

Meeting Minutes: Fulton County Interfaith Coalition

September 12, 2012 (Meeting scheduled for 3:00-5:00pm)

Location/Host: Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta @ 5342 Tilly Mill Rd., Dunwoody, GA 30338

Attendees:

Michael Elliston
DeAnne Jacobson
Lee Lambert
Pat Smith
Tulasi Vanapalli
Sam Becknel
Don Rubin (via conference call)
Nazeera Dawood
Patricia Jackson
Matthew McKenna
Sujatha Reddy
Rodney Mullins

Summary

The meeting was called to order by Michael Elliston and opened properly by Pat Smith, both co-chairs of the coalition at approximately 3:30pm. The members approved the last meeting minutes.

NICHQ update: Nazeera

NICHQ and the Collaborative for Healthy Weight is conducting a virtual learning series 2 on September 21, 24 & 28 respectively. In order for the Interfaith Coalition to take advantage of this training several things need to be accomplished, first the coalition must complete the Healthy Weight Collaborative (HWC) team assessment to determine what level of process the team is on. Most of the Interfaith members agree that this coalition might end up in the 2.0 zone.

To ensure that the Fulton County Interfaith Coalition has all of their data sets completed and sent to NICHQ but deadlines, someone needs to volunteer as the data manager to help load information on the website portal. The coalition members talked about and defined the data manager's role and frequency of involvement. The Data manager should enter measures and HWC team assessment results using a monthly data-reporting template.

Lunch, Listen & Learn (LL&L): Michael

Michael presented an idea for integrating LL&L involving all faith groups. The coalition applied for a Walgreens consumer health grant that encourages focus group discussions among families of congregations about their eating habits. Each congregation would become a host and/or lead facilitator during the focus groups. In order to train coalition members on process, Michael and Pat proposed the first LL&L on October 14th at the Zen Center as a test run and training opt for other congregations. The goal is to use diverse food cuisines as a draw among members to participate ultimately in a focus group session to gather data. The coalition members had multiple questions about implementation and how LL&L will be received in diverse congregations, given the lunches offered would all be “vegetarian” meals.

The typical set up would be for example, Baha’i faith temple would invite its congregation to a diversity food event. At the same time, the coalition liaison will invite and confirm potential focus group participants. During the event, there is a meal and fellowship and then a smaller breakaway session for focus groups.

There was much debate and discussion about the study and who should be interviewed during the focus groups. There was a concern about time length of the event, but all members agreed that the study should focus on the general faith community rather than leaders. Overall, the members liked the ideas presented about LL&L but they would prefer more work on the flyers and public communications pieces while considering the diversity of the entire coalition. Each faith group were asked to identify at least 10 focus group participants that will stay after the food event to have more discussion about their attitudes about food and eating habits.

CHOA Grant Application

The coalition meeting ran over time to talk about the CHOA grant application and the presenters did not attend the meeting.

FCIC membership recruiting: Pat Smith

Pat suggest that membership recruiting should be tabled until the existing members are clear and firm about their roles on the coalition.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2012 at Bethel United Methodist Church to more or less sync before the first October 14th Lunch, Listen & Learn event.