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State of the Union 2007

On Tuesday, January 23, 2007, First Lady Laura Bush welcomed Fr. Michael Boland, CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, to join her and 23 others at the State of the Union Address. Fr. Boland and Catholic Charities showcased the importance of government partnerships with effective faith-based and community organizations.

The St. Leo Residence was designed and built by Catholic Charities of Chicago and is the first completed development in a loan guarantee pilot program authorized by Congress (1998) to reduce the number of homeless veterans living in our country. St. Leo's is a multi-agency holistic model of care for veterans. In addition to the residence, which has 141 studio apartments for transitional housing, the site includes a job training office, a community health center, and an adjacent home for disabled veterans. The St. Leo's project exemplifies the wise use of government funds in support of effective faith and community based social services.



President George W. Bush delivers his State of the Union Address Tuesday, January 23, 2007, at the U.S. Capitol.

White House photo by Shealah Craighead

Representatives from faith-based and community organizations who have sat in the First Lady's box during previous State of the Union addresses include: Tonja Myles, Founder and CEO of Set Free Indeed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Julio Medina, Founder and Executive Director of Exodus Transitional Community in New York, New York; and Jim Kelly, CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Study Highlights Ohio's State Faith-Based & Community Initiative

Researchers with Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion have recognized the Governor of Ohio's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI), "as one of the best examples of how faith-based and community initiatives can

flourish at a state-wide level," in a case study published last week. The case study outlines the Ohio programs created by the office and offers an analysis of how the state has achieved success. William Wubbenhorst, co-author of the study,

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mentioned in an interview that he hopes the study will provide “practical insights, lessons and strategies for other states or municipalities that seek to develop a faith-based and community initiative.”

The GOFBCI was created by a task force through a series of bi-partisan efforts in June 2003. Krista Sisterhen, who had previously worked for the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, was named as the first director of the GOFBCI in October 2003. Sisterhen chose a pragmatic emphasis for the GOFBCI, focusing on:

- Serving ex-offenders and their families;
- Helping older, vulnerable youth aging out of foster care or being released from incarceration; and
- Encouraging community strategies to strengthen marriages and prevent out-of-wedlock births.

The GOFBCI succeeded in educating faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) on how to partner with one another. The GOFBCI created grant proposals that required larger social service organizations to partner with smaller ones in order to give the latter a chance to compete for state and federal dollars. Ultimately, these types of partnerships expanded and strengthened efforts to better serve people in their communities. As

Sisterhen explained, “The combined funding of these programs, which dovetailed with other direct federal grant programs, gave us a continuum of funding to create a new cadre of community-serving organizations that were mostly operating below the radar of many state human services programs.”

The GOFBCI also conducted extensive outreach across the state with the support of its training and technical assistance provider, We Care America. These statewide sessions included technical assistance training on how to apply for state grants and how to reach out to target populations.



Others have taken notice of what the GOFBCI has accomplished through its innovative partnerships. With an operating budget of \$625,000 in its first two years, the GOFBCI now manages over \$15 million in funding for 74 different grantees, including intermediary organizations serving the three target populations and small grassroots FBCOs who have received capacity building assistance.

To read the case study, visit:

www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php/40017.pdf.

Promising Practices of Intermediary Organizations

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) released a study last week showcasing the promising practices of intermediary organizations. The study, “Promising Practices for Improving the Capacity of Faith and Community Based Organizations,” documents the range of services intermediary organizations provided their constituents through the Compassion Capitol Fund (CCF) and highlights their successful strategies. The CCF program, established by Congress in 2002, provides funding for intermediary organizations to offer training, technical assistance and financial assistance to faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs). Promising practices highlighted in this study include how

intermediaries form effective partnerships to strengthen the capacity of grassroots groups and how intermediaries efficiently facilitate training and administer grant sub-awards.

The report concludes that intermediary organizations are an efficient means for the federal government to successfully partner with FBCOs because they provide grassroots organizations with the ability to improve their effectiveness.

To access the “Promising Practices” report, visit:

www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccf/resources/gbk_pp_gbk.pdf.

View from the Federal Agencies

Michigan's SHARE Network

Director Robert W. Swanson, head of Michigan's Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG), recently announced the launch of the SHARE (Sharing How Access to Resources Empower) Network Resource Directory. SHARE, a pilot initiative developed at the U.S. Department of Labor, is comprised of two components: an online web-based resource directory, which helps job-seekers access social services throughout the state; and "Access Points," which allows faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) to connect to all of the resources provided by the local One-Stop Career Center system.



"The SHARE network was created to empower job seekers and other citizens in need of assistance to find all of the local resources they can tap into to become self-sufficient," said Greg Roberts, Director of the Michigan Governor's Office of Community and Faith-Based Initiatives. "We encourage any organization that offers services to add their resources to the SHARE Network Resource Directory so we can promote each other's programs and better serve our customers." To date, services include child care, clothing, literacy training, mentoring, and housing assistance. In addition to the Resource Directory, Michigan Workforce Agencies are setting up Access Points in local FBCOs. Currently, there are four Access Points in Washtenaw County—Jewish Family Services, Power Inc., Mt. Hermon Missionary Baptist Church, and New Testament Baptist Church—with more to come.

SHARE is currently operating in the following states: New Mexico; North Carolina; Missouri; Michigan; Tennessee; and Ohio. The following states will also be launching a SHARE network in the near future: Indiana; Kansas; and Arkansas.

For more information on Michigan's SHARE Network, visit: www.michigan.gov/sharenetwork.

Access to Recovery Conference

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) at HHS held the 2007 Access to Recovery (ATR) Winter Grantee Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, last week. More than 150 individuals were in attendance including representatives from HHS, state and local officials, and ATR service providers. New SAMHSA administrator Terry Cline, Ph.D., commended the performance of ATR grantees and thanked them for their hard work in continuing to make this program a success. SAMHSA and state and tribal leadership also discussed improving client outcomes and sustaining capacity beyond the third year of funding in 2007.

ATR is a substance abuse treatment and recovery initiative that expands clinical treatment and recovery support services to reach those in need through a voucher mechanism that permits clients to choose from a full-range of providers including faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs). President Bush announced the ATR program in his 2003 State of the Union Address. After a competitive grant process, funds were awarded to 14 states and one tribal organization, who in turn distribute the assistance in the form of vouchers.

ATR provides recovery support services, increases treatment capacity, and reports quarterly on established outputs that help measure effectiveness. State and tribal authorities have sought and built relationships with FBCOs, recognizing that these groups have the strengths and resources necessary to impact the lives of those most in need. By integrating treatment with the recovery support provided by grassroots organizations, states are beginning to broaden their service delivery and help create an environment that can change the life of an individual struggling with addiction.

For more information on Access to Recovery, visit: www.atr.samhsa.gov.

If you are interested in receiving our weekly e-newsletter, "OFBCI Update", visit www.fbc.gov and click the "Join Our Mailing List" link.

**FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE
THE WEEK AHEAD**
Monday, January 29, 2007 | Saturday, February 3, 2007

Tuesday, January 30

WHITE HOUSE OFBCI & DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: Jay Hein and Jedd Medefind speak at a DOL-CFBCI award ceremony for the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board.
Falls Church, VA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: Erica Pelman, Dori Rutherford, and Public/Private Ventures host a conference call workshop on how to expand employment networks for job-seekers.
Washington, DC

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE: Miriam Moore provides training for the Office on Violence Against Women Elder grantees.
Washington, DC

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: Shayam Menon participates in the Supplemental Educational Services and 21st Children Creative Learning Centers Technical Assistance Workshop.
Miami, FL

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: National Vaccine Program Office at HHS conducts a pandemic influenza vaccine prioritization meeting and meets with the Islamic Medical Association of North America, the Secure Community Network, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, and the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.
Washington, DC

Wednesday, January 31

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE: Steve McFarland participates in the Prisoner Re-entry Initiative (PRI) Grantees Conference.
St. Louis, MO

Thursday, February 1

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: Shayam Menon participates in the Supplemental Educational Services and 21st Children Creative Learning Centers Technical Assistance Workshop.
Tampa, FL

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: Jedd Medefind addresses PRI Grantees at the DOJ Prisoner Re-entry Initiative Conference.
St. Louis, MO