

URBAN APPALACHIAN COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Revised Minutes

March 14, 2008

Present: John Besl, John Bryant, Roberta Campbell, Robert Ludke, Mike Maloney, Ann McCracken, Phillip Obermiller, Maureen Sullivan, Debbie Zorn (chair)

Introductions, Announcements, and Research Updates:

John Besl continues to work on the Childhood Obesity Project using data from the 2003 National Survey of Health. Kentucky has the highest rates of childhood obesity.

Roberta announced that she would be the convener of a panel on “Feminist Appalachian Studies” at the June, 2008, National Women Studies Association. Maureen is on the panel presenting issues of Urban Appalachian women. Roberta has been asked by a student at Miami University-Hamilton to advise a student Appalachian organization that he is organizing.

Ryan is still working on the Community Literacy Project and has nearly finished an article analyzing the Americorps involvement.

Bob is working on the Oral Health Literacy Project. He will be on sabbatical next academic year and will write a book on Appalachian Health. He is also working With the Center for Closing the Health Gap on a survey of health disparities.

Mike reported getting many hits on the 2000 Social Areas Study Report and the many uses to which it’s been put.

Kelly Firesheets and Ann will present a session on Appalachian cardiovascular health at the Appalachian Studies Conference and submit an article on the same to the Appalachian Studies Journal. Ann also announced that David Devlin-Foltz from the Aspen Institute has been named the Distinguished Evaluator for 2008. He will lead a policy evaluation workshop on May 15 at the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati. She is also one of two keynote speakers at the Ohio Program Evaluators’ Group on May 16 in Columbus, Ohio. Her session is “Policy Evaluation: The Baby and the Bathwater.”

Debbie announced that Bob Ludke will become the next chair of the Research Committee. Debbie is the new chair of the Urban Appalachian Board.

Health and Education Task Force updates:

These task forces are part of the research committee’s continuing process of examining the needs of Urban Appalachians. The Health Task Force has met and developed some strategies. They are developing a conceptual framework for their work, exploring community grants and working to initiate health opportunities for community collaboration with the University of Cincinnati’s department of Health Promotion and

Education and others. Phil suggested that they discuss with Jen Walters of the Lower Price Hill Community School the development of a clinic in St. Michael's.

The Education Task Force will meet Wednesday, March 19, under the leadership of Michael Overbey, Jr. One of the items being considered is to develop a pilot project in a local school to test best practices. Other issues to be discussed are teacher professional development and the state's support of the drop-out rate issue.

UAC Planning Process

The Urban Appalachian Council has been exploring strategies for the next few years. The research committee discussed events associated with that process. Ann created a framework for listing UAC's knowledge, service delivery and advocacy policies in several areas.

The next meeting of the research committee is at 10 am May 23, 2008.

Respectfully submitted by Roberta M. Campbell, March 22, 2008, revised March 24, 2008.