

## **EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES**

**P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662**

**February 12, 2013**

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church beginning at 12:00 noon.

**WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order and conducted by EISCC President Warren Marquardson.

**OPENING REFLECTION:** An opening reflection was shared by Pastor Tom Steffen of St. Peter's United Methodist Church.

**SELF-INTRODUCTIONS** were made by 20 members and guests.

**MINUTES** of the January 8, 2012 meeting were approved as distributed.

**REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR:** We would like to thank the following individuals for providing today's refreshments: Diane Richards, Jan Starr, Marilyn Rands, and Sandy Lewis

### **ADOPTION OF NEW EISCC SUBAGENCIES:**

#### **Backpack Meals:**

**MOTION;** The EISCC Board of Directors recommended that EISCC approve adopting Backpack Meals as a subagency of EISCC. The first Executive Director would be Jan Starr and the Treasurer would be Kimberly Kibby. The recommendation was moved and seconded and passed unanimously.

#### **Eastside Mental Health Ministry:**

**MOTION:** The EISCC Board of Directors recommended that EISCC approve adopting Eastside Mental Health Ministry as a pilot program to operate for six months under EISCC's 501(c)(3) designation after which time EISCC will re-evaluate the relationship. It is understood that for the duration of the pilot program there will be no staff remuneration but instead the EISCC Treasurer would manage donations to the Eastside Mental Health Ministry disbursing funds to cover costs for training materials, supplies, etc. only to the extent of the funds raised. The recommendation was moved and seconded and passed unanimously.

### **AGENCY REPORTS:**

**CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS:** No report. Nancy Jacobs was unable to attend the meeting.

**BACKPACK MEALS:** Newly installed Executive Director Jan Starr ([jdstarrs@gmail.com](mailto:jdstarrs@gmail.com)) reported that have been evaluating the effectiveness of the program by surveying the students they serve. The program has received a couple of hundred hours of volunteer time and since September has been able to provide 889 backpacks filled with food to needy students. The backpacks are packed on Thursdays at the Bellevue School District warehouse. Volunteers then deliver the bags to the participating schools where the bags are distributed. For more information and to find out how you can help, please visit <http://backpackmeals.org/>.

**LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR:** EISCC Legislative Coordinator Nancy Bent was unable to attend so EISCC

Secretary Brian Anderson reported in her stead.

**Universal Background Checks:** Bills have been introduced to both houses of the Washington State Legislature calling for universal background checks on all firearm sales made in the state – both by licensed firearms dealers (as is already required) and by private parties.

Interested EISCC members are encouraged to contact their legislators urging their support of HB 1588 and SB 5711.

Information on how to identify and contact your legislator is available at <http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>.

In addition, you can leave a message for your legislator by calling the legislative hotline at **1-800-562-6000**. Messages are forwarded electronically to the appropriate individuals. During the Legislative session, the Hotline is open from 8AM to 8PM Monday through Friday and from 9AM to 1PM on Saturday."

**TOLLING ON I-90:** The Washington State Department of Transportation is asking for public comments on a proposal to add tolls to the I90 Bridge. They are interested in finding out how such tolls would affect members of your congregation or those you serve and have produced a Community Guide and a Comment Form (see attached) to help you. All of our documents and information is available on our website at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Tolling/I90>.

They are collecting comments via email, online form or snail mail until Feb. 22 (instructions are in the Community Guide and on the Comment Form). Please let them know what you think.

#### **PROGRAM: EASTSIDE MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY**

Rev. Dave Emery, Executive Director of the newly created Eastside Mental Health Ministry reported that his program is devoted to helping all of us see those with severe and persistent mental illness in a new way.

Severe and persistent mental health issues are a part of our every day experience, but too often we do not want to acknowledge or deal with them.

One in five people in our country will experience a significant mental health issue this year. One in four will do so in their lifetime. And one in six people are experiencing one right now.

Depression is one of the highest undiagnosed problems in the country.

The Eastside Mental Health Ministry has a three-fold purpose:

- To Increase Awareness and Provide Education in Faith Communities – The primary focus is to help people understand the unique nature of Mental Illness issues and to address people dealing with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness in a helpful and appropriate manner.
- To Offer Companionship Training Events – The program would offer companionship-training events to equip, inform, and prepare people to walk alongside folks with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness.

- To Advocate for People with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness that they may have a better quality of life – Walking alongside people that frequently reject others is a gift and a blessing that cannot be understood.

Specifically, the Eastside Mental Health Ministry will provide:

- Mental Health Awareness Introduction:
  - Making an overall picture of the what Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) really means.
  - Sharing about the causes and onset of Mental Health concerns.
  - Seeing the individual with SPMI for who they are: A Blessed and LOVED child of God/the universe.
- Mental Health Advocate Training
  - Assisting a person to be an interpreter to the faith community for compassion and concern for those with SPMI.
  - Sharing a presence of information and willingness to share the truth in various settings about Mental Health Issues.
  - Reminding other of the importance of being concerned about these individuals.
  - Having the resources to deal with questions and concerns about this issue.
- Mental Health Team Development
  - Assisting a group of individuals to work inside the community of faith to help those with SPMI and the community to care for them.
- Mental Health Companionship Ministry Training and Support
  - Assisting faith communities in hosting a companionship workshop

If you are interesting in finding out more about how your faith community can learn to better welcome those with SPMI, please contact Dave Emery at [206-351-1426](tel:206-351-1426) or [dce111@gmail.com](mailto:dce111@gmail.com).

**OPENINGS ON THE EISCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** There are vacancies on the EISCC Board of Directors following the adoption of the two new EISCC subagencies. If you are interested in becoming more involved in EISCC through Board service, please contact EISCC President Warren Marquardson at [warren@marquardson.com](mailto:warren@marquardson.com).

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS** - CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts ([206-295-7803](tel:206-295-7803) or [stever@cfhomeless.org](mailto:stever@cfhomeless.org)) reported that there are 50 men using the day center every day, 50 men in the Eastside Winter Shelter each night and 40 people a night using the North Bend Winter Shelter.

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** Karina O'Mally ([karina@sophiaway.org](mailto:karina@sophiaway.org)) reported that Sophia's Thrift Shoppe is now open at 13219 NE 20th St Suite 200 in Bellevue.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**THE KIRKLAND INTERFAITH NETWORK AND HOPELINK** are sponsoring a Poverty Simulation on Saturday, March 2, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Lake Washington United Methodist Church (7525 132nd Ave NE, Kirkland 98033). Participants will be introduced to the complexities of living in poverty day-to-day, get a sense of how difficult it is to juggle time and finances when living in poverty and gain environmental and emotional insights to the challenges faced by Hopelink clients. For more information visit <http://www.kirklandinterfaith.net/povertyFAQ.htm>.

**F.I.R.E. (Fostering Interfaith Relationships)** is planning Their First Interfaith Dinner Dialogue Potluck on Sunday, March 10th from 5:30pm-7:30pm at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church (308 4th Avenue South, Kirkland)

This is the first in a series of Dinner Dialogues aimed at fostering interfaith relationships.

*This dialogue is inspired by:*

*"12 Steps to a Compassionate Life" by Karen Armstrong*

- \* Hear from panelists across faith traditions on compassion
- \* Interfaith Sharing
- \* Fabulous Potluck Dinner and Conversation!!!

Come, bring your favorite dish - labeled and enough to share.  
Enjoy a stimulating evening of Interfaith Dialogue!

Please e-mail us at [RSVP@fire-wa.org](mailto:RSVP@fire-wa.org) and tell us how many will attend.

For more information, go to [www.fire-wa.org](http://www.fire-wa.org)

**FESTA ITALIANA:** The Sophia Way's Benefit Dinner and Auction will be held Saturday, March 2, 2013 at the Hilton Hotel in Bellevue(300 112th Ave SE) beginning at 5:00 p.m. with a hosted bar and cocktail hour. You can register online at <http://thesophiawayitalianfiesta.afrogs.org/user/manage/index.html> call Sirjan at 425-463-6285 x111 or email [srijan@sophiaway.org](mailto:srijan@sophiaway.org).

**BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES'** Celebration for March will be our annual Rock 'n Roll Dance to be held on Saturday, March 2nd, 1-4pm, at Newport Covenant Church, 12800 SE Coal Creek Pkwy, Bellevue, 98006. The theme for this dance is a 60's Love In, and we'll be selling tie dye shirts as a fundraiser if you don't have one of your own. Lunch will be provided. There is no charge to attend, everyone is welcome and volunteers are very much appreciated. Call (425)885-1006 ext#118 or email [lindam@bridgemin.org](mailto:lindam@bridgemin.org) for more information.

**BELLEVUE CROP WALK:** The annual Bellevue CROP Hunger Walk will take place Saturday, May 4, 2013 beginning at First Congregational Church of Bellevue (752 108th Ave NE). This is a community event to raise awareness and support for anti-hunger work in Bellevue and around the globe. Funds raised support the work of Hopelink, Emergency Feeding Program and Church World Service.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with the walk beginning at 10:00 a.m. There will be a community barbecue following the walk. All are invited to join.

To learn more visit [www.bellevuecropwalk.org](http://www.bellevuecropwalk.org) or contact Christopher Carpenter at 206-988-1622 or

[ccarpenter@churchworldservice.org](mailto:ccarpenter@churchworldservice.org).

**GRACE ON THE MARGINS: THE INTERCOMMUNITY PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER PRESENTS WOMEN'S CONVOCATION V**, April 12-13, 2013 at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue. Both women and men are invited to come hear 19 national speakers on spirituality and justice. Fee; \$125 before March 1st, \$150 after. Call or email for Registration brochures: (206) 223-1138 or [ipjc@ipjc.org](mailto:ipjc@ipjc.org). For more information visit [www.ipjc.org](http://www.ipjc.org).

**CLOSING REFLECTION:** The meeting ended with a closing reflection from Sandy Lewis from the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.**

**PROGRAM: BELLEVUE NOURISHING NETWORK** – a bold initiative that seeks a way to systematically link the latent resources of volunteer time and talent within Bellevue to help combat local hunger.

LOCATION: BRISTOL HALL, ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 4228 FACTORIA BOULEVARD SE, BELLEVUE (ACROSS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL)

Brian Anderson, EISCC Secretary