

## MINUTES

**Interfaith Mental Health Coalition Zoom Online and Phone  
Quarterly Spotlight Meeting (all are welcome)  
Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 1-3 pm Central Time  
To Join Zoom Meeting  
Interfaith Mental Health Coalition (IMHC)  
"Connecting faith leaders with mental health resources"  
([www.interfaithmhc.org](http://www.interfaithmhc.org))**

**Recent Attendees (Minutes will underline to show attending):**

Jolene LeRoy, IMHC Pres/AMITA  
Rev. Dr. Darryl Jenkins, IMHC VP,  
Pastor  
Denise Elsbree, IMHC  
Treasurer/MHFA  
Rita Rippentrop, IMHC  
Sec/Stenzel Venoncia Bate-  
Ambrus, IMHC Brd  
Member at Large, Workforce  
Dev, Journey Care  
Suzanne Martinez, IMHC Brd  
Member at Large, Advocate  
Aurora, Co-Pres NAMI  
McHenry,  
QPR Trainer, ACES  
programming Robert Skrocki,  
IMHC  
Communication  
Greg Alexander, McHenry Co  
Cluster  
Hugh Brady, NAMI, Housing TaskForce  
Pam Caine, Church of Jesus Christ of  
LDS  
Maria Connolly, St. Damian's MH  
Awareness Support Gp

Robert Dell, UCC Network, P2P,  
Sandwich Cluster  
William Hood, CRSS, NAMI DuPage  
Dawn Levin, JCFS  
Trina Lueckhoff, Linden Oaks MHFA  
Brian Lux, Outreach  
Amy McNicholas, Advocate Health  
David Penner, Director of Care, Pr of  
Peace Lutheran Church  
Shamim Sufi, LCSW, Islamic Ctr of  
Naperville  
Barbara Wilson, Chicago Presbytery  
Charla Waxman, Lake Beh Hosp,  
Waukegan  
Cesar Hernandez, 1st United Ch of  
Christ, Crystal Lake  
Bunny Hughes, Pres Pastor, Chic, MH  
Committee  
Linda Pacha, Nick's Network of  
Hope, St. Margaret Mary Cath  
Angela Stephenson  
Jen Fuja, Gateway Foundation

Angela Stephenson, Living Abundantly

Ministry  
Mike Rudolph, Riveredge, Forest Pk  
Marianne Bithos, NAMI So Sub  
Barb Gorsky, Pastor, Elk Grove Pres  
Church  
Angelica Gomez, Comm Health  
Worker, Westside Greater  
Lawndale, Journey Care  
Kandis Draw, Journey Care  
Community Health Worker,  
South Side Chicago  
(kdrwa@journeycare.org)  
Marueen Burns, Journey Care,  
(mburns@journeycrae.org,  
Comm Health Worker, Rogers Pk  
Paula Kosin, St. Thomas the  
APostle, Behv Health Min Team  
Rabbi Craig Marantz  
Rizwan Ali, Islamic Ctr, Naperville  
Sue Geegan, Dir of Human  
Concerns, Holy Family Parish,  
Palatine  
Tom Lambert, Diocese of Chicago  
Commision of MH

### 1) 1 – 2 PM Reflection, Exodus 13

Discussion moderated by Rev. Dr. Darryl Jenkins on how the pandemic has affected faith communities, clergy, and lay leadership. Respondents will include David Penner, Director of Care, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church; Rizwan Ali, Imam and Religious Director, Islamic Center of Naperville; and Rabbi Craig Marantz, Senior Rabbi, Emanuel Congregation.

Rizwan Ali [imam@icnmasjid.org](mailto:imam@icnmasjid.org)

Rabbi Craig Marantz [rabbimarantz@emanuelcong.org](mailto:rabbimarantz@emanuelcong.org)

Dave Penner [dave@poppalatine.org](mailto:dave@poppalatine.org)

- Messaging: how have we delivered to the panelists specific messages or teaching  
Still the church, adjust how gather and live out being the church  
Difficult situation, make the best out of it

Attitude

Adaptation

Image of the cloud and pillar of fire rest on the indwelling space of God: faith and hope to have physical space to connect with eternal one; how to adjust and create a sense of connection, stay bonded, how to pursue acts of justice and caring when quarantining. Big questions require us to shift. Create virtual space.

Praising place

Reopening: love and discernment; non-judgemental energy; bring experience to them (usually by phone)

More creative without physical space; virtual village; take initiative

Foster independent path making and personal responsibility

- Monitoring the weight of the people: how shall we continue to place our hand on the pulse of our people and community at large

How have you stepped out comfortably to share and engage?

Normal cycle of readings, life-giving and life-breathing and can react to circumstances of the time

Launched social media accounts--adjust and adapt

Depression/Stress

Sort things out: MHFA or Companionship

Speak about them, normalize them; messaging formally and informally as speak with each other and check in on one another; breaking down boundaries; destigmatization has happened;

Not in this alone; in it as a group journey

Resources are available: pastoral and professional

Needs from holistic perspective; destigmatizing; help as able; shepherding

We have received a mutual call; not merely delegating, mutual responsible

- Migration to lead the people during this Exodus as you will; God has been a pillar at night and cloud by day

Building back better

More people engage outside the building than inside the building

How serve the needs of all the people (infrastructure, financial)

More relational thinking, not geographic connections; movement toward people being more open minded; have gone thru experiences of giving things up, character development;

Planning for more baby ministries

## 2) 2-3 PM, Introductions, Announcements, Business items.

Business Matters:

a. Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2021 meeting <http://interfaithmhc.org/minutes>:

motion by Darryl ; seconded by Dave; motion carries

b. Financial Report -- Denise Elsbree <https://interfaithmhc.org/balance>: no change from last month

c. Further planning on the 2021 IMHC Calendar <http://interfaithmhc.org/calendar> : April is for cluster activity or attend a course and prepare for mental health awareness month of May; next all group meeting is May 18th 1-3 pm via zoom, topic: "Social determinants that impact health and

health disparities”; panel with 4 counties represented; good contacts with county personnel for panelist? Jolene has one from Kane Co Health Dept; Family Bridges; Lake Co Health Dept, Suzanne d. Update on development of the one stop shop repository of resources for mental health ministry development. Progress on becoming a member of Northbridge Technology Cooperative and Denise and Robert beginning conversations with Northbridge staff to refine our needs (“must have” features, “want” features, most cost effective ways to obtain those features). See

progress at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1v5LEpE5WO6-obQ29QRVdvJJcMqgCk6sUvoXIDZGCM0l/edit#heading=h.aczyuw2yex2w>

See the Northbridge proposal at <http://interfaithmhc.org/Proposal>.

Denise and Robert meet every 2 weeks from Northbridge Technology Alliance: Statement of need; developing user types; what type of resources might be included; what type of features might want on that website; repository solution candidates.

Robert shared draft of statement of need and table that lists types of people accessing the resource guide, including the type of access they may have

Next meeting: types of resources to be included

How to roll the website out. Start with a smaller controlled group.

Technological layers: for specific user develop narrow app per group

Section called news: upcoming events, new service; community bulletin board

Links to websites already in place

Archdiocese website: MIIMinistry.org many resources for prayers, organizational things for parish or congregations; working on national one as well

Robert will take ideas back to the planning group

### 3) Announcements

CommunityResources.AmitaHealth.org -- free or reduced medical, job training, health, food, housing; enter zipcode to find resources; update every 6 months; open to community updates for local and state

Bunny Hughes--training for Adverse Childhood Experiences; next May 15th, virtual; 1-hour introduction; Barbara Wilson can serve as contact; open to being invited into groups to do trainings 1 hr- 2 days length

Mental Health legislation under ways: bills 1) Housing is Recovery pilot program aimed at 3-4 sites across state, look at heavy users of MH and substance use services (ER, Jail; etc) by homeless to get them into housing; 2) Strong Minds bill: limited Cares line, expand it to be open 24/7; alternative to 911; does not need law enforcement response to their crisis; mobile crisis response team at door within 90 minutes. Hugh will send a link; vote on Housing tomorrow at 9 am; slipping.

Tom Lambert: Tuesday; 4th Tuesday night via zoom; prayer service lexio divina for those who struggle with mental illness

Fox Valley cluster been dormant, re-energize via zoom

Northwest needs to be re-energize

Far West inactive due to virus

Encouragement for cluster to gather in April and make plans or at least reconnect

Next scheduled meeting:

May 18<sup>th</sup> 1- 3 pm IMHC Meeting via Zoom. Reflection: Robert Skrocki Topic: Social

determinants that impact health, health disparities; panel members from 4 counties  
(overall picture, mental, what role do faith communities have in addressing this or could  
they have