

AGENDA

Arkansas Legislative Taskforce on Reducing Poverty and Promoting Economic Opportunity

Friday, November 20, 2009

10:30 AM

Room 151, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas

Legislative Members

Sen. Joyce Elliott
Sen. Larry Teague

Rep. David Rainey
Rep. Davy Carter

Non-Legislative Members

Ms. Sikia Brown
Rev. Steve Copley
Dr. Sherece West
Mr. Don Munro
Ms. Mary Harris
Rev. Johnny Smith

Mr. Andre Stevens
Mr. Brad Williams
Mayor Shannon Willis
Mr. Rich Huddleston
Ms. Rose Adams
Mr. Frederick Love

Ms. Bessie Fowler
Ms. Rhonda Sanders
Mr. Richard Smith
Ms. Bernadette Devone
Ms. Gloria Smith
Mr. Mike Leach

- A. Call to Order
- B. Welcome and Announcements
- C. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- D. Discussion about the taskforce workgroups
- E. Speaker: Jodie Levin-Epstein, Deputy Director, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
 - 1. Work of other state poverty task forces: and
 - 2. State approaches to poverty reduction
- F. Other business
- G. Adjournment

Notice: Silence your cell phones. Keep your personal conversations to a minimum. Observe restrictions designating areas as "*Members and Staff Only*"

MINUTES

Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Reducing Poverty and Promoting Economic Opportunity

Room 171, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas
Tuesday, October 13, 2009
1:30 p.m.

The Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Reducing Poverty and Promoting Economic Opportunity met at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2009, in Room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas. The following members attended:

Legislative Members in attendance: Sen. Joyce Elliott, Sen. Larry Teague, and Rep. David Rainey

Legislative Members not in attendance: Rep. Davy Carter

Non-Legislative Members in attendance: Ms. Rose Adams, Ms. Bernadette Devone, Ms. Bessie Fowler, Ms. Mary Harris, Mr. Rich Huddleston, Mr. Frederick Love, Mr. Don Munro, Ms. Rhonda Sanders, Ms. Gloria Smith, Mr. Andre Stephens and Mayor Shannon Willis

Proxy: Mr. Anderson for Dr. Sherece West, and

Non-Legislative Members not in attendance: Rev. Steve Copley, Ms. Angela Duran, Rev. Johnny Smith, Mr. Richard Smith, and Mr. Brad Williams

Non-Committee Members in attendance: Rep. Jody Dickinson

Senator Elliott called the meeting to order. She introduced herself and gave opening remarks.

Senator Elliott then instructed other members to briefly introduce themselves.

Senator Elliott went over the Task Force Legislation and organization.

Mr. Huddleston nominated Senator Elliott to be the chairperson of the task force. Senator Elliott accepted and requested a co-chair.

Bernadette Devone nominated Rep. Rainey to the co-chair and Rep. Rainey declined. Rep. Rainey then nominated Mr. Huddleston for co-chair and Mr. Huddleston accepted.

Mr. Huddleston, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, spoke about the current state of poverty in Arkansas.

A list of work groups was passed out to each member to indicate which group they would prefer to work on. The choices are to be returned to Chrissy Heider. After Senator Elliott and Mr. Huddleston review the list an e-mail will be sent out assigning members to workgroups.

Senator Elliott noted that all communication will be sent out by e-mails.

The task force research will include state employees.

The next meeting is set for November 20, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., State Capitol, Little Rock, Ark.

Poverty Task Force - Work Groups

Exhibit D

Economic and Community Development

Ms. Rose Adams - Ark. Assoc. of Comm. Action Agencies E-Mail: acaaa@aristotle.net	Work: (501) 372-0807 Cell: (501) 765-4909
The Honorable Davy Carter - Member of the House E-Mail: davy.carter@gmail.com	Work: (501) 605-1346 Cell:
Ms. Bernadette Devone - Ark. Pubic Policy Panel E-Mail: bdevone2002@yahoo.com	Work: (501) 376-7913 x31 Cell: (870) 718-7700
Mr. Andre Stephens - St. Francis CO Comm. Development Corp. E-Mail: astephen@lablelynx.com	Work: Cell: (870) 270-6004
Mr. Brad Williams - Argenta Community Development E-Mail: bwilliams@argentacdc.org	Work: (501) 374-0622 Cell: (501) 416-7802
Mayor Shannon Willis - Mayor of Jasper E-Mail: cityofjasper@ritternet.com	Work: (870) 446-2633 Cell: (870) 446-2520

Education

Mr. Mike Leach - Southern Good Faith Fund E-Mail: mleach@southernngff.org	Work: (501) 661-0322 x24 Cell:
Mr. Don Munro - Munro Foundation E-Mail: dmunro@munroshoe.com	Work: (501) 262-6000 Cell: (501) 276-2001
The Honorable David Rainey - Member of the House E-Mail: raineyd@arkleg.state.ar.us	Work: (870) 382-2003 Cell:
Mr. Richard Smith - CB King Memorial School E-Mail: richard_smith79@sbcglobal.net	Work: (870) 222-6211 Cell: (870) 510-6374
Dr. Sherece West - Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation E-Mail: swest@wrfoundation.org; canderson@wrfoundation.org; phamm@wrfoun	Work: (501) 376-6854 Cell:

Individual Economic Support/Security

Ms. Sikia Brown - DHS, Division of Volunteerism E-Mail: sikia.brown@arkansas.gov	Work: (501) 682-7850 Cell: (501) 442-8083
The Honorable Joyce Elliott - Member of the Senate E-Mail: elliottj@arkleg.state.ar.us	Work: (501) 603-9546 Cell:
Ms. Bessie Fowler - American FSCM Employees E-Mail: fowler.bessie@yahoo.com	Work: (501) 944-8509 Cell: (501) 944-8509
Ms. Mary Harris - Volunteer at the Watershed E-Mail: mckintrush@yahoo.com	Work: (501) 378-0176 Cell:
Mr. Fredrick Love - Arkansas Food Bank E-Mail: fjlove1@sbcglobal.net	Work: Cell: (501) 612-3939
Ms. Rhonda Sanders - Ark. Hunger Relief Alliance E-Mail: rsanders@arhungeralliance.org	Work: (501) 399-9999 Cell: (501) 416-1523
Rev. Johnny Smith - Shiloh Baptist Church E-Mail:	Work: (870) 247-9660 Cell:

Tax Policy

Rev. Steve Copley - E-Mail: scopley438@aol.com	Work: (501) 626-9220 Cell:
Mr. Rich Huddleston - Ark. Advocates for Children & Families E-Mail: Rhuddleston@Aradvocates.org	Work: (501) 371-9678 x114 Cell: (501) 343-3429
Ms. Gloria Smith - ACORN E-Mail: gloriaorsborn@sbcglobal.net	Work: (501) 376-7151 Cell: (501) 661-0514
The Honorable Larry Teague - Member of the Senate E-Mail: teaguel@arkleg.state.ar.us	Work: (870) 845-5303 Cell:

Bureau of Legislative Research ~ 315 State Capitol ~ Little Rock, AR 72201

Jerri Derlikowski, Task Force Staff Coordinator, derlikowskij@arkleg.state.ar.us, (501) 537-9133

Thursday, November 12, 2009

Chrissy Heider, heiderc@arkleg.state.ar.us, (501) 537-0168

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October 2009

Jodie Levin-Epstein

PUBLICATIONS:

[Poverty and Opportunity: State Government Task Forces](#) charts the 20 states which have created a task force since 2003. Of the 20 states, 11 have established a poverty reduction target that sets a goal and a timeline for achieving it. The chart offers links to state-specific information such as authorizing legislation and poverty task force reports. September 2009

[Increasing Low-Income Access to Opportunity](#) is an article, first published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, which focuses principally on the New England region's efforts to give visibility to poverty and opportunity through task force initiatives, summits, and state poverty targets. September 2009

[Target Practice: Lessons for Poverty Reduction](#) highlights the experience with policy targets set for tackling homelessness and reducing gas emissions. Governments at all levels have utilized policy targets -- which set a numerical goal and a timeline -- as a tool that takes aim at a problem. In some arenas, technical assistance non-profits assist government in fashioning and sharing strategies to achieve the goal. Target Practice identifies potential lessons from these experiences that can be applied to poverty targets. January 2009

[Seizing the Moment: State Governments and the New Commitment to Reduce Poverty in America](#) describes a dramatic political turnaround in tackling poverty. In just the last few years, one of every five states has taken action to put poverty on the political agenda. This joint report from CLASP and Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity outlines those efforts and provides charts detailing action by policy area. April 2008

[Targeting Poverty: Aim at a Bull's Eye](#) explores how forty years after the war on poverty and a year after Katrina, commitments to tackle poverty are beginning to come back onto political and policy agendas. Among the reasons why poverty may be gaining attention is the increasing concern among many Americans that at some point they and their families may experience poverty. August 2009

AUDIO CONFERENCES:

[Poverty Task Forces: The Experience of 3 State Advocates](#) focuses on three states' (Connecticut, Minnesota and Illinois) lessons learned in establishing and working with a poverty task force. It explores the pros and cons of task forces and other issues, ranging from why bother with a task force to how does the current recession influence pursuit of a task force. November 2008

[What's a Poverty Commission to Do about a Recession?](#) offers concrete ideas for immediate actions states can take to address the high costs of food and fuel and the loss of jobs that are causing more to struggle to make ends meet and pushing more and more families towards poverty. September 2008

[First Hand-Facts: Visits, Tours, Testimony and More provides insights from](#) Minnesota where the Legislative Commission to End Poverty spent two years trying to understand the nature, causes, and consequences for the state and for the individuals who struggle to make ends meet in today's economy. The commission's next task is to make recommendations. What role do first-hand facts—getting out around the state—have? How can advocacy organizations work collaboratively with a commission to zero-in on the most pressing problems? How can policymakers best hear from those experiencing low incomes? And, how does a commission keep getting first-hand insights after it makes recommendations? July 2008

[Poverty and Opportunity: Developments around the Nation](#) focuses on the latest developments about solutions to poverty that are emerging around the country and includes an interview with Vermont's state Senator Doug Racine regarding its law to cut child poverty in half in a decade. August 2007

[Setting Child Poverty Targets: A Commissioner's View on Why Targets Help](#) offers an interview with Pat Wilson-Coker, the former commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Social Services, who thinks highly of the state's law that established a child poverty target. She worked under it and thinks it helped focus energy across agencies on fighting child poverty. Connecticut aims to reduce child poverty by 50 percent between 2004 and 2014. Wilson-Coker outlines the positive effects of targets on accountability, partnerships, and planning. February 2007

Resources are available online at:

Publications: http://www.clasp.org/issues/highlights?type=poverty_and_opportunity&HL=true

Audio Conferences: http://www.clasp.org/resources_and_publications/filter?type=presentations

SPOTLIGHT ON POVERTY AND OPPORTUNITY is a foundation-led, non-partisan initiative aimed at ensuring that our political leaders take significant actions to reduce poverty and increase opportunity in the United States. We bring together diverse perspectives from the political, policy, advocacy and foundation communities to engage in an ongoing dialogue focused on finding genuine solutions to the economic hardship confronting millions of Americans.

SPOTLIGHT was launched in October 2007 by major U.S. foundations to foster non-partisan debate during the 2008 campaign season about policy approaches for addressing poverty and opportunity. With the culmination of the presidential race, *Spotlight's* focus shifted to include monitoring efforts made by the Obama Administration and Congress to address the needs of low-income families.

SPOTLIGHT ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Council of Advisors

Geoffrey Canada, author and CEO, Harlem Children's Zone

William S. Cohen, chairman and CEO, The Cohen Group; former Secretary of Defense and Senator

Christine Grumm, president and CEO, Women's Funding Network

Ron Haskins, senior fellow and co-director, Center on Children and Families, Brookings Institution

Nancy L. Johnson, senior public policy advisor, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell and Berkowitz, PC; former member of Congress

Otis Johnson, mayor of Savannah, Georgia

George Mitchell, partner, DLA Piper, chairman, Global Board & co-chair, Government Controversies Practice Group, former Senate Majority Leader

E. Clay Shaw, Jr., former member of Congress

Wellington E. Webb, founder, Webb Group International, and managing director, Webb Development Group; former mayor of Denver, Colorado

- Providing a “one-stop shop web site” offering the public and policymakers the latest news, research, data and commentary about poverty and opportunity;
- Broadcasting a new series of *Spotlight* webcasts featuring policymakers, experts and leading public figures discussing such varied topics as “green” jobs and America’s racial wealth gap;
- Providing up-to-date information from the new administration and Congress and tracking statements and positions so political leaders will feel and be held accountable;
- Highlighting critical issues, such as health, family well-being, economic opportunity, Gulf Coast recovery, rural poverty and the needs of specific populations such as women, and the elderly, by providing key research, news and opinion on these subjects from policymakers and experts;
- Featuring news on foundation initiatives to address poverty and opportunity;
- Providing a non-partisan platform for innovative ideas, programs and practices at the federal, state and local levels;

- Sponsoring, often with like-minded organizations, strategic events that draw national attention and help elevate poverty and opportunity on the policy agenda; and
- Assembling a “big tent” of perspectives to develop and sustain long-term political and public will to fight poverty.

Snapshot of Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity home page, November 3, 2009 (www.spotlightonpoverty.org):

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity website. At the top, the logo reads "spotlight on POVERTY and OPPORTUNITY" with the tagline "THE SOURCE FOR NEWS, IDEAS, AND ACTION". A "Sign Up For Updates" button is in the top right. A navigation menu includes "About Spotlight", "Issues", "Data On Your Community", "Initiatives", "Research", "Links", and "Videos". A search bar is also present.

The main content area features a "Spotlight Webcast --- Martha Coven, White House Domestic Policy Council" with a photo of a brick building and a "Back" button. To the right, the "Around The Capitol" section lists news items like "Pelosi Changes Tack on Government Health Plan" and "House Dems set to unveil health bill". Below this is "The Administration" section with a photo of Barack Obama and a "learn more" link.

Three columns of content are visible: "Ideas In Action" with links to resource sites, "In the News" with recent news articles from various sources, and "Exclusive Commentary" with longer pieces on child prostitution and green jobs. At the bottom, there are sections for "Foundation News", "Events Calendar", and "Out of the Spotlight".

FOUNDATIONS COLLABORATING ON SPOTLIGHT:

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| The AARP Foundation | The Hagedorn Foundation |
| The Annie E. Casey Foundation | Living Cities |
| The Atlantic Philanthropies | Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation |
| The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation | Northwest Area Foundation |
| The California Endowment | Public Welfare Foundation |
| The Eos Foundation | Robert Wood Johnson Foundation |
| The Endowment for Health (New Hampshire) | Rosenberg Foundation |
| The Foundation for the Mid South | Stoneman Family Foundation |
| The George Gund Foundation | Women's Funding Network |
- The Kaiser Family Foundation provides in-kind television and webcast facilities.*