

URBAN APPALACHIAN COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE
Special Session
August 15, 2008

Present: John Bryant, Roberta Campbell, Maureen Dillon, Bonnie Kroeger, Rebecca Lee, Robert Ludke (chair), Mike Maloney, Ann McCracken, Kay Russ, Maureen Sullivan, Debbie Zorn.

The Committee met to review and discuss the concept of a Center for Appalachian Health Research led by Bob Ludke. The proposal is to house the Center at the University of Cincinnati's Department of Public Health Services (rather than the former Institute for the Study of Health). The Urban Appalachian Council will collaborate with UC in this project.

The Center will focus on the research and improvement of health among Appalachians in the greater Cincinnati area. It will emphasize community-based participatory research. UAC will provide specific understanding and expertise on the target population.

Dr. Robert Ludke, has led the development of the Center's concept and is proposed as its director. An Advisory Committee will advise the director. Faculty at the Center will come from UC. The Center will seek an endowment.

The Committee members raised several questions:

- How will the center interact with the Center for Closing the Health Gap?
- Does the Center fit with regional and national organizations?
- Can individual researchers become involved?
- Will the community be involved?
- What are the Research Committee's and UAC's member's involvement with the Center?

Bob has already met with Dwight Tillery, Director of the Center for Closing the Health Gap. He has expressed support for the project, but would like to get input from his board. The Appalachian Center is not a competitor for CCHG. There may also be opportunities for Fellowships for outside researchers at the Center. The Research Committee will help set the Center's agenda. The Committee discussed different ways of involving the community and membership of UAC.

Ann also noted that the UAC needed to establish a cost-share policy for joint grant-seeking efforts.

Miscellaneous:

Rebecca Lee successfully defended her dissertation and earned her Ph.D.

Maureen Dillon announced that the Census Bureau is establishing an office in Cincinnati for the 2010 Census.

Kay Russ announced that Lindsey-Wilson College is developing a research journal and is looking for articles.

The next meeting of the Research Committee will be at 10 am September 12, 2008 at the Health Foundation, Conference Room C. There will be a presentation on health disparities among African-Americans and Urban Appalachians in the city.

Respectfully submitted by Roberta Campbell, August 21, 2008.