

**RAPID RESPONSE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR  
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)  
AND WELFARE TO WORK (WtW)**

**Contract No. 233-01-0067**

**Task Order No. 11**

**Travel Support for the West-Central Hub “Outreach to Faith and Community”  
Conference  
New Orleans, LA  
May 14-16, 2002**

**Background**

Based on guidance from the Office of Family Assistance, Rapid Response technical assistance requests will address the expressed purpose of improving the well-being of children and families by focusing on the following items:

**Strengthening Families**

Healthy marriage products and services, models for reducing out-of-wedlock births, teen pregnancy prevention, fatherhood and formation of two-parent families, at-risk youth activities, youth development, and non-custodial parent activities are examples.

**Engaging All Families**

Diversion impacts, work first strategies, caseload work activity progression, universal engagement, outreach to struggling and non-compliant families, and time limit management, are examples.

**Improving Employment and Self-sufficiency Outcomes**

Income growth, sustained and progressive employment, education and training as work incentives, child-care and development, post employment services management and delivery, and asset accumulation strategies (federal, state EITC, IDAs) are examples.

**Partnering for Impact**

Utilization of faith-based and community institutions, distributing collected child support to families exiting TANF, renewal communities, EC/EZ zones, and other economic development strategies, family self-sufficiency (HUD) program opportunities, taxpayer education (IRS), and effective TANF/WIA collaborations, are examples.

**Purpose**

The ACF West-Central Hub sponsored a conference entitled “Outreach to Faith and Community: Renewing Our Commitment,” May 14-16, 2002, in New Orleans, Louisiana. This event was designed to support the White House’s Initiative on Rallying the Armies of Compassion and the DHHS/ACF initiative to remove barriers to full participation of faith-based and community services in the delivery of government-funded social services. The conference also showcased ACF’s national initiatives in relation to strengthening families through promoting healthy

marriages, parenting skills, and responsible fatherhood or male involvement in support of child well-being.

The conference goals are:

- Ensure that faith-based and community organizations have an equal opportunity to obtain federal funds for the delivery of quality services to promote human, social and economic development in their communities.
- Increase the number of faith-based and community organizations providing quality human and social services to individuals, families, and communities in the West-Central Hub.

Rapid Response funds were used to support travel expenses for up to 12 presenters and honoraria as necessary, not to exceed \$2,000. Also, a small portion of Rapid Response funds were used to support the rental of two LCD projectors for the workshop sessions on Wednesday, May 15.

### **Expected Outcomes**

- Convey to faith-based and community organizations that ACF has renewed its commitment to faith-based and community organizations to access Federal resources.
- Identify and resolve actual and perceived barriers for agencies and organizations at all levels regarding government and faith-based relationships, and
- Establish HHS and ACF as a true leader in supporting participation and the expansion of the role of faith-based organizations in the delivery of social services through government programs.

Summaries of the various sessions that utilized Rapid Response funds are as follows:

#### **Abstinence and Healthy Youth Decisions**

Moderator: *Susan Macaulay, MPA, Program Coordinator, ACF/West-Central Hub, Dallas*

Presenters: *Tom Wells, M.D., Associate Field Director, Region VI, Maternal & Child Health Health Resources and Services Administration, Dallas*  
*Stacey Ladd, R.N., Executive Director, Worth the Wait, Pampa, TX*  
*John Hogue, Governor's Office of Abstinence, Louisiana*

Session: Wednesday, May 15, 2002                      Time: 8:30a.m. – 10:00a.m.    Room: Rhythm 2  
   Repeated: 1:30a.m. – 3:00p.m.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 created the Abstinence Education Program administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The workshop, “Abstinence and Healthy Youth Decisions,” provided a panel of three speakers representing the federal, state, and local perspectives. This workshop appeared twice on Wednesday morning and afternoon with a total attendance of 30 participants.

**Tom Wells, M.D.**, Associate Field Director, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provided an historical, legislative, statutory, and funding stream overview on HRSA, Maternal and Child Health and the Abstinence Education program. Federal funding is distributed either to the Governor's Office or a state agency, and states determine how to design the abstinence program to meet the needs of the population they serve.

**John Hogue III, J.D.**, Attorney for the Governor's Program on Abstinence (GPA), presented the Louisiana State Model. The state model was developed in response to a significant health issue in the State of Louisiana. Louisiana has 1 million people who have incurable STD's. Each year an additional 300,000 persons contract STD's. Of this number, two-thirds are persons aged 14-25. To respond to these statistics, the Governor established the GPA and a three-prong approach to abstinence education, which includes

- (1) A 12-week written curriculum to students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade concluding with an Abstinence Pledge by the students appearing before a judge, who comes to the school for the ceremony. Donna Glover wrote the curriculum, and students each receive a Student Workbook. Volunteer Teachers receive training and a Teacher Guide.
- (2) High School Abstinence Clubs which reinforce the message and provide a series of activities and training.
- (3) An award-winning Abstinence web site where the Abstinence curriculum can be downloaded free to anyone. This web site is currently receiving 1100 – 1400 hits per week.

Each Louisiana parish school board participating first approves the curriculum and approves the policy of using volunteer teachers who have passed background checks. Seventh grade students' parents may have their children opt out of the curriculum. For school year 2001-2002, 20 parishes are participating with 250 volunteer teachers and nearly 10,000 students. In FY 2003 Louisiana officials expect 30 parishes will participate, and it is proposed that eventually 2/3 (40) of the parishes will participate and reach approximately 25,000 students.

The State match is 3 State dollars for every 4 Federal dollars in cash or in-kind. The network of volunteers are trained in one-day sessions that include videos and then present the 12 sessions to the students once a week for one hour.

The GPA hosted its first Abstinence Convention for 500 high school students from 90 high schools. Next year the GPA expects 1,000 students representing 120-150 high schools. Each High School Abstinence Club also plans four yearly activities that include (1) orientation, (2) STD awareness, (3) Valentine's Day – Abstinence Day, and (4) Pledge Card Day. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in a 4-day Summer Leadership Training Camp where they learn leadership skills in addition to skill training in writing letters and developing radio messages. The GPA sponsors a Winter Legislative Caucus where students spend a day with the Legislature. A Spring Rally Day hosted by GPA and co-hosted by 83 legislators produced a Rally on the Steps of the Capitol with 1,200 people and featured a national speaker, Pam Stencel.

The Louisiana Model has engaged Dr. Stan Wei as National Evaluator of the GPA. Once the statistical evidence of success is achieved, Louisiana plans to share its model with neighboring states and eventually throughout the nation.

The third speaker at the Workshop was **Ms. Stacey Ladd**, Executive Director of Worth the Wait in Pampa, Texas. Worth the Wait received one of the first 21 abstinence education grants under Title V in 1997 and recently received a SPRANDS grant directly from HRSA. Worth the Wait uses a community saturation approach that serves as a catalyst to stimulate cooperation among the various parts of a community and is currently used in six communities with plans to expand to nine communities for the 2002-2003 school year. The mission of Worth the Wait is to delay onset of sexual activity and to reduce STD's through a well-developed media campaign reaching 26 counties. As a certified obstetric nurse for 11 years along with titles of Charge Nurse and Clinical Educator and as a STD/HIV Classroom educator for six years, Ms. Ladd has seen first hand the damaging results of early teenage pregnancy and STD onset. She recounted two occurrences where the mothers-to-be were 13 years old, less than two hours away from delivering, and at the same time coloring in a coloring book with little understanding of the consequences.

A local school superintendent helped to develop this community saturation model by targeting parents first, educators second, teens third, and the community-at-large fourth. Partners were enlisted from the schools, churches, and medical community. By using this community saturation model, the hope is to change expectations and change goals around teen sexual activity. Ms. Ladd referred to James Q. Wilson's book, "Problems with Marriage," in which it has been documented that if teens (1) graduate from high school, (2) have no children before marriage, (3) and delay childbearing until after 20 years old, they have an 80% chance of not being in poverty.

The school board's role, according to Texas law, is to (1) adopt abstinence policy and curriculum, (2) develop staff, and (3) identify risk behaviors. Curriculum training is available to schoolteachers, youth pastors, and medical staff. The curriculum is presented to 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders in science or social science class in 7-10 presentations. It is further used in High School Health & Science class as well as in English classes while using the book, Art of Loving. To ensure that correct medical information is distributed, nurses and doctors volunteer during the daytime to present the curriculum.

Worth the Wait encourages parent participation through Parent nights with giveaway Wal-Mart cards, a Parent newsletter, workshops at the largest employers, the web site, and resource library. Parents learn about teen pregnancy statistics and the 27 types of curable and incurable STD's, the emotional impact of relationships on girls and boys, the protection factors of being fully committed to school and family and attached to some church as well as all the risk factors. Dating guidelines for parents are distributed, and clergy encourage moral and religious values.

The attendees very well received the workshop, and the presenters were well prepared with expert knowledge, handouts, a Power Point presentation, and answers to attendees' questions.

## Faith Partners & Impacting the Local Community

Moderator: *Richard Nystrom, Executive Officer, ACF, West-Central Hub, Denver*

Presenters: *Jacqueline Jaramillo, Executive Director, Faith Partners, El Paso County, CO*  
*George G. Houston, Pastor, Solid Rock Christian Church, Colorado Springs, CO*

Session: Wednesday, May 15, 2002      Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon      Room: Evergreen

Faiths Partners is a faith-based family mentoring program. It assists families to transition from welfare to work. It is integrated into the county welfare office through an agreement with the county welfare director. It receives direct referrals by caseworkers to assist families in need of mentoring support. Participation by families is voluntary. This session presented an opportunity for the audience to hear from and discuss this project with the executive director and a pastor of one of the nearly 100 participating churches. They discussed the development of the family to family mentoring methodology, the successes and how to replicate these successes locally by other faith-based entities.

**Jacqueline Jaramillo** has developed public policy. She has 20 years of management experience in the non-profit sector and 10 years of church based ministry. She has facilitated successful public/private partnerships and community coalitions. In 1978, the Governor of Colorado hired her to promote a full count in the 1980 census. After that campaign, she joined the Governor's senior staff as assistant in the development of social policy.

Subsequently, Jackie left the Governor's staff to organize and implement Colorado's first Welfare Reform Project, a private sector approach to welfare reform: Colorado Women's Employment and Education. It is known today as the Center for Employment and Education. This project became a model for seven other states.

Ms. Jaramillo's involvement in church-based ministry has included church outreach to the needy, single parent ministry, women's ministry and leading missionary teams to third world countries. As Executive Director of Westside CARES, she was involved in creating an ecumenical coalition of 21 churches representing nine different denominations. She administered their combined benevolent ministry of outreach to the needy and supervised 300 volunteers.

As executive Director of Faith Partners, Ms. Jaramillo represents a coalition of nearly 100 churches in El Paso County working in partnership with the Department of Human Services to execute a charitable choice project that provides mentoring services for families in transition from welfare to work. She described the process of community outreach by the acting county welfare director to do an assessment of all county systems that related to welfare recipients after the former welfare director resigned in response to the PRWORA welfare reform act of 1996. The faith community was included in this process. Subsequently, after a new welfare director was hired, the faith community confronted him with the prospect of welfare recipients being removed from the welfare roles and potentially overwhelming the faith community with requests for assistance. He challenged them to develop a positive approach to assisting families to transition from welfare to work to prevent this from happening.

The response of this faith-based partnership was to develop a family-mentoring program to assist families on welfare to transition to work and self-sufficiency. Members of church congregations receive training in a process of developing supportive relationships with families receiving welfare. Faith Partners rents a desk for Ms. Jaramillo in the county welfare office TANF unit. She attends all staff meetings and receives direct referrals of families in need from caseworkers. Participation in this project is voluntary on the part of families. If the family accepts, it is paired with a mentoring family selected from a congregation to work with the family on any and all problems that present barriers to transitioning from welfare to work. Ninety families are participating in the program. No proselytizing is allowed. The mentoring is purely for the purpose of assisting families. The feeling of the faith community is that the mentor family is benefiting by the opportunity to relate to a family in need. This is part of their faith ministry.

Ms. Jaramillo presented examples of success and examples of the development of long lasting and mutually beneficial relationships among the families, both the welfare families and the mentor families. In response to “how to do it” questions, she offered her e-mail address, [JackieJaramillo@msn.com](mailto:JackieJaramillo@msn.com). She will send copies of her book and a bibliography.

**George G. Houston** is a trainer at the Colorado Springs campus in the Center for Creative Leadership’s flagship program, Leadership Development Program. He is also a trainer for the African-American Leadership Program and manages the Colorado Springs Campus Community Leadership Program. Prior to joining the Center, he served eighteen years as an educator, including as a high school principal. He was a human resources manager for a Fortune 500 company, a consultant for diversity training and a trainer for leadership development and team building. He was most recently a pastor of a local church. Pastor Houston’s board service includes two terms on the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, Faith Partners Board, and the Ronald McDonald House Board. He had a youth track club, Speed, Inc. He has been included in Who’s Who in Black Colorado Springs. He has received the NAACP Innovation Education Program Award and the Society of Human Resource’s Pinnacle Award for outstanding business and education partnerships.

Mr. Houston pointed out that this project and others like it do not need to evangelize to do the job. There is ample time to evangelize. He said that the character and discipleship of church members would be known by the behavior of the way they behave toward others. The Net of churches in Colorado Springs is made up of over 100 church and para-church ministries. Each church decides what it can and will do to carry out its ministry. Since there is a great deal to do, they do not have to do the same thing or compete with one another. Members of one congregation can participate in a ministry of another church and still remain members of their own church. This reduces potential for membership competition among churches. The program is open to all regardless of the faith or lack thereof by the family being mentored. The program has a code of conduct by which all volunteers must faithfully abide. The Faith Partners organization maintains transparent financial accountability. They are happy to provide technical assistance to all other groups who may wish to replicate this model or any parts of the model.

## State Marriage Initiatives / Creating State Marriage Commissions

Moderator: *Dana Reichert, Director of TANF Executive Office of Oversight/Evaluation in the Office of Administration (LA)*

Presenters: *Mary Myrick, APR, President, Public Strategies, Inc., (Oklahoma City, OK)*  
*Joseph T. Jones, Jr., CEO/President of Center for Fathers, Families and Workforce Development (Baltimore, MD)*  
*John L. Lund, PhD, Utah Commission on Marriage*  
*Rep. Sharon Weston Broome, Co-Chair of Louisiana Commission on Marriage*

Session: Wednesday, May 15, 2002                      Time: 1:30p.m. – 3:00p.m.                      Room: Nottoway

This session was designed to allow State and Community experts to share ideas being implemented around the country to promote the skills and knowledge, through State, local, community and faith-based networks, to form healthy marriages and sustain healthy families as well as to support fathers becoming responsible, committed and involved parents. States also shared their experiences on creating State Marriage Commissions.

**Mary Myrick**, President of Public Strategies, Inc., who has been instrumental in working with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services on the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative (OMI), began the discussion noting that Oklahoma had the third highest divorce rate in the country. She also noted that the institution of marriage is a relationship that can benefit from skills development. Oklahoma is using the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) developed by Scott Stanley, Ph.D., and Howard Markman, Ph.D., from the University of Denver. The philosophy for entering into this arena in Oklahoma is that State leaders have a responsibility for providing choices to their recipients so they can make good decisions, (i.e., providing quality services and good information is the key to good social change). When Ms. Myrick is asked whether government should be involved in marriage, her response is that government is already involved through various public policies including setting child support and visitation schedules in the case of divorces, etc. If research concludes that the best child outcomes occur within good, healthy marriage environments and if skills-based training exists to foster the existence of healthy marriages, then government has a responsibility to provide those alternative options to vulnerable families that they work with.

Ms. Myrick noted that the State of Oklahoma has not had good data on “marriages.” Thus, in June 2001 the State assembled a Research Advisory Group led by the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Bureau for Social Research to help develop a baseline survey for the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative (OMI). The resulting survey collected information about attitudes related to marriage and family relationships and gathered demographic data on patterns of cohabitation, intent to marry, marriage and divorce and remarriage among Oklahomans. Preliminary findings for the study indicate a surprisingly strong support for marriage initiatives to combat the high divorce rate. The survey included 155 questions administered by phone to over 2000 Oklahomans and 1000 residents of neighboring States of Kansas, Arkansas and Texas. The survey also sub-sampled 300 low income families to make sure that segment of the population was well represented. Initial data showed more than 80 percent of those surveyed believe a statewide

initiative to promote marriage and reduce divorce is a good idea. Of the survey participants, 65 percent said they would consider using relationship workshops to strengthen their relationships. The top two answers among divorced survey participants as to what caused their divorce are lack of commitment and conflict, two of the key components of the core curriculum in the OMI marriage and relationships workshops.

**John L. Lund, Ph.D.**, representing the Utah Commission on Marriage, spoke about the various commissions that the Governor initiated under the Governor's Initiative on Families (GIFT) program: (1) children commission, (2) marriage commission, and (3) family commission. As one of 15 members of the Commission on Marriage, Dr. Lund noted that the group meets on a monthly basis. The group, which has been able to utilize \$600,000 of TANF funds, has produced a video, provided various resource information to its citizens and sponsors a "Marriage Week USA" annually. The group involves many existing organizations including Utah University. The State of Utah is also contracting with PREP to have classes in all 29 of the State's counties. There also exists a "Divorce Education" law that requires those couples seeking a divorce to take a mandatory 2-hour divorce education class. Again, in terms of philosophy on why Utah believes it has a role in strengthening marriage: The duty of government is to protect and foster the common good. Strong marriages are key to improving both personal and social well-being. In an effort to curb the negative effects of family breakdown, it is essential for our State, our community, and our families to take steps to support strong marriages that nurture strong families. Commitment, communication, and conflict resolution skills can be learned and used to enhance and fortify marriages; thus, the State believes it has a responsibility to provide such resources to its citizens. Dr. Lund made available to each participant at the conference a copy of the Utah produced 22-minute video entitled, "The Marriage News You Can Use."

During the discussion, it was noted by Ms. Myrick that it's not our differences that cause conflict and family breakdown, but it is the ability to deal effectively with those differences. Thus, such skills building efforts developed by programs such as PREP can help to alleviate some of the troubled marriages.

**Joseph T. Jones, Jr.**, has been extensively involved in working with vulnerable and fragile fathers. Mr. Jones made a point that it is necessary to find a way to include men in the educational awareness process. Speaking on the issue of children's well-being, Mr. Jones noted that nearly 25 million children in our country live in a household without a father. Thus, the developing field of responsible fatherhood has a critical role to play in promoting healthy marriages. That is, effective fatherhood programs allow potential for men to get to the point of seeking a healthy marriage. He, along with a pastor in the Baltimore area, is working with vulnerable fathers on Friday nights in a program of promoting spirituality. Mr. Jones showed clips of fathers going through various phases of the effective fatherhood program being carried out in the Baltimore area.

**Representative Sharon Weston Broome**, co-chair of the Louisiana Commission on Marriage, noted that the commission was created to serve as a conduit for promoting strong and healthy marriages. Representative Broome noted that Louisiana has one of the lowest divorce rates in the country; rather the issue for Louisiana is dealing with one of the highest out-of-wedlock birth



rates in the country. The State feels that there needs to be a strong focus on educating young people on the responsibilities of raising a family (i.e., having children). Again, the issue of providing the proper educational skills, knowledge, training is very important to the State in ensuring strong, healthy marriages. The State legislature has recently allocated \$1.5 million for a State marriage strengthening initiative. The State Marriage Commission is represented by a cross-section of the community, including a principal of a high school, various university representatives, attorneys, State Elementary and Secondary Education representatives, all State agencies, the Children's Cabinet, rural areas, etc. In all, there are approximately 30 members on the Louisiana Marriage Commission.

### **Building a Marriage Friendly Culture in Your Community**

Moderator: *Jocelyn M. Rowe, Executive Assistant to the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Administration for Children and Families*

Presenters: *Mary Myrick, APR, President of Public Strategies, Inc., (Oklahoma City, OK)*  
*Rev. Richard Marks, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Family Ministry (Jacksonville, FL)*  
*Joseph T. Jones, Jr., President/CEO, Center for Fathers, Families and Workforce Development (Baltimore, MD)*

Session: Wednesday, May 15

Time: 3:30p.m. – 5:00p.m.

Room: Nottoway

This follow-up session to the “marriage strengthening” agenda focused on experts in the field sharing with community and faith-based organizations ways to strengthen and expand grassroots and faith-based services in areas that would strengthen families through promoting healthy marriages, parenting skills and responsible fatherhood or male involvement in support of child well-being. Ms. Myrick and Mr. Jones were joined on the panel by Rev. Richard Marks, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Family Ministry at the 26,000 member First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida.

**Rev. Richard Marks, Ph.D.**, is a pastor, counselor and marriage and family therapist, and has worked in the mental health field for over 20 years. Rev. Marks provided a brief chronological description of where the church was over the last 70 to 80 years in what he referred to as “Church and Soul Care.” He alluded to the “Social Gospel” movement in the early 1900’s followed by the Evangelicals hold on to Truth at the expense of meeting various social needs. In the 1970’s, there was an upsurge of faith-based psychology and self-help training techniques used by the church.

Rev. Marks noted that the foundation of any organization is “Family.” Families certainly have needs; thus, Rev. Marks has set up a 3-prong approach to meeting those needs in his ministry in Jacksonville. These three approaches used include (1) Education and Prevention techniques, (2) Support Groups and Mentoring, and (3) Lay and Pastoral Counseling. In some cases, should Rev. Marks not be able to provide sufficient education/training within the “faith community,” he may send some parishioners to “Professional Therapy” for clinical work. Within the Education and Prevention piece, Rev. Marks utilizes several of the existing skills-building education

programs including PAIRS, Christian PAIRS, PREP, Family Wellness, Intimate Encounters, Monday Night Solutions, FOCCUS, RE-FOCCUS, etc. Rev. Marks also discussed the faith community's approach with the other hierarchical approaches such as providing for support groups, mentoring, as well as pastoral and lay counseling.

Some of the barriers that Rev. Marks had to overcome in provide some of this training included the following: (1) church's fear of psychology, (2) church's lack of balance between evangelism and discipleship (i.e., such counseling was somewhat of a distraction for the church's mission), (3) church's lack of trained members in marriage and family related issues, (4) issue of dealing with problematic marriages in some of the pastoral staff, (5) lack of financial resources and (6) lack of knowledge of the need for marriage focus.

**Joseph T. Jones, Jr.**, noted his primary work for the last 5 years is dealing with fathers in the lives of children. Back around 1990, Mr. Jones worked with several mothers who had lots of barriers. He worked in ensuring they received necessary clinical and other treatment to their various problems. During that time, men began asking, "What can you do to help me?" At that time, there were not many support systems for men. In 1992, Mr. Jones received a grant to begin a Healthy Start Program in the Baltimore area. Specifically, he developed a program that worked with vulnerable/fragile fathers. The age range of the fathers in the program was 16 to 40. He noted that 65 percent of the fathers have been involved with the criminal justice system. The children of those fathers had no meaningful relationship with the fathers. He noted that he began working with the Child Support program in order to minimize the disincentives that the program brought to the table. He has been successful in working with the State legislature during at least the last 4 sessions to implement effective programs that support the fatherhood movement. Again, the basic premise is that children benefit from growing up in 2-parent healthy married households; thus, the fathers needed nurturing in order to get them to the point of entering into these types of healthy relationships. The curricula started talking about the principals of a good marriage. He also works with pastors in the Baltimore area to educate the fathers on the Principals of Spirituality and Fatherhood issues.

**Mary Myrick** concluded the session by providing several practical tips on what one needs to do when starting a marriage initiative. Included are the following:

1. Establish a mission and core set of beliefs --- update them and use them frequently.
2. Establish an operation vehicle for funding (i.e., OMI is an idea; not an organization or legal entity).
3. Need somewhere or someone to go to as fiscal agent for funding.
4. Maintain the message.
5. Research current program and services (determine if there is a faith-based coordinator for your State: if no one in State, determine how to start one or have one designated).
6. Find out what activities churches are doing in terms of supporting marriage and family.
7. Learn more about other programs.
8. Find out what marriage counseling therapists are telling people in your community about marriage.
9. Determine what other State entities can provide in terms of services to support marriage.
10. Keep the message on the public agenda. Get credible spokesperson. Frequency is important--get and keep the message out in the forefront.

11. Get out good information: What makes good marriages work?
12. Start with broad principles so you can build a consensus.
13. Watch for linkages (e.g., Valentine's Day).
14. Watch the legislature – what issues are they discussing around “strengthening marriages?”
15. Form partnerships:
  - Natural partnerships – advocate for community marriage partnerships.
  - DHS/Faith Community/University Extension Office/Home Health Care Community/Tribes/etc
  - New partnerships: think differently about people you have not worked with before.
  - Unexpected partnerships: Oklahoma Domestic Violence Coalition—form broad coalitions.
16. Build expertise: learn the nuances of government and faith-based languages.
17. Recruit someone who knows about interfacing with government if you don't know that.
18. Offer services – which comes first, public information or services.  
90 percent of survey respondents said marriage initiative does matter.
19. Use all your body and soul to get the work done. Volunteer in programs that already exist.  
Use your eyes – determine how people are responding around you.

PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY: Be mission driven. The job is bigger than you can do alone.

### **Strategic Approaches for Fatherhood Programs**

Moderator: *Tomasia Pinter, Program Information Coordinator, ACF/WC Hub (Dallas)*

Presenters: *W. L. Haskins, Jr., Ph.D., Executive Director, COPE, Inc., (Oklahoma City)*  
*John K. Jolley, DHHS/ACF, Office of Child Support Enforcement*

Session: Wednesday, May 15                      Time: 3:30p.m. – 5:00p.m.                      Room: Grand Couteau

This workshop provided two speakers representing Federal and local perspectives. The workshop appeared once on Wednesday afternoon with a total attendance of sixteen (16) participants.

**John K. Jolley**, Advocate Relations Specialist, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Administration for Children and Families provided strategic nonprofit community and faith-based approaches to grant opportunities, project development, and performance-based evaluations. He stressed the importance of improving project designs and developing conclusive evaluations. Several web sites were provided for participants to utilize.

**W. L. "Scottie" Haskins, Jr., Ph.D.**, Executive Director, COPE, Inc., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma presented information on Fatherhood. He began with an overview of COPE, Inc. which is a Mental Health Agency. The agency is a multi-cultural community health and substance abuse outpatient clinic providing AIDS/HIV addiction treatment, DUI assessment and school, bilingual assessment and treatment, day treatment, employment training, adult and juvenile case management, family and individual counseling for children, adolescents and adults. He gave an illustration of two identical twins, Scottie and Scotland. Scottie's and Scotland's

mother asked each of her sons to open a mason jar. One twin could do and the other twin could not; why? ATTITUDE - it is possible to change attitudes via partnerships, i.e., handshake. The church and community are excellent examples. They can provide programs designed to meet the needs of the populations served.

Oklahoma ranks number two in divorce and number two in teen pregnancy. Thus, it is important to have a Fatherhood Program. There are two components:

- 1) lobby for family friendly legislation.
- 2) provide a program;
  - o Fatherhood skills training
  - o Low income/teen fathers
  - o New/expectant fathers
  - o Incarcerated fathers

A kit has been put together for new and expectant fathers, and incarcerated fathers.

Dr. Haskins shared his information via Power Point. Included in the presentation were Oklahoma newsclips which included a discussion of the State's Marriage Initiative, father and son (child moved from foster home to foster home) the mother went to prison; father credits COPE, Inc. to help get his son back, COPE, Inc. helps teens (Fox 25 News special on Kids and Crime), young woman says, COPE, Inc., turned her life around (Channel 5); she was drunk and driving, etc., COPE, Inc. employed her and has helped her to set goals.

The Oklahoma Family Skills Development Program and Center is a subsidiary of COPE, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) Multi-Cultural Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic. The Oklahoma Family Skills Development Program is community based and designed to enhance the formation of families. Services offered include:

- 1) Prevention/Intervention
- 2) Education
- 3) Treatment

Pre-marital counseling and couples communication are offered in the program. Also included are parenting, fatherhood, motherhood, and prenatal discussion groups. Dr. Haskins shared that Oklahoma ranks # 2 in divorce and has nearly the highest teen pregnancy rate in the nation. The objective of the fatherhood program is to equip fathers with fatherhood skills. Emphasis is placed on two parents working together and the father having respect for the mother of the child(ren). Shalom Ministries provides transportation for TANF recipients to and from jobs. Men Building Men is a joint venture to correct defiant behavior and provide co-therapy for men.

February is Family Month in Oklahoma. There is a Family Day at the State Capitol. Can lawmakers legislate affairs of the heart?

Dr. Haskins took numerous questions from the participants about developing fatherhood and family skills development programs, working with incarcerated fathers and keeping them connected to their children, and parenting education.

The workshop was well received and the two presenters were well prepared with expert knowledge, superb handouts, and answering participants' questions. The presenters remained thirty minutes after the workshop concluded, continuing to answer questions.

### **The Role of Faith Organizations to Prevent Family Violence (Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, Elder Care)**

Moderator/Presenter: *Donald J. Smith, Jr., Ph.D., Director of Research  
Violence Intervention & Prevention Center, Parkland Hospital (Dallas)*

Presenters: *Rev. Joseph C. Parker, Jr., Senior Pastor, David Chapel Missionary Baptist  
Church in Austin, TX  
Leigh Vaughan, Rural Project Specialist, Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic  
Violence*

Session: Wednesday, May 15, 2002                      Time: 3:30p.m. – 5:00p.m.                      Room: Evergreen

Family Violence is devastating to the victims and child witnesses and is often a well-kept secret until the victim is driven to seek help. Victims often turn to the clergy first, but may find that person unprepared to provide the understanding and assistance needed. The workshop on "The Role of Faith Organizations to Prevent Family Violence" provided a panel of three speakers representing the state, community (health), and clergy perspectives.

**Leigh Vaughn** is Rural Project Specialist with the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, whose mission is to end domestic violence by providing education and referral information. Ms. Vaughan indicated that the Louisiana Coalition is not always the first point of contact for intimate partner violence that affects one in four women in a lifetime and 28% of marriages. 30-60% of children in these homes experience domestic violence, and elder abuse risk increases in these homes.

Ms. Vaughan, and concurred by other two speakers, reported that domestic violence is not an issue of mental health or genetics; domestic violence is an issue of control and is a learned behavior. Victims of domestic violence are usually women in 85-95% of the cases, and it is not caused because a woman is weak. Domestic violence is not discriminatory—it can affect anyone. Perpetrators are usually jealous, have unrealistic expectations, blame others, and do not accept responsibility for feelings or problems.

Seventy-five per cent of homicides occur when the victim tries to leave a violent situation. Victims stay because they fear being killed, that the perpetrator will take the children, or they have fears of becoming poor. It usually takes a victim a total of 7-8 times of leaving before finally leaving for good. At the time a victim goes to a shelter is when the state agency on domestic violence is notified and makes contact with the victim.

**Donald Smith, Ph.D.**, is Director of Research, Violence Intervention and Prevention Center, Parkland Health and Hospital System, in Dallas, Texas, reported in the Workshop that children are largely overlooked regarding abuse, witnessing abuse and exposure to abuse. It is estimated

that 3.5 – 10 million children are affected in homes. When domestic violence occurs, 42% of the time children are present. Domestic violence takes away the safety of kids and presents a number of problems such as failure to thrive and being sick. One in four pregnancies report perinatal domestic violence. Perpetrators start with cruelty to animals and move to cruelty to people. They exhibit behavioral problems such as lack of empathy, underdeveloped social skills, violent relationships, educational slips, truancy, and sleep disorders.

Dr. Smith posed the question, “What can we do?” He believes that intervention and prevention steps must be taken; otherwise the children are at risk. Witnessing abuse amounts to being a victim of abuse. 55-60% of boys witnessing abuse grow into perpetrators. 55% of girls witnessing abuse become victims again or become an abusive partner. Without intervention and prevention, the generation cycle will continue. Dr. Smith suggests that citizens can work in their communities to form collaborations to **FIRST DO NOT HARM** and to work with the whole family. Dr. Smith ended with a discussion about the Consortium to Work for Families in Dallas County, which provides a holistic approach to domestic violence in families.

The **Reverend Joseph C. Parker, Jr.**, is a lawyer and senior pastor at David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Austin, TX. He is currently the President of the Law Association in Travis County for 3,000 lawyers. He first heard Sarah Buell speak on domestic violence when he was at Boston University some years ago. Today he serves on the Board of Safe Place in Austin and speaks as a clergyman to others on what is faced by clergy when a member approaches about domestic violence. His handout includes a list of “One Pastor/Lawyer’s Top15 Reasons for being Against Domestic and Sexual Violence,” background on domestic violence, 9 myths, and what can be done. He believes the faith community needs to make an “Ark” (place of safety), acknowledge the problem, and teach “Respect.” He believes that domestic violence is a community problem and that nonprofits and agencies must educate the clergy and churches to deliver culturally sensitive messages. “Church communities must be prepared to respond with compassion, knowledge and insight to ensure the physical safety and spiritual well being of their members.”

The speakers provided numerous handouts, and a number of thoughtful questions were answered throughout the presentation.

### **Outcome Measures / Evaluations of Sessions & Conference**

In preparing the evaluations to be used at the conference, we felt it important to address some of the outcomes and goals that we wanted to see result. In the conference evaluation, we asked all participants of the conference to rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 representing “strongly disagreeing” to 5 representing “strongly agreeing”) the following five statements:

- Information on gaining access to federal resources was provided.
- Information on barriers to participation by faith-based and community organizations were identified.
- Techniques to assist faith-based and community organizations in overcoming barriers were provided.
- Information on expanding the role of faith-based and community organizations in the delivery of social services through government programs was provided.

- My organization will use information provided at this conference to improve or expand services provided to the community.

The primary contractors at the conference, BHM International, Inc. of Little Rock and Texas Tech University, Institute for Child and Family Studies of Lubbock, were responsible for compiling the results of the evaluation which follow.

**Administration for Children & Families  
Outreach to Faith-Based and Community  
Organizations  
Conference**

*“Renewing Our Commitment”*

Conference Evaluation

May 14-16, 2002  
Sheraton New Orleans  
New Orleans, Louisiana



# ACF Outreach to Faith-Based and Community Organizations Conference

## *Renewing Our Commitment*

May 14-16, 2002  
Sheraton New Orleans  
New Orleans, Louisiana

<b>Overall Evaluation</b>
---------------------------

	Excellent 4	Good 3	Fair 2	Poor 1	Average
Registration					
▪ Hotel	17	12	2	2	3.33
▪ Conference	21	8	0	0	3.72
Facility					
▪ Hotel Accommodations	15	11	3	0	3.41
▪ Meeting Rooms	13	16	5	0	3.24
▪ Restaurant	7	9	6	2	2.88
▪ Special Food Function	11	13	10	0	3.21
Plenary Session					
▪ Tuesday	10	6	0	0	3.63
▪ Format	18	11	2	0	3.52
▪ Presenter	22	8	1	0	3.68
▪ Thursday	6	4	1	0	3.45
▪ Format	11	5	0	1	3.53
▪ Presenter	11	5	0	0	3.69
Group Workshops	27	21	8	2	3.14
▪ See page for individual rating					
Overall Evaluation					
▪ Format	15	14	2	0	3.42
▪ Handouts	15	9	6	0	3.30
Focus & Purpose	16	12	1	0	3.52
<b>Total</b>	235 52%	164 36%	47 10%	7 2%	3.42

## ACF Outreach to Faith-Based and Community Organizations Conference

### Feedback Information

	Strongly Agree-4	Agree 3	Disagree 2	Strongly Disagree-1	Average
Information on gaining access to federal resources was provided.	27	7	2	0	3.00
Information on barriers to participation by faith-based and community organizations were identified.	23	11	1	0	2.63
Techniques to assist faith-based and community organizations in overcoming barriers were provided.	24	10	4	0	2.53
Information on expanding the role of faith-based and community organizations in the delivery of social services through government programs were provided.	25	10	0	0	2.86
My organization will use information provided at this conference to improve or expand services provided to the community	25	10	0	0	2.86
<b>Total</b>	124 69%	48 27%	7 4%	0 0%	2.78

## ACF Outreach to Faith-Based and Community Organizations Conference

### Workshop Evaluations

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Average</b>
101	Writing a Fundable Grant	5	1	2	0	2.50
102	Abstinence & Healthy Young Decisions	1	0	0	0	4.00
103	Southern Univ. -Prog. for Faith-Based Organizations	0	0	0	1	1.00 *
104	Role of Faith-Based Organizations to Help Incarcerated Parents	0	2	0	0	3.00
105	Federal Funding & Requests for Proposals	3	3	1	0	3.00
106	Building Character as Family	0	4	1	0	2.80
107	Food Stamp Program: Access & Outreach	0	0	0	0	0
108	Benefits to Becoming 501(c) (3)	0	0	0	0	0
109	High Risk Youth: Faith-Based Organizations Collaborate with Law Enforcement	1	1	0	0	3.50
110	Developmental Disabilities and the Olmstead Act	3	0	0	0	4.00
112	Federal Reserve Bank: Community Reinvestment	0	0	0	0	0
202	Head Start & Faith-Based Partnerships	2	3	1	0	3.17

	Partnerships					
--	--------------	--	--	--	--	--

## ACF Outreach to Faith-based and Community Organizations Conference

### Workshop Evaluations

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Average</b>
204	Community Development Corporations	0	0	0	0	0
207	Faith Partners & Impacting Local Community	2	1	0	0	3.67
208	HUD: Overall Strategies for Community Outreach	3	0	0	0	4.00
209	Small Business Administration: Loans and Contracting	0	0	1	0	2.00
210	Being Prepared for Federal Reporting	1	0	2	0	2.67
211	Technology: Applications in the Community	0	0	0	0	0
212	Delivery of Health Care in the Community	0	0	0	0	0
304	No Child Left Behind	1	2	0	0	3.33
305	State Marriage Initiatives/Creating State Marriage Commissions	2	0	0	0	4.00
307	Faith & Community Succeed at Special Needs Adoptions	0	0	0	0	0
309	Revitalizing Your Community	0	1	0	0	3.00
311	Fatherhood & Healthy Marriages in a South Texas Community	0	1	0	0	3.00

## ACF Outreach to Faith-Based and Community Organizations Conference

### Workshop Evaluations

Code	Title	4	3	2	1	Average
402	Early Literacy, Fatherhood & Positive Youth Development for Head Start Programs	1	0	0	1	2.50
404	Strategic Approaches for Fatherhood Programs	0	1	0	0	3.00
405	Building a Marriage-Friendly Culture in Your Community	1	0	0	0	4.00
406	Faith-Based Strategies for Serving the Homeless	0	0	0	0	0
407	The Role of Faith Organizations to prevent Family Violence	0	1	0	0	3.00
408	Total Project & Coalition Development	1	0	0	0	4.00
411	Technology: Essential Tools for Communities	0	0	0	0	0
31	<b>Totals</b>	27 47%	21 36%	8 14%	2 3%	3.14

\* Presenter failed to show

# **ACF Outreach to Faith-Based and Community Organizations Conference**

## **Workshop Evaluations**

### Added Notes:

Fourteen (14) forms could not be included in the ratings due to:

- ❑ Two (2) forms listed “all workshops” as a 4, no individual sessions listed.
- ❑ One form (1) listed workshop 207 with no rating.
- ❑ Eleven (11) forms had no workshops listed or rated.

# ACF Outreach to Faith-Based and Community Organizations Conference

## Participants' Comments

### *Registration:*

- Too Expensive
- Mix up in registration, after being pre-registered, still had to wait
- Room not worth the money
- Very Informative
- Stayed at Marriott for \$99/night
- Both were pretty easy. My only disappointment was the 72 hour notice required to cancel hotel reservations

### *Facility:*

- Restaurant too expensive
- Price are high on food in the restaurant
- Marriott hotel accommodations were great
- Restaurant too expensive
- Did not use restaurant
- Rooms were too cold
- Rooms were too cold
- Meeting rooms were too cold
- Hotel chairs in conference rooms were dirty. Carpet needed vacuuming
- Sweet rolls at continental breakfast were hard and cold!
- Not large enough for the size groups attending some workshops

### *Plenary Sessions:*

- Presenter talk too much
- Couldn't stay for all key speakers
- Lotto talking heads 1<sup>st</sup> day
- Overtime on Thursday did not follow schedule



*Small Group Workshops:*

- Speaker no show (Southern Prog. for FBO)
- Presentation was poor (Building Character of Family)
- Excellent program! (Faith Partners and Impacting Work Community)
- Wish had concrete steps did good review- but uses materials I have already seen (Being prepared for Federal Reporting)
- Good info. But I had a hard time pulling out the steps 123..... (Writing a Fundable Grant)

*The information from this training conference I found most helpful was:*

- Having Govt. + FBO + CBO Bound together for the common good!!
- Examples of what states and communities are doing to collaborate and how faith based organization uses their resources for collaborations.
- blatantly Christian-assumed Baptist. Lip service to community org- focus on faith based.
- Practical tips for pursuing “healthy marriage” projects thru faith based network
- the focus on building stronger families and community
- that funding is available, but no preferences are given; that there is funding available other than competitive grants; the role of intermediaries
- TANF information should provide needed assistance to community based organizations
- how to apply factual and pleasing information to stimulate the interest of funding agencies.
- how Govt. service and church can team up on the issue. some question but it happens
- developmental disabilities training
- Alexander Aman workshop 105 at 10:30- very helpful outline for writing grant proposals
- meeting others, being inspired by the work of others; making alliances

## **ACF Outreach to Faith-Based and Community Organizations Conference**

Conference Evaluations and Comments compiled and reported by:

Linda Reasoner, Project Director  
BHM International, Inc.  
523 South Louisiana, Ste. 303  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
1-800-270-8272  
501-370-9155  
Fax: 501-370-9158  
E-mail: lreasoner@bhmqic.com