

## IMPACT POVERTY TASK FORCE MEETING

August 9, 2010

### MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Gary Adkisson, Sherry Anderson, James Berry, Brenda Brown, Olivia Burr, Michael Byers, Bill Evans, Danny Fugate, Randy Greene, Doug Harnice, Jon Hayden, Lisa Heine, Deanna Henschel, Georgann Lookofsky, Maurie McGarvey, Chris McNeill, Patty Mills, Gerry Montgomery, Melanie Nunn, Terri Osucha, Mark Rowe, Cynthia Sanderson, Rosa Scott, Cintia Sutton, John Williams, Sr., Kristin Williams,

Members Absent: Cynthia Alston, Jim Brown, Anitha Davis, Tina Hayes, James Hudson, Bill Morgan, John Operle, Marianne Potina, Stephanie Reese, Cal Ross, Charlie Ross, Nancy Waldrop, Gerald Watkins, Ashley Wright

#### I. Welcome – Kristin Williams

Kristin opened the meeting at 3:04 p.m. Kristin took care of some housekeeping business, had an ice breaker activity and discussed a book order from the Impact Poverty training held on August 27.

#### II. Data Presentation; Recap and Continuation

Kristin Williams gave a quick recap of the data presented at the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting as well as a list of questions brought up at that meeting. New data was then presented. All of the data presented can be found at: [http://www.unitedwaypaducah.org/impact\\_poverty.htm](http://www.unitedwaypaducah.org/impact_poverty.htm) under the July 9th meeting tab.

The panel was then divided into three groups to participate in small group discussions. The groups were asked to address the following concerning the data presented:

1. What statistic or trend is the most troubling to you?
2. What statistic or trend surprised you the most? Why?
3. What do we need to know more about?
4. What doesn't the data tell us?
5. Based on the information you have, to date, what are the three most important areas of concentration we need to dive into through our work on the Impact Poverty Task Force?

Following are the results to those questions:

#### **GROUP ONE**

*Response to question 1:*

- What is happening in the middle and high schools
- Large number of families in poverty and increase in domestic violence

*Response to question 2:*

- Industry jobs out of the area

*Response to question 3:*

Minors giving birth

- Training for educators in college obtaining teaching positions

*Response to question 4:*

- Why is the highest number of poverty in Paducah?
- Why didn't government programs work?
- What is on the minds of people currently in poverty?

*Response to question 5:*

- What helps establish healthy family values to give children what they need?
- What is on the minds of people currently in poverty?
- Mentor Programs
- Programs to help young adults understand what parenting means

**GROUP TWO (answered in summary as follows):**

- Public assistance process
  - How does it incentivize remaining in poverty?
  - State/Federal mandates c
  - Compliance, misuse
- Ways to assist people in moving out of poverty
  - Education, early intervention
  - Family support, mentoring
- Mentoring families, after-school, interveners

**GROUP THREE**

*Responses to questions 1 & 2*

- Female head of household in poverty
- Decline in manufacturing jobs
- Decline in Middle School test scores
- Number of preschoolers not getting into Head Start

*Response to question 3:*

- Funding regulations for Head Start
- Consider studies on how to set-up successful middle schools
- See if McCracken County has a study on 9<sup>th</sup> grade remaining in middle school

*Response to question 4:*

- Models of success on fixing poverty

*This group did not have time to address question 5, but had some additional general comments:*

- Add something at middle school level for careers in trade
- Model other careers
- Don't stress college only; there are other ways to be successful.

Following the small group discussions the panel reconvened to discuss their findings.

- III. Dinner Break
- IV. Bridges Recap

- Kristin touched on some of the important points presented at the Bridges out of Poverty training on August 27 that will help this task force in moving forward.
- Bridges out of Poverty training opportunities were discussed.
  - October 6-8, Indianapolis, Indiana – Bridges and Circles National Community Building Conference
  - November 12, New Orleans Louisiana – Getting Ahead Facilitator Training Options
  - Possible field trip to a successful community or effort

The panel was once again divided into three groups, this being different from the first, to participate in another small group discussion. The groups were asked to address the following concerning the Bridges out of Poverty book and training:

1. What did you read/hear that really resonated with you?
2. What did you read/hear that challenged you?
3. What value for our work do you see in this “practice”?
4. Were there specific ideas from the presentation or book that are a good fit for our community?
5. What, if anything, do you think we need to make happen in the short term (0-6 months)?

## **GROUP ONE**

### *Responses to question 1*

- “Parentifying” child (Generational)
  - Co-dependant
- Burger King example
  - Value all working divisions; bottom to top

### *Responses to question 2*

- “They” usage. Separation language.
- Believing in the impossibilities of success.
- Definition of success

### *Responses to question 3*

- Identifying more people that care about this issue
- Value of seeing a change in the community
- 74% poverty level with 80% graduation rate
- Partnership with media
  - Bringing in affected people

### *Responses to question 4*

- Circles
  - Public/Private partnership

### *Responses to question 5*

- Start defining goals and elements to strive for.
- Details of how the poor survive
  - Rules/Laws/“Concrete

## **GROUP TWO (answered in summary as follows):**

- “Getting Started” program
  - Develop our overall plan
- Building trust, mentoring
- Changing state funding program
- Send attendee to Individual conference
- “Getting Ahead” facilitator training

### **GROUP THREE**

#### *Responses to question 1*

- Idea that resources are more than money
- “Yellow Light” incident
  - Mentally so different than “ours”
- Corporation that went the extra mile to help poor employees
- Obstacles/problems poor had when they got a job
  - New employee mentor program
- Language of the poor
- Situational vs. Generational poverty, generational being a deeper issue

#### *Responses to question 2*

- Birthday cake purchased with food stamps
  - Preconceived notions we all have

#### *Responses to question 3*

- Helpful, but we need to narrow down

#### *No response to question 4*

#### *Responses to question 5*

- We need to hear from our poor!
- See communities with results
- Goals of group

#### V. Next Steps and Adjourn

- Kristin stated that the next meeting date for the task force would be October 8 which is a problem for several on the panel due to fall break. This date is being reconsidered and the panel will be notified of the next meeting date, place and time.

