

REGION IX FEDERAL REGIONAL COUNCIL FAITH-BASED AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

The Region IX Federal Regional Council (FRC) is comprised of 19 separate federal Departments and Agencies representing nearly 30 different program offices in Region IX (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau). The goal of the FRC is to work in a coordinated manner to make federal programs more effective and efficient in Region IX.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Regional Director, Thomas Lorentzen, serves as the FRC Chair. Emory Lee, Executive Officer, HHS Regional Director's Office, serves as the FRC Secretariat. The FRC website can be viewed at www.frc9.us.

The Council has six committees focused on national initiatives, broad geographic areas and/or special populations. Executive Orders or Administration Initiatives serve as the underlying bases in guiding the work of the committees. The six committees are:

- Border Committee
- Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (FBNP) Committee
- Homelessness Committee (Regional Interagency Council on Homelessness)
- Outer Pacific Committee
- Guam-CNMI Build-Up Committee/Taskforce
- Tribal Affairs Committee

The FBNP Committee was established in 2006. The purposes of the Committee are:

- To provide a forum that includes Federal, State and local officials, as well as faith-based and community organizations to discuss and exchange information regarding program initiatives in Region IX.
- To maximize limited resources via coordination, inter-agency collaborations, and partnerships at the Federal, State and local levels of government.

The Committee is comprised of representatives from HHS, Internal Revenue Service, Small Business Administration, Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Labor, and Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Social Security Administration.

During 2006 and 2007, the Committee focused on working with Region IX States to build faith-based and community programs and services. It worked with Arizona and Hawaii, both of which have FBCI State liaisons. The Committee was not able to generate interest from California and Nevada. In 2008, besides continuing to work with Arizona, the Committee concentrated on effective local faith-based and community programs (e.g., Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County and Glide Foundation) to collaborate on partnerships which respond to the growing numbers of

poor children, families and adults. The Committee continues to partner with other FRC Committees (e.g., Homelessness) to support homeless veterans by conducting a year long clothing drive that rotates among Federal agencies on a monthly basis. For 2009, the Committee will continue to grow partnerships that address poverty at the community level by outreaching to faith-based and community organizations, and by facilitating collaboration among its Federal members.

Administration for Children and Families/HHS Regional Administrator, Sharon Fujii, serves as the Chair of the FBNP Committee. Committee meetings are held bimonthly. Additional information about the FBNP Committee is available at www.frc9.us/committee/Faith/faith.asp. Inquiries should be directed to Emily Hughes, FBNP Committee Coordinator, at emily.hughes@acf.hhs.gov.