

URBAN APPALACHIAN COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE
March 20, 2009
DRAFT

Present: John Besl, John Bryant, Roberta Campbell, Rebecca Lee, Ann McCracken, Mike Maloney, Phil Obermiller, Phyllis Shelton, Debbie Zorne (acting chair)

Suggestions for a communication specialist (from Phil):

UAC needs a communications specialist (CS) to edit and publish the Appalachian Connection & the Research Bulletin; to provide content for the Connection, the Bulletin, and the UAC website; and to post information releases to the 20 or so listserv constituencies identified by the Research Committee.

The UAC communications specialist would be responsible for providing edited digital copy for each of these outlets by a) finding and evaluating external data sources; b) finding and evaluating existing data sources within UAC; and c) eliciting new research as requested by the Research Committee as well as the UAC board & staff. The CS would prepare executive summaries and/or slides as well as full text for each posting. Finally, the CS would assist UAC with advocacy, position paper, and op-ed postings, but the CS's work for the Research Committee would remain data-driven, or at least research oriented.

From Staff:

Phyllis compiled a list of research needs from the staff of UAC (see attached). Mike offered to ask the health commission for some data on Cincinnati. The book that Phil and Bob are editing will have a chapter on substance abuse, and some of the specific health issues she requested. Phil suggested that the research needs be put into the newsletter.

Phyllis is also looking at city, county, and township poverty data (with Phil). She also reported that the University of Kentucky's Appalachian Center has one-page sheets of Kentucky data, including Covington and Newport.

Phil suggested that there should be a drug treatment program in St. Michaels.

Miscellaneous:

Mike is looking for an editor for the *Appalachian Connection*.

Phil and Mike are writing an article on Carter G. Woodson for the *Cincinnati Herald*.

There was a suggestion that Jim Vortuba be approached to get NKU involved with urban Appalachian concerns.

Ann noted that the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati will hold a workshop on using its web-based data tools on March 30. This workshop will introduce

HealthLandscape and OASIS. These tools can be used to tables, charts, and maps of local data that inform policy and drive decision making.

Becky Lee presented her dissertation findings. She conducted a participant-observation study of 12 homeless women based on the idea of service providers needing to offer “culturally-congruent” services.

The next meeting will be held at 10 am, April 17, at UAC headquarters.

Respectfully submitted by Roberta M. Campbell on April 18, 2009.