoring	48.0%

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%)**
- Q. 9

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!

Comments

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.**

Comments

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**

PRESENTERS

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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