

COMMUNITY AND INTERFAITH COORDINATION

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Staff: Program Manager (Community Interfaith Liaison)
Administrative Assistant IV

Community and Interfaith Coordination is within the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)'s Countywide Service Integration, Planning and Management Division. The CIC facilitates effective communications, networking, service access, coordination, and collaboration between faith communities and the Fairfax County government, other faith communities and nonprofit organizations to include community and faith based organizations; and, facilitates the growth of faith community capacity to support and provide education initiatives, services and events to strengthen a healthy Fairfax County community.

Community and Interfaith Coordination (CIC) is staffed by a Program Manager and an Administrative Assistant. The Program Manager's title is Community Interfaith Liaison.

Community Interfaith Coordination has supports six types of organizations. These are:

- Individual houses of worship
- Judicatory bodies or associations of houses of worship
- Individual faith based community organizations
- Non Profit community based organizations
- Fairfax County Departments and business areas within departments
- Faith Communities in Action / Fairfax Clergy and Leadership Council

Individual Houses of Worship, Judicatory Bodies or Associations of Houses of Worship

CIC works with individual houses of worship, judicatory bodies, and associations of houses of worships. This work includes:

- Consultation
- Service Navigation
- Communications, and Networking
- Education

- Capacity Building
- Coordination and Collaboration

Consultation: Provide telephone and one on one consultation about county, non profit organization and house of worship programs and services and links to individuals for additional information.

Service Navigation: Facilitates house of worship understanding of how to access county and non profit programs and services and provides mediation between house of worship and county services in which service access has been unsuccessful.

Communications and Networking: Maintains a database of over 600 houses of worship to include clergy, administrative staff, program staff and key lay leadership. Conducts regular correspondence, through email, web, and mail, with houses of worship to advise of county and non profit organization programs and services; workshops, summits, and conferences; special community meetings; community events; community trends; and faith based task force/steering committee meetings and events. Facilitates meetings and events to foster house of worship networking around common local areas of interest.

Education: Conducts meetings and workshops around county, faith, and non profit organization programs and services, community service gaps and concerns, and community assets.

Capacity Building: Works with individual house of worship or conducts special workshops to build house of worship capacity to plan, develop and provides programs and services independently or in coordination or collaboration with other groups.

Coordination and Collaboration: Promotes and facilitates house of worship coordination and collaboration with other houses of worship, non profit organizations and county government in the development and provision of services or in community education efforts.

Fairfax County Departments

Consultation: Supports county agencies and nonprofit organizations' (working in collaboration with Fairfax County) initiatives to communicate, coordinate and collaborate with faith communities.

Communications and Outreach: Supports county agencies and nonprofit organizations' efforts to provide information and conduct outreach with houses of worship. Using the CIC database, CIC issues information emails

on behalf of county agencies and partner nonprofit organizations to its 600 plus listing of houses of worship. Facilitates the development and conduct of workshops, meetings and other special events to strengthen communications and outreach between houses of worship and county agencies and partner nonprofit organizations.

Coordination and Partnerships: Support county agency and nonprofit partners coordinate and collaborate with houses of worship to assess, develop, and provide services, programs and educate initiatives.

Partnership Support: Supports county agency and nonprofit partners maintain strong house of worship partnerships.

Fairfax County Clergy and Leadership Council

The Fairfax County Clergy and Leadership Council is representative of each religion, denominations or branches of religions and house of worship associations within Fairfax County. Members are clergy or governing leadership within a religion. The Council facilitates effective communications between the Fairfax County faith community and the county government. The Council appoints faith community representatives for Fairfax County Boards, Authorities, Commissions and Special Committees as requested. The Council facilitates faith community representatives' countywide communications with all houses of worship.

Faith Communities in Action brings together houses of worship for information sharing, networking, capacity building, and best practices to address community issues and concerns and promote coordination and collaboration between houses of worship, county agencies and nonprofit organizations.

The Fairfax County Clergy and Leadership Council and Faith Communities in Action initiatives are guided by the Faith Communities in Action Executive Committee. The Chairperson and two Vice Chairpersons are members of the clergy and are representative of different religions. The balance of the Executive Committee is composed of the chairpersons of each Interfaith Task Force or Steering Committee.

Interfaith Task Forces and Steering Committees

Community Understanding and Respect Steering Committee:

The Community Understanding and Respect Committee promotes interfaith and multicultural community dialogues to bring together people of different faith traditions, cultural, and racial groups to foster understanding and respect. The Committee is composed of two community groups. Interfaith Communities for Dialogue is composed of faith communities in Annandale, Falls Church and Fairfax. McLean Community Connections is composed of faith communities and representatives of multicultural groups in McLean, Great Falls and Herndon. Both groups organize community dialogues twice a year for approximately 80 to 150 people. The community dialogues focus on personal experiences, perspectives and beliefs around a specific issue or behavior. Both groups hold monthly or quarterly small dialogue circles for 20 to 25 people. ICD also organizes three interfaith book discussions, one to two interfaith service projects and an interfaith picnic annually. The Committee was awarded the National Association of Counties (NACO) award.

Interfaith Emergency Planning Steering Committee:

The Interfaith Emergency Planning Steering Committee works in partnership with the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management, Health Department, Department of Family Services, Office of Public Affairs, Police Department, and Fire and Rescue Department; the Fairfax/Falls Church Community Services Board and Volunteer Fairfax to facilitate faith communities awareness of an engagement in county and community emergency preparedness, response and recovery. The committee is composed of representatives from different faith traditions and faith based emergency preparedness, response and recovery organizations. Representatives of OEM, Health Department, and Volunteer Fairfax regularly attend Steering Committee meetings. Other department representatives attend as needed. The Steering Committee designed the "Ready, Pack, Go Campaign" in 2005 to train faith community representatives to prepare individual congregants for times of emergency. Periodically the Steering Committee provides trainings regional and promotes the campaign and provide campaign instructions and training handouts via the Fairfax County webpage. The "Ready, Pack, Campaign" has been implemented in other jurisdictions in the Washington DC metropolitan area as well as in other states. It received the Volunteer Fairfax award in 2007. The Steering Committee received UASIS grants to develop and conduct training in 2009 and 2010 in Faith Community Emergency Response Preparation and County/Nonprofit Coordination and Faith Community Continuity of Operations Plan Development. The Interfaith Emergency Planning Steering Committee serves on the Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council and the Northern Virginia Volunteers Active in Disasters.

The Steering Committee developed a Fairfax County Community Chaplain (FCCC) Corps Steering Committee in 2008 in coordination with the

Department of Family Services. DFS was required to provide “Spiritual Support Services” when a Family Assistance Center is set up for mass fatalities. The FCCC Corps Steering Committee in coordination with DFS, Fairfax/Falls Church CSB, Police Department Chaplain Program, Fire and Rescue Department Chaplain Program and OEM established FCCC Corps in 2010 with the support of funding through UASIS. The Steering Committee developed the FCCC Corps candidate 1) candidate requirements, qualifications and background check procedures, 2) “Ethics and Code of Conduct” , 3) training requirements and curriculum, 4) deployment procedures; and 5) certification procedures. In 2010, the Steering Committee in coordination with DFS and OEM, certified 17 FCCC Corps Chaplains. The Committee manages the FCCC Corps through the support of the CIC and conducts ongoing training and county coordination. OEM, Fire and Rescue Chaplain Program, and Police Chaplain Program representatives assist with the Committee staff support.

Older Adult Ministries Steering Committee

The Older Adult Ministries Steering Committee works to establish neighborhood based Older Adult Ministry Network Groups. The Steering Committee was developed at the request of the Fairfax County Long Term Care Coordinating Committee. The groups meet quarterly each year to learn how other neighborhood houses of worship are addressing the interest and needs of their older congregants and to explore new options and county and nonprofit programs which can provide congregants support or senior ministries with support. The networks facilitate faith community coordination and collaboration in the provision of programs and services. In 2009, two Neighborhood Senior Ministry Networks were established and managed by leadership within houses of worship. These groups are Vienna/Oakton and East Springfield. Houses of worship in Franconia and Fairfax Station will establish their groups in the fall of 2010. Groups are supported by staff from the Long Term Care Council, DFS and Senior Citizen Services with DNCS.

Youth Prevention Steering Committee

The Youth Prevention Steering Committee works to promote faith community awareness and access to government, faith community and nonprofit organization youth prevention initiatives and programs; the development of faith and interfaith youth prevention initiatives and programs, and the strengthening of existing faith and interfaith youth prevention initiatives and programs. The Steering Committee has developed “Partnership Guidelines for Faith Community and Government, Public Schools and Nonprofit Organizations” to facilitate partnerships and provide strong working relation foundations for such partnerships. The Committee has researched existing county faith community youth prevention programs and has developed a booklet of these programs for faith community reference. The Steering

Committee is currently partnering with the DNCS Prevention Coordination Team to develop and conduct faith community and government symposiums to build awareness of youth risk and assets data and best practice youth prevention programs.

Housing Opportunities Steering Committee

The Housing Opportunities Steering Committee facilitates faith communities' awareness of county homelessness and initiatives to prevent and end homelessness and faith community engagement in efforts to increase housing opportunities and programs to prevent and end homelessness. The Housing Opportunities Steering Committee has two representatives on the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness Governing Board.

Interfaith Domestic Violence Prevention Steering Committee

The Interfaith Domestic Violence Prevention Steering Committee facilitates faith community awareness of domestic violence, domestic violence laws and enforcement, domestic violence prevention and response programs, and victim support services. The Committee is currently engaged in developing countywide education programs for faith communities. Nonprofit organizations whose mission is domestic violence prevention of victim support services attend committee meetings and provide member trainings. The Steering Committee is co-supported by the DNCS Domestic Violence Prevention Coordination unit and CIC unit. The Interfaith Domestic Violence Prevention Steering Committee is a member of the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

Northern Virginia Clergy Council for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS

The Northern Virginia Clergy Council for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS was established at the request of the Fairfax County Health Department to strengthen the African American faith community's participation in efforts to lower HIV infections in Fairfax County. The Council is composed of clergy from nine African American churches in Fairfax County including the moderators of both the Northern Virginia Baptist Association and the Northern Virginia Ministerial Conference. Within the past two years, the Council has sponsored two "HIV/AIDS Prevention Faith Summits for Teens and Adults" for some 180 people, and one "How to Establish a HIV/AIDS Ministry" workshop. The Council has promoted HIV/AIDS prevention through participation in the George Mason University HIV/AIDS Day, Virginia Baptist General Assembly Convention, and the Northern Virginia Baptist Association Conference. The Council promotes prevention education to area faith communities through regular emails and mail outs to individual congregations. The Council has established its own fundraising development to fund its initiatives. Council

partners with INOVA Hospital Systems Juniper Program, Northern Virginia AIDS Ministries, K I Services, Inc and the National Capital Area Red Cross HIV/AIDS Division. Each organization is represented at each Council meeting. The Council meetings are staffed by the Health Department through the support of CIC.