

## IMPACT POVERTY TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES December 10, 2010

Members Present: Gary Adkisson, Glenda Adkisson, Sherry Anderson, James Berry, Olivia Burr, Michael Byers, Anitha Davis, Bill Evans, Danny Fugate, Randy Greene, Doug Harnice, Tina Hayes, Lisa Heine, James Hudson, Georgann Lookofsky, Chris McNeill, Gerry Montgomery, Bill Mogan, Melanie Nunn, John Operle, Terri Osucha, Marianne Potina, Cal Ross, Charlie Ross, Mark Rowe, Cynthia Sanderson, Rosa Scott, Nancy Waldrop, John Williams, Sr., Kristin Williams

Members Absent: Brenda Brown, Jim Brown, Jon Hayden, Deanna Henschel, Maurie McGarvey, Patty Mills, Stephanie Reese, Cintia Sutton, Gerald Watkins, Ashley Wright

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. New Member – Glenda Adkisson
    - i. Briefing on Bridges Training
      1. Recommended a book called, *Bridges to Sustainable Communities* that might be helpful for the task force
  - b. Overview of “Proposed Path to a Plan”
    - i. Kristin provided a “Proposed Path to a Plan” to the group which outlined the content of future meetings, including Facilitator Training, Getting Ahead Groups, continued Task Force meetings looking at other areas where of poverty is an issue in our community
    - ii. Gearing Up for Getting Ahead Groups
      1. Facilitators
        - a. Ideally have attended Bridges Training in August
        - b. “Skilled” in facilitation
        - c. Has the ability NOT to tell someone what to do
        - d. Will be compensated
      2. Getting Ahead “Investigators”
        - a. Paducah & Farley areas
        - b. 6-12 People per group
          - i. No married couples
          - ii. Not the hardest cases to start with – multi generational, mentally ill, long-term homelessness
        - c. 2.5 hours a week for 15 weeks
        - d. \$25 Walmart gift card, meal and child care for each meeting
        - e. Expectation from outset is that Getting Ahead graduates would join our group when we get to strategy development as well as others in poverty
        - f. We will get on paper a good description of the what we are looking for in the “investigators”
3. Intensive time coming in May-June
  - a. May meeting – long one – Id highest priorities, put a rough framework into place, expectation that small groups will dive into details of strategies. Coordinate the drafts in for a day-long meeting in July. Understand how the parts fit back together. Outline a plan; UW staff and I will draft a plan for your review and implementation
4. Anecdotal evidence that shining a spotlight on this is already having some positive effects
  - a. Michael Byers – Crouse Corporation has tried to reach out to the inner city folks to hire into the industry, with a GED and a clean drug test they will train them in the river industry. Crouse has decided to support some of the folks in the Getting Ahead Groups by offering training and jobs

- iii. In our coming meetings we will continue to cover the existing causes, effects and remedies for poverty in our community.
2. Large Group Discussion
- a. What was raised in the October meeting (KTAP, SSI) that caused you the most concern?
    - i. SSI
      - 1. Use/misuse
      - 2. Kids –ADD/ADHD
        - a. If labeled “disabled” this causes an early impact on the child and continues on into adulthood
      - 3. No cap
      - 4. Each child = a paycheck
      - 5. Way of life
      - 6. Shell game – from welfare to SSI
      - 7. The money they receive is causing the problem
      - 8. No Head Start requirements
        - a. Head Start is maxed out, except for KERA slots.
      - 9. Problem has grown drastically over the past several years
      - 10. KY vs. other states on eligibility for SSI
      - 11. Federal Issue
      - 12. There must be doctor/s providing supporting documentation of these disabilities
      - 13. Don't label; we could be harming those who truly do have a disability and need the money
        - a. This is one of the consequences of “fixing” the problem
        - b. Are there medical services available for those on SSI?
        - c. Differences in ADHD & Hyperactivity
        - d. The system is the problem
        - e. Get SSI recipients as “investigators”
        - f. KTAP recipients between the ages of 16-18
          - i. Have high school attendance requirements
          - ii. Reports are provided to the SSI office on a quarterly basis
        - g. The Prichard Committee and the state commission called TEK are planning to recommend support for programs starting at birth – Kindergarten
        - h. 100 out of 360 3-4 year olds receiving SSI and/or KTAP compensation are not in Head Start
        - i. There are more kids in the alternative school from a poverty background than not
        - j. The absence of a father causes a single mother to seek other means of support, SSI being one
  - b. What was raised in the November meeting (Healthcare) that caused you the most concern?
    - i. The system is facilitating the problems in healthcare; they will use the E.R. or Primary Care facilities for their healthcare
    - ii. The panel did not have a good idea for a solution, but voiced concerns of how medical care will be paid
    - iii. Doctors area not volunteering their time
    - iv. No dental care after age 9
    - v. No preventative/wellness care for adults
      - 1. Smoking
      - 2. Obesity
      - 3. Diabetes
      - 4. Recess/Physical Education

- vi. The healthcare system is caught in the “tyranny of the moment”
- vii. Possible fix would be the Community Health center or the Private Medical Home

3. Adjourn

- a. Research/information due January 10<sup>th</sup> – please email to Ashley
- b. Next meeting – Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 3 – 7 pm, place to be announced