

County Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF)
Subcommittee on Structure (Education, Employment, Housing)
Meeting Minutes
Sunday, September 4, 2016
Champaign Public Library, Cafe Area
4:00 pm

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

Two members of the subcommittee were present: R. Byrd and A. Felty

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

I. Future Meetings

It was agreed that we would meet again at the regular RJTF meeting on September 15, 2016. We declined to schedule more meetings until that time. We need to see who else is serving on this subcommittee to know an appropriate schedule.

II. Data Needs

We would like to have a short 10-question Survey Monkey instrument in email that we could use to collect greater amounts of data.

Rosita Byrd will contact Dr. Beverly Wilson and/or the RJTF chairperson Samuel Byndom to lay out our needs to Dr. Wilson's class at UIUC. Rosita Byrd will help decide what those ten questions should be and how they can be delivered to people to answer them. She will ask Dr. Beverly to guide us in creating and administering a survey with closed-ended questions on a Likert Scale.

Amy Felty has been interviewing people between ages 20 and 35 in the C-U community about their experiences with education and employment as related to race. She will continue those efforts.

III. Process and Goals of the Subcommittee

At this point, the two members of the subcommittee as working as described above. We wish to ask at the September 15, 2016, meeting if there are more members who will work with us. In particular, Henry Ross and Artice James have expressed an interest in continuing to concentrate on education and employment.

We are looking at three aspects of education: acquisition of knowledge, practice of skills, and access to networks for employment.

We consider appropriate employment as "gainful employment with opportunities for advancement" as successful employment that would support an employee and his or her family.

IV. Discussion of Potential Recommendations

We discussed the importance of home support for students to be most successful in school in addition to good teachers and appropriate curricula of study and practice. We agreed that we want to know more about Urbana Unit#116 career development counseling and opportunities. Amy Felty will be meeting with Urbana Supt. Don Owen later in September

Rosita Byrd mentioned the National Name Exchange program that helped bring her to the UIUC campus. We want to find out more about this program. [UIUC is a member, their website says.]

Amy Felty will soon speak with Dr. Marietta Turner, Dean of Students at Parkland College, about recommendations that this subcommittee might consider making to the whole Task Force. In part, they will discuss barriers to education and employment that youth and young adults face in our local community and county. They will discuss the Parkland Pathways program that takes students from two years of a Parkland education into two more years of a UIUC degree.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm by unanimous agreement.

* Founded in 1976, the **National Name Exchange** is a consortium of fifty-five nationally-known universities which annually collect and **exchange** the **names** of their talented but underrepresented ethnic minority students who are in their sophomore, junior or senior year of their undergraduate education.

<https://apps.grad.uw.edu/nne>