

C-TAC Annual Summit Update

C-TAC gathered in Denver, CO for its annual Summit on October 9-11. C-TAC is the Coalition to Transform Advanced Illness Care and has only been in existence about ten years. Its membership is made up of academics, researchers, providers, and corporate entities from the medical fields. Incorporated into its structure is the Interfaith and Diversity Work Group. This group is composed of persons from many different faiths and faith based organizations. The Work Group is co-chaired by ABC ordained, the Rev. Dr. Tyron Pitts along with Rabbi Richard Address. As Executive Director of the American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries Association the ABCUSA General Secretary four years ago asked that I represent ABC, USA at this Working Group.

In the three sessions of the Working Group considerable time was spent around forming a new strategic plan. Although not in its final form they identified nine goals to be a guide for the next three years.

- 1) Broaden the reach of the Group to more diverse communities.
- 2) Maintain/increase a visual presence via C-TAC's established media
- 3) Partner with religious educational entities to develop/provide training on advanced illness care.
- 4) Develop language for resolutions regarding AIC that faith groups can adopt
- 5) Gather stories from persons with AI and those who care for them to be featured in the Group's media
- 6) Create regional/local Interfaith and Diversity Work Groups
- 7) Develop a research tool to measure the success of IDWG programs and projects
- 8) Create a Model of Care toolkit for leaders of faith based entities to assist navigating those who they serve who are dealing with AI.
- 9) Empower regional/local faith communities to partner with health providers, health plans and other stakeholders to improve advanced illness care.

At the end of the third session it was agreed that an Executive Committee would be established. The first task being the refinement of the strategic plan which would be adopted via a teleconference meeting early in 2019.

There were five plenary sessions, consisting of three or more presentations on a wide variety of topics related to transforming advanced illness care. In addition, there were three breakout sessions consisting of even more topics and issues. The entire day on Wednesday was emceed by Rev. Cynthia Perrilliat, Executive Director of Alameda Co Care Alliance and organization established by our own Allen Temple in Oakland, CA. And the Rev. Dr. Alfred J. Smith, Jr., Pastor Allen Temple, was presented C-TAC's Founders Award for his work establishing the Alameda Co Alliance.

In my oral report I will be sharing several specific areas in which the church could and should consider being engaged as we move quickly now into caring for the "Boomers". They are seventy-six million strong while at the same time the workforce continues to diminish. Advanced illness care is not just about health care; it is about holistic care which includes spiritual care. Who better than faith based communities to step up to this challenge.

Rev. Garth E. Brokaw
Executive Director, American Baptist Homes & Caring Ministries Association