

# **The St. Louis Draft A Summary of Discussions on Our Model Community Vision**

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**The National Town Hall for Mutual Consultation:  
Towards An Intelligentsia  
Hosted by the Community Wide Shuraa Conference (CWSC)  
St. Louis, Missouri • Crown Plaza Hotel Downtown  
August 15–17, 2014**

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With Allah's Name, Merciful Benefactor, Merciful Redeemer

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**Sessions Facilitator:**

Shakira Abdul Ali, MSOD, CWSC Director of Conference Development & Management

**Friday - August 15, 2014 - Crowne Plaza Hotel - St. Louis, MO**

All participants were asked to sit in small groups of 6-8 people, and share with each other their name, the State where they live, and the “area of service in the life of the community about which they are *passionate*.” Each group identified a “scribe” who recorded the states where people live, and the area of activity about which people are passionate.

The following themes and topics are the outcome of that World Cafe conversation:

**TOPICS FROM FRIDAY WORLD CAFE** - these topics were identified as those for which participants hold passion, relative to their interests in working in the Ummah.

Deen UI Allah

- Dawaa
- Learning Quranic Arabic
- Quranic Based Problem Solving
- Correct Worship

Resources

- Media Development / Media Platform
- Capital & Professional Fund Raising
- Acquisition of Land / Inner City R.E. Development
- Need f/ Business & Economic Development
- Building a "Model" Community
- Preparing for Global Operations
- Understanding "Freedom"
- Developing an Intelligentsia

People / Relationships

- Healthy Marriages
- Senior Concerns / Senior Care
- Youth Development
- Leadership Development
- Muslims in the Political Process
- Building Bridges between Muslims and Christians
- Inmate Education

## **Saturday - August 16, 2014 - OPEN SPACE TOPICS**

Participants were invited to give a few minutes of serious thought to what idea, concern, issue, or topic they would like to take on, and raise it to “think tank” level quality and community-wide action.

By “think-tank” level quality, we mean raising the topic for discussion in a way that is supported by data, information and scholarship that identifies what the research says about that issue, so that when action plans are recommended, the actions are grounded in solid research and data.

Participants were asked to consider whether they were passionate enough about the topic to take on the leadership of a discussion of that issue. Several people identified topics, and others joined them in discussion.

More topics were identified than were selected for discussion.

### **OPEN SPACE TOPIC DISCUSSIONS**

The following topics were identified for discussion:

The topics below were taken into discussion, and developed for further consideration at this initial gathering:

#### **\*NEW MUSLIM RECRUITMENT/INMATE EDUCATION**

##### **Committee Members:**

- Nabeehah Azeez
- Saisa Neel
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##### **-- 7 Criminogenic Needs**

- Education (Islamic FAQs, Quran, Prayerbook and times, specific websites)
- Acquaintances (Contact sheet with the Imam, Shura Members, and either brother or sisters.)
- Recreation (calendar of events, jumah/taleem times, regularly scheduled activities)
- Attitude (Orientation classes, New Muslim Welcome events/activities)
- Employment (Apprenticships, Local Muslim Businesses, Job resources/clothing)
- Substance Abuse (NA, AA, Sober living resources)
- Family (Encouraging Family Values, Male and Female Healthy Relationships, Muslim marriages)

-- All of these things should be included into a welcoming kit, with a scarf or kufi, prayer rug, tools for success.

-- New muslims should be welcomed back & new muslim orientation courses should be in place.

-- All items should be standardized nationally (whenever possible) to reflect our community i.e. Imam W.D. Muhammad, African American community, etc. to promote the feeling of family as well as national uniformity. IA!

## Sunday - August 17, 2014 - OPEN SPACE TOPICS

### NEXT STEPS:

1. Participants of each Subject Group should convene at least a Monthly Call, using Free Conference Call or some other service, so as to continue the work on their "White Paper."
2. Each Subject Group should begin a Separate Document, e.g., a White Paper,, here within Google Docs, to develop their Topic of interest.
3. Each Subject Group should establish a FaceBook Private "Chat" Group in order to send messages quickly and easily between members.
4. Each "White Paper" should be developed as though it will be used to seek foundation / grant funding. Shakira will offer a template for this format.
5. A Group Consensus emerged during the final discussion to add a 6th topic related to the pursuit a U.S. Postage Stamp to honor Imam Warith Deen Muhammad.
6. We want to continue to invite leaders throughout our community (regardless of their titles, or absent of titles) to sign up in the online resource directory at [www.cwsc.us](http://www.cwsc.us) - Get Involved.
7. We should share the email for the group: [cwsconline@gmail.com](mailto:cwsconline@gmail.com)

### FORCE FIELD ANALYSIS

After agreeing to these Next Steps, the group engaged in one portion of work associated with a Force Field Analysis. The work was curtailed due to time.

Specifically, the Group engaged in Vision-based Brainstorming, during which they offered responses to the scenario:

*Let's agree that 25 Years in the Future, we have been exceptionally successful in achieving our goals for creating an ideal ummah, through this process of Shuraa. What elements are present in the community at that time?*

*[Note: A supplemental update to this section is in process. Thank you for your patience.]*

Thank you to the St. Louis Session working teams for committing your persons, time, intellect and financial resources to help advance our model community vision. A special thank you to Nabeehah Azeez (St. Louis) for compilation assistance. May your kifayah be a sadaqa jariyah for you and your families. Blessings always.

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