

URBAN APPALACHIAN COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE
Subcommittee on Focusing Research

November 10, 2006

Draft

Present: John Bryant, Roberta Campbell (Board Liaison), Bonnie Kroeger, Ann McCracken, Maureen Sullivan (UAC Executive Director), Debbie Zorn (Chair)

Chair Debbie Zorn explained that the purpose of the subcommittee was to develop a process to bring together researchers and advocates who have knowledge of what works for our constituency. The question centers around what specific actions are called for to advocate and serve urban Appalachians and is based largely on Michael Maloney's needs assessment chart presented at the September meeting. Ann McCracken noted that we might add "windows of opportunity" to that chart.

One of the important questions is to ascertain exactly where our constituency is. Michael Maloney's Social Areas Report, the University of Cincinnati Greater Cincinnati Survey, Bob Ludke's work on defining Appalachians, and other resources need to be gathered together to help answer this question. We need to know whether issues are different between generations and between classes. In general, the subcommittee believes that low-income Appalachians have the most need for service and advocacy.

Debbie asked Maureen to bring information about the strategic plan for UAC and its mission statement. Bonnie will bring some data on area school drop out rates.

The subcommittee discussed whether to have advocates and researchers come together over specific issues such as employment, health, etc. or whether we should bring together a more general discussion and see how that develops. Possible individuals to bring into the discussion(s) were noted. Maybe an initial meeting should be more general, bringing people together to learn about networks and policy issues. Ann suggested letting the Research Committee set the agenda and align it with the strategic plan.

Most of the meeting on November 17 will be focused on discussing how to proceed and then the committee will look to implement discussions/strategies in early Spring. Debbie will send a notice asking committee members to bring information they have to that meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Roberta M. Campbell, November 10, 2006.