

## MINUTES

### Arkansas Legislative Taskforce on Reducing Poverty and Promoting Economic Opportunity

---

Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas  
Rogers, Arkansas  
Wednesday, May 26, 2010  
4:00 p.m.

---

The Arkansas Legislative Taskforce on Reducing Poverty and Promoting Economic Opportunity met at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 26, 2010, at the Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas, in Rogers, Arkansas. The following members attended:

**Legislative Members in attendance:** n/a

**Legislative Members not in attendance:** Co-Chair Sen. Joyce Elliott, Rep. David Rainey Rep. Davy Carter and Sen. Larry Teague

**Non-Legislative Members in attendance:** Co-Chair Mr. Rich Huddleston, Ms. Rose Adams, Rev. Steve Copley, Ms. Bernadette Devone, and Ms. Rhonda Sanders

**Proxy:** Ms. Regan Moffitt for Dr. West

**Non-Legislative Members not in attendance:** Ms. SiKia Brown, Ms. Bessie Fowler, Ms. Mary Harris, Mr. Rich Huddleston, Mr. Mike Leach, Mr. Frederick Love, Mr. Don Munro, Rev. Johnny Smith, Mr. Richard Smith, Ms. Gloria Smith, Mr. Andre Stephens, Mr. Brad Williams, and Mayor Shannon Willis

**Legislative Non-Members in attendance:** Rep. Tim Summers

---

Co-Chair Mr. Rich Huddleston called the meeting to order.

The taskforce adopted the minutes of March 26, 2010 and April 13, 2010.

Mr. Huddleston recognized Elisabeth Wright Burak, Ark. Advocates for Children & Families who spoke on Health Care. Ms. Burak provided three handouts: How Health Reform Will Affect Arkansas Children and Families (AACF) (3/30/10), Crossing the Finish Line 2010: Moving Towards Covering all Kids, and Quick Wins: Who Will Be Helped Right Away By the New Health Care Reform Law.

Ms. Burak gave an overview of the health care reform law and what it means for children and low income families in the state of Arkansas. General information about health reform has been released, but the federal government is just now releasing details about the bill. Ms. Burak talked about who is and isn't currently covered by insurance in Arkansas and who will be covered under the new plan. Ms. Burak also discussed several benefits that will take effect in September of this year with parts of the bill being phased in each year thereafter. The bill will take full effect by 2014.

Mr. Huddleston overviewed the times and dates of the future town hall and taskforce meetings.

The next meeting is set for June 17, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

# Exhibit B

Mr. Huddleston indicated that by July 13 the workgroup should have their 3 to 6 recommendation developed then the staff could put together a task force report. Then on Aug. 18 we can prioritize the recommendations. Please note calendar in your packet under Exhibit F1.

Ms. Derlikowski requested that the group submit their recommendations to us electronically by July 9 to prepare for the July 13 meeting.

Mr. Huddleston stated that the town hall meetings should be completed by Aug 18 meeting. Each town hall representative please talk about their meetings.

- Mr. Huddleston, Ark. Children and Family Advocates will host the town hall meeting in Little Rock on July 15, 2010 at the Willie L. Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center. Mr. Huddleston would like for task force members to volunteer to assist. Mr. Huddleston introduced the Arkansas Advocates who were recruited to assist with this meeting.
- Ronda Sanders, Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance (AHRA) will host the town hall meeting in Texarkana on July 15, 2010. Ms. Sanders had already recruited Bernadette Devone and Rose Adams as the taskforce members who will volunteers and the employees from the AHRA will assist. The town hall meeting will be at the United Food Bank ~ First United Methodist Church.
- Bernadette Devone, Ark. Public Policy Panel will host the town hall meeting in Dumas on July 19, 2010 at the Dumas Community Center. We will need facilitators from the task force.
- Dr. West Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation will host the town hall meeting in Jonesboro on July 29, 2010, tentatively at the City Youth Ministries.

A template was developed by staff to use at any time. These will be email to the taskforce.

Staff is reaching out to the Association of Counties and Legislators in the areas.

Bernadette Devone stated that the focus group will meeting tomorrow in Camden at the Ross Center. The focus group is unemployed persons with about 15 people attending.

Also trying to schedule on in Springdale with the Hispanic group.

Rich Huddleston indicated all focus group and town hall meetings need to be complete by the end of July.

## MINUTES

### Arkansas Legislative Taskforce on Reducing Poverty and Promoting Economic Opportunity

---

Room 130, State Capitol  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
Tuesday, June 29, 2010  
1:30 p.m.

---

The Arkansas Legislative Taskforce on Reducing Poverty and Promoting Economic Opportunity met at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday May 26, 2010, at the Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas, in Rogers, Arkansas. The following members attended:

**Legislative Members in attendance:** n/a

**Legislative Members not in attendance:** Co-Chair Sen. Joyce Elliott, Rep. David Rainey Rep. Davy Carter and Sen. Larry Teague

**Non-Legislative Members in attendance:** Co-Chair Mr. Rich Huddleston, Ms. SiKia Brown, Ms. Bernadette Devone, Mr. Frederick Love, Mr. Don Munro, Ms. Rhonda Sanders and Mr. Sherece West

**Proxy:** Mr. Michael Rowett for Mr. Mike Leach

**Non-Legislative Members not in attendance:** Ms. Rose Adams, Rev. Steve Copley, Ms. Bessie Fowler, Ms. Mary Harris, Rev. Johnny Smith, Mr. Richard Smith, Ms. Gloria Smith, Mr. Andre Stephens, Mr. Brad Williams, and Mayor Shannon Willis

**Legislative Non-Members in attendance:** n/a

---

Co-Chair Mr. Rich Huddleston called the meeting to order.

The taskforce minutes of May 26, 2010, were not approve based on not having a quorum.

Mr. Huddleston went to item C on the agenda and handed one page of a report dealing with on gaps in eligibility of programs. The full report will be published by next week. The tables on the handout provide information on Family Self-Sufficiency Budgets in The Little Rock Metro Area and Rural ears in Arkansas; and Eligibility for Programs at Various Wage Levels, Working Full Time for Single and Two Parent Families with Two Children.

Based upon on six members attending the taskforce didn't have a breakout session for Work Groups.

Reports from Work Groups

1. Economic and Community Development – Rhonda Sanders – had a all day workgroup meeting a couple weeks ago with speaker. Their workgroup will be working on reducing the 10 to 12 recommendations to 5 or 6 recommendation. The meeting was very successful.
2. Individual Economic Support/Security and Aging – Ms. Bernadette Devone – their group has not met therefore she doesn't have a report. Mr. Huddleston offered staff to assist them on anything they need.
3. Education– Mr. Don Munro \_ workgroup met about 10 days ago and discuss
4. Tax Policy – Close to having their list of recommendation completed

## MINUTES

### Arkansas Legislative Taskforce on Reducing Poverty and Promoting Economic Opportunity

---

Room 171, State Capitol  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
Tuesday, July 13, 2010  
1:30 p.m.

---

The Arkansas Legislative Taskforce on Reducing Poverty and Promoting Economic Opportunity met at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 13, 2010, in Room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas. The following members attended:

**Legislative Members in attendance:** n/a

**Legislative Members not in attendance:** Co-Chair Sen. Joyce Elliott, Rep. David Rainey Rep. Davy Carter and Sen. Larry Teague

**Non-Legislative Members in attendance:** Co-Chair Mr. Rich Huddleston, Ms. Rose Adams, Ms. SiKia Brown, Rev. Steve Copley, Ms. Bernadette Devone, Mr. Frederick Love, Mr. Don Munro, Ms. Rhonda Sanders, and Dr. Sherece West

**Proxy:** Mr. Michael Rowett for Mr. Mike Leach

**Non-Legislative Members not in attendance:** Ms. Bessie Fowler, Ms. Mary Harris, Rev. Johnny Smith, Mr. Richard Smith, Ms. Gloria Smith, Mr. Andre Stephens, Mr. Brad Williams, and Mayor Shannon Willis

**Legislative Non-Members in attendance:** n/a

---

Co-Chair Mr. Rich Huddleston called the meeting to order.

The taskforce minutes of May 26, 2010, and June 29, 2010, were not approved based on not having a quorum.

Mr. Huddleston introduced Dr. Rosa West, Director of Career Pathways, ADHE who did a brief presentation on Bridges Out of Poverty Program.

Each work group gave an initial review of draft recommendations

1. Economic and Community Development – Rose Adams
2. Individual Economic Support/Security and Aging – Rhonda Sanders
  - a. Look into an additional recommendation pertaining to persons who are released from jail and expunging after 10-15 years.
3. Education – Dr. Sherece West
  - a. Look into an additional recommendation pertaining to developmental disability.
4. Tax Policy – Rev. Steve Copley
  - a. Look into an additional recommendation pertaining to Outreach on Federal income tax credit.
5. Health - Elisabeth Wright Burak
  - a. Look into an additional recommendation pertaining to Mental Health

The next meeting is set for Aug. 18, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. in room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas.