



City of San Antonio Faith-Based Initiative



Artwork Courtesy of San Antonio Artist Christopher Maroney

Second Convening of the Faith-Based Initiative Summary Report, May 25, 2017





Executive Summary

Created from information gathered through earlier surveys and the initial convening of faith-based institutions, the Department of Human Services held the Second Convening of the San Antonio Faith-Based Initiative on May 25, 2017.

The primary purposes of this convening were to:

- Update faith-based community and stakeholders on the progress of the Initiative and development of a Faith-Based Initiative Working Group,
- Provide background and strategies on developing a resilient community through coordination and partnership, and
- Develop networks and potential collaborative action plans focused on shared community concerns identified by the Faith-Based Initiative Survey and First Convening.

Resilience – n. bounce-back recovery with a bounce-forward effect, both in times of crisis as well as daily adversities. Based on researched Best Practices, Resilience is key to Community strength and wellness.

Held at the San Antonio Food Bank, the Second Convening was attended by 152 participants representing 127 faith-based institutions: 47 Faith Congregations, 55 Non-Profit Agencies, and 25 other organizations, including universities, businesses, and multiple City of San Antonio departments and offices.

The overall capacity-building theme was ***Creating a Resilient Community in SA!*** and opened with a keynote entitled, ***Doing Good Together: Toward Mutual and Equitable Community Partnerships.*** The remainder of the morning was a facilitated working session about ***Building Community Resilience: San Antonio.*** Skeletal strategies by community concern were also an outcome of the working session.

An evaluative on-line survey was distributed on May 31st to all registrants and attendees from both the First and the Second Convenings. Significant feedback noted the value of relationships and coming together with the desire to have more time to actually work together. Based on information gathered through the Second Convening and the follow-up evaluative survey, the next steps in the San Antonio Faith-Based Initiative include:

- Forming a Working Group with representatives from the San Antonio Faith-Based Community,
- First meeting of that Working Group in July 2017,
- Setting the Initiative's priorities and strategies for the next 1-3 years, and
- Forming necessary Action Teams coordinated by members within the Working Group.



Convening Overview and Format

Communications prior to the Convening continued to build and expand awareness of the Faith-Based Initiative and invited participation in the Second Convening.

Needs, Community Concerns, and Goals

- **Surveyed Faith-Based Community's stated Needs** identified the following: (1) networking, (2) meeting regularly, education, (4) information, (5) resourcing in regards to shared community concerns;
- **Surveyed Faith-Based Community's mutual Community Concerns**, which identified the community's most pressing concerns, prioritized as: (1) generational poverty, (2) homelessness & hunger, (3) immigration & refugees, (4) literacy, (5) children & foster care, mental health, neighborhoods, public health, and religious discrimination; and
- **San Antonio's Faith-Based Initiative's stated Goals:** (1) developing relationships, (2) surveying leadership, (3) creating an accessible network, (4) facilitating common vision, and building capacity.

Format



Dr. Christena Cleveland presenting at 2nd Convening on May 25th, "Doing Good Together: Toward Mutual and Equitable Community Partnerships"s

*"Powerful speakers that honed in on... issues that we face as a nation that are applicable to San Antonio."
-Convening Participant*

- **Keynote Description:** The most resilient communities are diverse communities that draw on the shared wisdom that mutual and equitable partnerships produce. But how do we bridge in service the divide between faith and society? Divides between geography, religions, race, economic status? Integrating research from social psychology and her experiences as a community leader, Dr. Christena Cleveland discussed the factors that prevent mutuality and equality in these potential partnerships and offered the best practices in overcoming them.
- **Dr. Christena Cleveland** is a social psychologist with a hopeful passion for reconciling across cultural divisions. She earned a BA from Dartmouth College, a PhD from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and is the first Associate Professor of the Practice of Reconciliation at Duke University's Divinity School. Her scholarly work includes integrating social psychological perspectives on intergroup and intercultural processes with current reconciliation dilemmas.

"The keynote speaker was dynamic and touched on many of the challenges and issues we face locally." -Convening Participant

Convening Overview and Format



- **Working Session Description:** San Antonio faith and civic leaders rolled up their sleeves around prioritized community concerns, applying the framework of Building Community Resilience (BCR), identifying key community and cross-sector partners necessary to develop strategies and tactics to address social determinant risks and strengthen factors that support resilience.
- **Dr. Wendy Ellis** is the Project Director of the Building Community Resilience collaborative at the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University. The BCR collaborative is testing and implementing a model based on a strengths-based approach and is aimed at building the infrastructure to promote resilience in vulnerable communities.



Dr. Wendy Ellis giving her presentation entitled, "Building Community Resilience: San Antonio"

*"The highly practical elements presented in the working session facilitation, the pamphlets and worksheets [Dr. Ellis] provided [for us to work through] were **spot-on.**" -Convening Participant*

Working Session

Tables were labeled by community concerns from the First Convening on April 3rd: Generational Poverty, Homelessness & Hunger, Immigration & Refugees, Literacy, Children/Foster Care, Mental Health, Neighborhoods, Public Health, and Religious Discrimination. Participants self-selected their working table group.

Following the Welcome and Keynote, the facilitated working session provided table participants the opportunity to work in small groups to network, identify resources and potential partners, and develop messages regarding specific community concerns towards targeted audiences. Each participant received the following Community Resilience take-back resources from George Washington University:

- Action Guide Tools' comprehensive booklet
- Coalition Building and Communications' comprehensive guide
- Worksheets on Asset Mapping, Identifying Partners, and Community Messaging





Summaries from Participant Input

An evaluative survey was sent out after the Second Convening to all registrants/attendees from both Convenings with a 25% response rate (95 responses out of 379):

53% Registered for both Convenings
44% Attended both Convenings

Most remembered and appreciated from First Convening:

- Conversation Triads and Relationships
- Networking and Information Shared

% of Ratings of a 4-5 from Second Convening:

- Keynote Speaker, Dr. Christena Cleveland: **83%**
- Registration and Welcome: **76%**
- Working Session Facilitator: **58%**
- Table Interactive Work: **34%**
- Report Backs: **34%**
- Next Steps: **31%**

*"[It's] hopeful to think that our faith communities working together might be able to make a **meaningful change in SA.**"*
-Convening Participant

Most significant take-away from First Convening:

Meeting people, coming together, and networking

Most significant take-away from Second Convening:

Speakers, keynote, connecting and coming together

#1 suggested change in the entire process of the Initiative:

More time to actually work together.

We asked: *"If you had only one moment to share with someone else, the most significant thing about the convenings would be....?"* You said:

"We are not alone in our shared efforts."

"BEING PART OF A CITY-WIDE FAITH EFFORT."

"Working together to break old stereotypes to begin building a resilient community."

"[It's the] most inter-racial, inter-faith gathering to-date in my experience in San Antonio."

What you said you felt at the Convenings:

Passion!

ENERGY!

Optimism!

HOPE!

Next Steps



Based on participant input from both the Convenings and evaluative surveys, next steps include:

On-going

- Building relationships with faith leaders and faith-based institutions
- Developing network database & identifying technology, and
- Assessing congregational strengths and proposed collaborations

"The challenge is going to be to get us all together to advance the identified issues."
-Convening Participant

July

- First meeting of Working Group

August

- August 11 & 12 – Pathways to Hope Conference at Tobin Center

September/October

- Report on FY 2017 results and create FY 2018 action plan





Congregational & Organizational Participants

Faith-Based Congregations:

Antioch Baptist Church
 Baha'i Faith of San Antonio
 Bethany Congregational UCC
 Blueprint Ministries
 Christ Covenant Church
 Church of the Holy Spirit
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 Church of Reconciliation City Church
 Domain's Kingdom Group and Greater Faith
 Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit
 Faith Community Baptist
 First Baptist Church
 First Presbyterian Church
 First Unitarian Universalist Church
 Friends Meeting of San Antonio (Quakers)
 Good Shepherd Lutheran
 Greater Pilgrim Rest Bapt Church
 Healing Faith Fellowship
 House of Prayer Lutheran
 I Lean on Jesus ministries
 Jacob's Chapel United Methodist Church
 J-Jireh Ministries

Kingdom Life Christian Ministries
 Kingdom Studios
 Living Faith Fellowship Church
 MacArthur Park Lutheran Church
 Metropolitan Community Church
 MCGP Ministries
 Mission Presbytery (central office for Presbyterians)
 Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
 New Creation Christian Fellowship
 New Light Baptist
 Oak Hills Church
 Our Lady of Perpetual Help
 Redeemer Presbyterian Church
 Rio Texas Conference (central office for United Methodist Church)
 Romanian Orthodox Church
 St. Luke Baptist
 St. Matthew Catholic
 St. Paul Catholic
 St. Paul United Methodist
 Serve the City Any Woman Can
 Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran
 Temple Chai
 The Islamic Institute
 Zion Lutheran Church

Non-Profit Organizations:

Any Woman Can
 Asian Child Rescue Ministries
 Baptist Health Foundation of SA
 Beat Aids
 Bethel Prevention Coalition
 Catholic Charities
 Club Lighthouse Christian Services
 Community of Churches for Social Action
 COPS/Metro Alliance
 DePelchin Children's Center
 Dialogue Institute of Southwest
 Environmental Defense Fund
 Families Especial
 Fight Against Sexual Assault
 Good Samaritan Community Center
 Health Collaborative
 Haven for Hope
 IKOR
 InterfaithINC
 Interfaith Welcome Coalition
 Interreligious Council of San Antonio
 Jewish Federation of San Antonio
 Latina Leadership Institute



Congregational & Organizational Participants Cont.



Maryknoll San Antonio	Unicity	Ramon Chapa, Jr. Promotions
Methodist Healthcare Ministries	United Communities of San Antonio	St. Mary's University
Monticello High School	Unity Empowerment Center Inc.	SARAH
Morningside Ministries	Voices for Children	Southwest Independent School District
NAMI	Wellness Center for Families of Faith	The Cactus Report
Open Table	Wellspring Wellness Manifest-Center for Inspired Living	Toyota
Pax Christi San Antonio	YMCA of Greater San Antonio	Trinity University
Saint Susie Charitable Foundation	Other Organizations	USAF
San Antonio Area Foundation	Alamo Colleges	UT Health School of Public Health
San Antonio Community of Congregations	Building a Healthy Temple Program, UTSA	UTSA
San Antonio Food Bank	Building Community Resilience, Dallas	Veterans for Education Reform
San Antonio Interfaith Power & Light	Communities in Schools COSA – CMO, DHS, Metro Health, DIO, Sustainability, Mayor's Office, Mayor's Fitness Council	Wayland Baptist University
San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries	Ettling Center for Civic Leadership, UIW	
San Antonio Peace Center	Google Fiber	
San Antonio Sponsoring Committee	National Inter-Organizational Collaborative	
San Antonio Youth Literacy	New York Life	
STCH Ministries	Our Lady of the Lake University	
Strong Foundation	Palo Alto College	
Texas Alliance For Human Needs	Participatory Budgeting San Antonio	
Texas Public Radio – Dare to Listen	Ponce Consulting	
Texas Leadership Coalition		
The H. E. Butt Family Foundation		
The Inspiration Center		
The SoL Center		
Trulight127		