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Impact Poverty Holds October Meeting

Paducah, KY October 15, 2010 – The Impact Poverty Task Force held its monthly meeting on Friday, October 15, 2010 at the new Emerging Technology Building located on the WKCTC campus.

Ashley Wright, Executive Director of the United Way of Paducah-McCracken County welcomed the group and thanked them for their continued support of the Task Force. Kristin Williams, facilitator of the study introduced a panel of individuals that would speak to the group about different social services provided in Paducah and McCracken County. The Task Force was eager to hear from individuals that work in the social services arena to gain a better working knowledge of the system.

The panel included Angela Houser, from the Department for Community Based Services, Karen Thompson, from the local Social Security office and Deanna Henschel spoke about WIC (Women, Infants and Children.)

Angela Houser opened the panel discussion with defining the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program, commonly referred to as KTAP. KTAP includes resources available to Kentucky residents such as, child care assistance, medical assistance and vehicle maintenance assistance. Specific requirements must be met in order to receive the support. Specific information regarding KTAP can be found at the government website <http://chfs.ky.gov/dCBS/dfs/ktap.htm>.

Karen Thompson spoke next focusing on Social Security benefits for both adults and children. She primarily discussed the Supplemental Security Income (SSI.) SSI, according to the Social Security Administration website, is “designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people who have little to no income and it provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.” More information on SSI and other Social Security benefits can be found at <http://www.ssa.gov/ssi/>.

Deanna Henschel educated the Task Force on the WIC program which provides “Federal grants to States for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk” according to the website <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/>.

Discussion highlights included:

- Trending in more ADHD or behavioral SSI classifications for young children of families in poverty resulting in financial dependency upon a child’s behavior disorder for income.
- The majority of the KTAP cases for cash assistance in our community being young adults 25 years or younger.
- Detailed discussion of the regulations and requirements for assistance.

Members inquired about changing trends over the last several years. All three women on the panel agreed that they have noticed an increase in applications for the programs they were representing.

The Task Force is scheduled to meet next on Friday, November 12.

The goal of Impact Poverty is to develop a 10-Year Plan to reduce poverty in Paducah and McCracken County and break the cycle of generational poverty for its citizens. The United Way of Paducah-McCracken County is spearheading this effort.

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