

Ladder Out of Poverty Task Force
Thursday, November 18, 2010
1:00 p.m.
Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building

Present:

Representative Larry Hosch
Representative Morrie Lanning
Representative Ron Shimanski
Senator John Marty
Kermit Fruechte
Kevin Murphy

Excused:

Representative Patti Fritz
Senator Michelle Fischbach
Senator Michael Jungbauer
Senator Kathy Sheran

Call to Order

Rep. Morrie Lanning, Task Force co-chair, convened the meeting of the Ladder Out of Poverty Task Force at 1:08 p.m. A quorum was present.

The task force members introduced themselves.

Task Force Background & Update

Chair Lanning reviewed the purpose and founding of the task force, and general work to date of the task force.

Working Group Reports

Each working group of the task force reported on work to date and featured speakers and programs highlighting the further explaining each group's area of focus.

The Community Supports group reported first, commencing with an overview of the group by Pam Johnson, Minnesota Community Action Partnership. Ms. Johnson then introduced speakers who highlighted their programs and gave recommendations for action to the task force:

- Alice Moren, CAP Circles of Support Program in Itasca County
- Xavier Bell, CAP Circles of Support Program in St. Louis County/Duluth
- Zach Pruitt, Healthy Youth Initiative
- Sarah Dixon, Minnesota Youth Alliance
- Maureen Kenney, Northern Connections

Ms. Johnson and the panel stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

The Financial Literacy Education working group reported next with an overview of the group by Andrea Ferstan, Greater Twin Cities United Way, who gave an overview of the map of financial literacy programs and services in Minnesota. Ms. Ferstand was followed by Dr. Cathy Solheim from the University of Minnesota who provided an overview of research on financial literacy programs in Minnesota and beyond. Ms. Ferstan then introduced speakers who highlighted their programs and gave recommendations to the task force:

- Janayah Bagarusi, LiSC
- Daniel DuHamel, Office of Economic Opportunity, Department of Human Services
- Claudia Parliament, Minnesota Council on Economic Education
- Joelle Hoeft, Office of Economic Opportunity, Department of Human Services
- Berni Johnson, Family Means

Ms. Ferstan, Dr. Solheim, and the panel stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

Recess

The task force recessed at 3:25 p.m.

Chair Lanning reconvened the task force at 3:32 p.m.

Working Group Reports Continued

The Asset Development working group reported with an overview of the group's work by Deborah Schlick, Affirmative Options. Ms. Schlick reported on the group's work and findings, then introduced Ron Elwood of Legal Services Advocacy Project who provided a research overview of Asset Poverty. Ms. Schlick and Mr. Elwood stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

Task Force Discussion – Next Steps

Chair Lanning led a discussion of work the task force should focus on in the coming months.

The task force agreed that working groups should convene and discuss potential legislation for the 2011 legislative session and forward ideas for discussion to the task force. The task force would then meet in the early part of the legislative session to discuss ideas and determine an implementation plan.

The task force agreed that working groups should also continue to meet during the legislative session and continue their work as outlined during the hearing. An task force meeting is scheduled for after the legislative session on Monday, June 13, 2011 from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.