

**IMPACT POVERTY TASK FORCE MEETING
JULY 9, 2010
MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Cynthia Alston, Sherry Anderson , Brenda Brown, Jim Brown, Olivia Burr, Michael Byers, Anitha Davis, Danny Fugate, Randy Greene, Doug Harnice, Tina Hayes, Lisa Heine, Deanna Henschel, Georgann Lookofsky, Maurie McGarvey, Chris McNeill, Patty Mills, Gerry Montgomery, Bill Morgan, Melanie Nunn, John Operle, Marianne Potina, Cal Ross, Mark Rowe, Cynthia Sanderson, Rosa Scott, Cintia Sutton, Nancy Waldrop, Gerald Watkins, John Williams, Sr., Kristin Williams, Ashley Wright

Members Absent: Gary Adkisson, James Berry, Bill Evans, Jon Hayden, James Hudson, Stephanie Reese

I. Welcome – Ashley Wright

Ashley opened the meeting at 7:34 a.m. Ashley stated that this meeting is titled “Data Dump” because of the amount of information/data being covered in today’s meeting. Ashley also let the group know that the United Way website now posts an Impact Poverty Page that will contain information about our meetings, the minutes from each meeting and additional information concerning poverty and other data that might surround poverty.

II. Introductions – Kristin Williams

Kristin Williams asked each member to introduce themselves stating whether they are a “half full or half empty” personality.

III. Discussion – Touching Base on Process

Based on the discussion in the last meeting of “core beliefs” about people in poverty, and poverty in general, Kristin asked the group to consider and decide the following:

- 1) How each is feeling about working on this Task Force and the potential is has to make an impact on poverty in our community
- 2) To think about how optimistic they feel regarding the potential success of this year-long venture, keeping in mind the goals of a 10 year plan that will charge not only the United Way, but other groups in our community to strategize to reduce poverty in Paducah-McCracken County and to break the cycle of generational poverty in our community
- 3) To consider what they feel are some of the roadblocks to success for this Task Force and what specifics could possibly derail the process, progress and success of the goals

This information will be reviewed in the latter part of the meeting.

IV. Overview of Initial Data

Kristin Williams provided data via PowerPoint to the group asking that the Task Force give any additional requests for data to Ashley Wright or herself. The data given to the Task Force included:

- 1) Defining Poverty
- 2) Paducah-McCracken County Demographics and Poverty Statistics
- 3) Kids Count Data
- 4) Paducah-McCracken County Schools – Free and Reduced Lunch, Graduation Rates & Test Scores

- 5) Paducah Crime Statistics
- 6) Paducah-McCracken County Economic Profiles and Projections

Following the conclusion of the data presentation the group offered their ideas on what additional information and data they would like to see in the upcoming meetings. Their input is as follows:

- 1) 10 years ago where did Kentucky place in the poverty rankings for the 50 states?
- 2) What is the value of the non-cash programs/benefits?
- 3) What would a person have to earn for it to be worth getting off those programs?
- 4) Is the student population (college students) impacting the poverty rates of college towns?
- 5) Can we look at the poverty data on Murray/Calloway County and Cape Girardeau to see if their college students are impacting poverty rates? (Carbondale may be a consideration as well)
- 6) For females, does educational attainment increase or decrease poverty?
- 7) Can we compare McCracken County educational attainment and poverty rates with other counties educational attainment and poverty rates?
- 8) Compare the wages and actual jobs in McCracken County and other communities.
- 9) Can we get the White Papers from the State Chamber's study on poverty?
- 10) Can we drill down and show the difference between Some College and those with Associate Degrees?
- 11) At what income level do you no longer qualify for child care subsidies?
- 12) Can we get actual statistics on the number of grandparents with custody of grandchildren for our community?
- 13) Can we get data on the difference between students enrolled in Headstart and those who are not and educationally compare the two groups of students?

In order to look at the comments concerning the roadblocks discussed earlier Kristin stopped the presentation at approximately 8:45 a.m., ending with the Kids Count Data. Presentation of the remaining data will take place at the next meeting.

V. Results of Earlier Exercise

The major roadblocks were discussed; seeking some possible solutions to the stated roadblocks including the possibility of creating some focus groups.

The next meeting: Bridges Out of Poverty, all day training – Friday, August 27th, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 a.m.