

URBAN APPALACHIAN COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

July 20, 2007

Present: John Besl, Roberta Campbell, Bonnie Kroeger, Robert Ludke, Mike Maloney, Ann McCracken, Kay Russ, Maureen Sullivan, Debbie Zorn (chair)

Introductions, Announcements, and Research Updates:

Debbie noted that John Bryant is delving more into the differences in enrolment in schools among the urban white population and rural white population in Ohio using Ohio Department of Education data. He is seeing a steeper decline in the urban populations in terms of staying in school.

Mike has drafted a Wikipedia article on urban Appalachians and Phil Obermiller has assisted with this.

Bonnie reported that Cincinnati State is going after several grants to look at dropout rates and there may be research opportunities from them. Ann brought up the Robert Moses project that combines learning math with advocacy and suggested bringing him to Cincinnati. Maureen will talk to the Freedom Center about it.

Bob's article on Health Literacy has been published in the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. He is working on another one about the use of hospice services. There is not much difference between white Appalachians and non-white Appalachians but there is a major race difference. Bob is writing an NIH proposal to look at health literacy on the end of life care.

Roberta and Maureen have submitted an article to *Ohio Valley History* about environmental justice and grassroots women leaders based on oral history interviews of women who were involved in some way with the Women's Health Survey. Roberta starts an assistant professorship at Miami-Hamilton in the fall.

Kay has co-authored an article with Mei Tang which will be published in the September issue of *National Career Development Quarterly*. She also has submitted an article to the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. Kay is the Academic Director of an outreach program on counseling at Lindsey-Wilson College. Lindsey-Wilson's School of Professional Counseling is in the process of developing a journal and is seeking ideas for submissions.

John is still working on the data from Kentucky and Ohio birth certificate files from 2004. So far he has found that the rate of smoking among pregnant women is higher in Kentucky.

Ann is working on an article with Kelly Firesheets for the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*.

Minutes:

The minutes of May 11 were approved.

Wikipedia article on Urban Appalachians:

Mike shared his article for Wikipedia on Urban Appalachians. Phil Obermiller has worked on making it fit the Wikipedia format and rules. The committee discussed the article and made suggestions for improvement. Particularly, Bob suggested more information on the contributions of urban Appalachians to the community. The committee also suggested that an article on the Urban Appalachian Council might be developed.

Draft report from working groups on the April 16th Mini-Conference on Urban Appalachians:

Debbie Zorn presented the draft report based on the *Urban Appalachian Conference: Research into Action*. The report is extensive and includes several appendices.

The committee made several suggestions. Key ideas were to put the recommendations in a more prominent place in the paper and to tie some the areas of research, service, and advocacy across the three life issues of Education, Health, and Employment. Ann suggested that the latter evolve as the process of discussion and analysis continues. Bob volunteered to help integrate the various strands for the final version of the report.

Next steps are to bring the report to the board and to send it to the participants at the conference. We will ask participants to consider reconvening and to make suggestions about additional participants.

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the Research Committee will be at 10 am at UAC on September 21, 2007.

Respectfully submitted by Roberta Campbell, July 20,, 2007. Revised July 25, 2007.