

**2019 SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COLLOQUIUM**  
**MAY 22, 2019**  
**SILVER SPRING CIVIC CENTER**

**GENERAL OBSERVATIONS**

The day began with:

- Fellowship and a continental breakfast
- Welcome and scriptures by Rev. Russell Snyder
- Special Music by the ‘Barber Children’
- General Context for the day and why the gathering was important
- Keynote Message: **“Preparing Our Community for the Future”** by Dr. Sheridan Todd Yeary, Senior Pastor- Douglas Memorial Community Church (See attached program)

By noon, 128 people were in attendance and participants divided into table work groups and addressed the following topics based on their interest (Moral Injury; Mental Health and Wellness; Social Justice; Housing; Education; Youth and Culture). Each table had a facilitator and recorder.

Rev. Carlos Duran facilitated the afternoon.

During lunch, the panel was convened, to provide observations and reflections on select work session topics.

Moderator: **Korva Coleman**, Newscaster for National Public Radio (NPR)

Panelists:

**Rev. Dr. C. Anthony Muse**, Senior Pastor – Ark of Safety Christian Church

**Rev. Dr. Brian Miller** – Inpatient/Outpatient Mental Health Chaplain  
James H. Quillen VA Medical Center

**Mark Alan Zelden**, Director, The Center for Faith and Opportunities  
Initiatives U. S. Department of Labor

**Rev. Rhema Davis** – Youth Pastor – Celebration Christian Church

**WORKGROUP REPORTS** were shared.

**Mental Health & Wellness**

1. The interconnectedness of Mental Health & Wellness
2. The stigma & lack of awareness & education attached to mental health causes people to be hesitant to get help
  - We have to let them know it is okay to admit weaknesses. Therefore, they should not feel isolated. It begins with trust that leads to prevention.
3. Disparities in access to care

**Mental Health** - Imbalance that encompasses a disruption in our lives. This disruption can happen in an instant.

- Affects how we act and think
- Does not discriminate –color, age, religion, etc. are not factors
- We have to work to reduce stigma so people can get help
- Trust leads to prevention

- Awareness and Education are key to recognizing the symptoms
- Collaborative care can help address total needs (medical, mental, & physical), the person can receive substance abuse and mental health care in one place. The person's physical needs must also be addressed. Meeting physical needs are a problem sometimes because some people cannot afford to eat healthy. Even in schools small children need their mental health issues addressed.
- There must be access to mental health care and resources available to those who need help
- It is important to ensure the diagnosis is correct for the patient and the caregiver.
- Mental Health breaks should also be provided to those who provide the services.
- samhsa.gov – website to request info. related to mental health

### **Mental Health & Wellness Action Plan**

- Education & Awareness Campaign
- Campaign will focus on Churches in Communities, Libraries & Other Public Spaces
- Create a Mental Health 1st Aide care to help people recognize the symptoms/signs
- Roundtable Discussions via Chat & Chew, Coffee House, Book Club, & Blue Table Talk –Social Media (Live Broadcast on Facebook)
- Social media can help spread the awareness – those who impact the public like doctors or police can ask questions that may lead others to disclose more information.
- Create Resource List- Mental Health services are provided by churches, The Salvation Army, hot lines, etc. who can directly help or provide referrals to another resource if they cannot provide the appropriate mental health services. Companies should be willing to share this information with others.

**Next Meeting for Mental Health & Wellness Group is via Skype on 6/20/2019**

### **Moral Injury**

- Individual Stories – human connection
- Need for awareness/begin the conversation
- Next steps sharing resources, conferences/materials – trainings

### **Social Justice**

Re-Entry after Incarceration

1. Create a group to check on senior citizens that don't have family members to check on them
2. Great support group for ministers to be a part of because a lot of them commit suicide
3. Assist Ex-Offenders by creating small jobs to generate fund's and raise confidence
4. Mentorship for youth, search for young-folk that need that wrap around love.
5. Give them hope and faith in themselves with care.
6. Independence and wrap-around support
  - Continued Case Management Services
  - Steady employment
  - Sense of Purpose (Community Connectivity)
  - Celebrating Milestones

### **Social Justice Points of Action:**

1. Prevention
  - Community Policing
  - Mentorship
  - Community Engagement
2. Transition (Pre-Release Services)
  - Improving Persons Holistically
  - Addressing Health Needs
  - Family Reconciliation
  - Spiritual Needs
  - Emotional Management
  - Substance Abuse Services
  - Housing
  - Community Prep/Education

### **Education**

1. Develop a “road map” to formalize on how to adopt a school program
2. Increase awareness of VOAC Services to school community and how to support academic opportunities at the college level (i.e. community service hours)
3. Workforce Development – Summer Youth Employment Program

### **Housing**

Action Steps:

1. Legislative Advocacy
  - Development
  - Permanent Supportive Housing
2. Make Housing and Healthcare Issues
  - Start conversation
  - Dollars and Data
3. Follow – up meetings
  - Strategic plan to go forward

### **Closing Moments** [Collected Contact Information; Table Work Session Sticker Easel Sheets]

- Rev. Carlos Duran thanked participants and encouraged them to be a member of coalition
- Rev. Yeary provides overview of the day and gives charge to participants going forward
- Rev. Damien Johnson pronounced the benediction

### **NEXT STEP**

**First Coalition Meeting**

**Noon**

**Wednesday, June 26, 2019**

**Silver Spring Civic Center**

## COLLOQUIUM SURVEY RESULTS – (Based on a Total of 35 Surveys Received)

### 1. Did today's event exceed, meet, or fall short of your expectation? Please explain?

**Exceeded – 16**

**Met – 12**

**Fell short - 0**

#### Comments

- I learned a lot about the topic of Mental Health. I learned it is important to get the word out and seeking help should be encouraged.
- **The staff is very knowledgeable and panelist were very good.**
- Today was the first time I was ever presented with the idea of attending a Spiritual Development Colloquium. This was a wonderful event.
- The event exceeded my expectations because it covers every area of the helpless needs.
- The table discussion was great, but I expected more interaction like last year.
- I enjoyed connecting and discussing the topics and networking – ultimately learning from other perspectives.
- It was an awesome event.
- It was a blessing to meet all the people.
- I learned a lot of different social and community issues and I want to help.
- I learned a different perspective and what we can do as a community to help those less fortunate.
- Enjoyed connecting with different people and bringing our thoughts and ideas together.
- Excellent conversation. The panel was fantastic, the table conversation never wavered off topic – discussion was informative and deep.
- All of the key focus areas were addressed and plans of action identified.
- The presentations were informative, and actions secured.
- Discussion around table and structure of the event was well run.
- I worry that the follow up will not be taken seriously of action plans like what happened in 2018 Colloquium.
- This event helped me to understand more about social justice.
- From previous events, I felt that this event would be just as successful.
- It put social justice in a different perspective.
- It was productive and greatly understood as well as accepted.
- I had no expectations, but I enjoyed it nonetheless.
- Connected faith with action for our communities.
- Provided a sense of encouragement and inspiration.
- Goals and mission meet community needs.
- VOA mission develop new ideas.
- I really didn't come with any expectations so I learned a lot from this experience.
- Today was very informative and thought provoking topics.
- First time here, didn't know what to expect. Very Happy I came.

### 2. Would you recommend this event to your friends, co-workers, or congregation?

**Yes - 35**

**No – 0**

### **Comments**

Yes, I would recommend this event especially to those who have a desire to work in the mental health field.

This event was very helpful.

I certainly recommend this event to my congregation.

Yes, I would definitely recommend to my coworkers, friends, and congregation.

Yes, It focuses on how to heal yourself and do God's Work in helping others.

Need more information to share with friends, co-workers, and congregation.

Yes, I'd recommend this event without a doubt.

Yes, I will surely recommend this and try to invite to my ministry.

Yes, of course. Brings you to a part of thinking beyond your daily challenges and start looking at the challenges in the community around you. Would like to see more community members in addition to VOA Employees.

Yes, provide platform, inspire change within communities.

I would recommend it because of the dialogue and the purpose involved in the event.

Yes, I already have a packet for my pastor and a friend.

### **3. Did you join a work group today? If so, which one?**

**Yes – 34**

**No – 1**

### **Groups**

**Mental Health & Wellness – 10**

**Social Justice – 10**

**Moral Injury – 0**

**Education – 5**

**Youth & Culture – 7**

**Housing – 2**

### **Comments**

Social Justice was absolutely good. I was able to network and meet with a lot of ministers, etc.

### **4. Do you plan to participate in future work group sessions?**

**Yes – 31**

**No – 0**

**Maybe – 3**

### **Comments**

This is important and great awareness.

Absolutely! I really enjoyed this session.

Definitely do plan on attending every work group session in the future.

I would love too and do plan to attend all future events.

Advocating to meet quarterly.

**5. Have you received sufficient information about upcoming work group meetings?**

**Yes - 23**

**No – 9**

**Comments**

Look on website

Please send more information that you have available.

Yes, more than what I expected.

Yes (scheduling it with everyone)

No, just know there is one on July 26 but no steps on what to do between now and then and what to expect in the next meeting.

Have not scheduled another group meeting.

Yes, names and contact information provided.

We need to be emailed about next conference call.

**6. How would you rate today's keynote speaker? Please explain?**

**1. Very Poor – 1**

**2. Poor – 0**

**3. Average – 1**

**4. Good – 9**

**5. Excellent – 22**

**Comments**

He was very good at speaking on the things that need much attention.

He was very inspirational, can relate to him in so many ways.

Wish we had a list of all scriptures he referred to in his speech. Brief handout of his positive messages. He was connected with the people. Good because the keynote speaker was on point with some of the way we need to rebuild our life together. The speakers were knowledgeable in their field and even more, exhibited passion for HOPE in their fields. Spoke/Communicated about areas of expertise, transparent and well spoken, informative. The information resonated with me. Balanced delivery: scripture, information, examples in society and personal life. It was enlightening, mind changing, humbling, and heart felt.

**7. Do you have additional comments to share about today's Colloquium or Venue?**

**Comments**

- The event was well organized.
- The topics are of great interest to the community.
- The venue was the perfect setting.
- I hope you do this more often.
- Thank you very much for all you do!
- May God Bless you all!

### **Comments (continued)**

- Venue is great!
- Would like to see more organized ice breakers and group interaction.
- Awesome experience!!!
- It was great! Can't wait until the next one!
- It was awesome.
- The food was great.
- The panel was thought provoking and inspiring.
- The environment makes me want to engage more into politics in the community and church.
- Start on time next time.
- The food and beverages were excellent!
- Panel was great.
- Had a great team at our table – great discussion.
- Need to add an employment session.
- The venue and hospitality was very good.
- Room was cold, a suggestion should be made to bring something to be warm (sweater, etc.)
- Heads up on what parking log garage would be.
- Need just a bit more interactions.
- This event should include more about the Hispanic Community.
- Glory to God this is a great site.
- It was a blessing to be a part of Hope Event Today.
- God Bless you All!
- Informative, Refreshing, and Inspirational.
- The speakers shed light on different areas which sparked my interest. I really enjoyed and appreciated the knowledge that was given today. And I look forward to the next event.
- Everything was okay.
- The singers, The Word, the memory verses, the topics, and of course the food was great.
- Given traffic, eliminate breakfast and start at 10:00 AM or 10:30 AM.
- Share and gather ideas, hopefully implement around current programs.
- Present to supervisors, staff, and city officials' expansion projects.
- I really enjoyed myself. Bravo! So glad to be a part of it.
- Moral injury was a powerful new piece of information.