

## URBAN APPALACHIAN COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

May 13, 2004

Revised

Present: Tammy Schwartz (Chair), Roberta Campbell (Board Liaison), Maureen Sullivan (Executive Director), John Besl, Bob Ludke, Steve Sizemore, Chris Autfrey, Debbie Zorn, Ann McCracken, Michael Maloney, John Bryant.

Introductions were made and the minutes from the previous meeting were read. We decided to put the minutes online at the UAC website as a news item.

Updates on research and related efforts include Maureen Sullivan's announcement that the Women's Wellness group had finished their women's health survey. Katie Brown and others are working on organizing data and analysis and this might be presented to the committee in the future. Ann McCracken reported that the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati has reviewed two reports on school-based health efforts. She has reviewed an article on the effect of poverty on health using community health status data. Another piece of research she is assisting with is a qualitative study of men who use free-store food banks and how they cope. A similar study has already been conducted on women. Details for the research are available at [www.healthfoundation.org](http://www.healthfoundation.org). John Besl described a study that will be coming out on maternal and child well-being based on birth certificate data. A special edition of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, due out this summer, includes an article by Bob Ludke, Phil Obermiller, and Jeff Jacobsen. The title of the article is "Sometimes it's hard to figure: the functional health literacy of Appalachians in a metropolitan area". They may also post the article on UAC's website. Bob and Jeff received a grant from the College of Medicine to do a pilot study of the validity of traditional measure (SF-36) of health status in the urban Appalachian communities in the greater Cincinnati area. Tammie Schwartz will have an article based on her dissertation study published in September. Roberta Campbell's proposal to evaluate and disseminate the stories of women leaders in the community was not funded but she will continue with the study and look for additional funding.

Michael Maloney is finishing the Social Areas Report and presented details with the help of Chris Autfrey and Steve Sizemore, who also helped with the report. The Social Areas Report is based on an analysis of census tracts and socioeconomic variables. Some of the findings include increasing racial segregation in residence and a westward movement of white Appalachians and African-Americans. The final report will be launched with an event and will also be posted on the UAC website.

John Bryant asked committee members to sign a "declaration of inter-dependence" with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and asked for help in identifying individuals with expertise on Appalachia's involvement with the Underground Railroad.

Tammie asked the committee to think about where we want to go in the future and we discussed holding a future meeting at the Heritage School. Roberta suggested finding a site to meet on the Kentucky side of the river. We also discussed ways to find out more about the Hispanic community.

Tammie will solicit suggestions about establishing a meeting schedule for the rest of the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Roberta M. Campbell, May 19, 2004*