

**Notes**  
**Self Sufficiency Work Group**  
**Monday, August 20, 2007**

**Present:** Beverly Lane, Ada Palmer, Audrey Morris, Erika Jones, Kamaal Abdul-Muhaimin, Tony Frazier, Marie Galazzi, Judy Boykin, Lisa Bivens, Dale Banfield, Bonnie McComb, Gale Lucas, Trina Bartlett, Hilary Brooks, Nancy Marmorella, and Kelly Duncan

**Information and Referral/RRC Data:** Ada and Kamaal reported reports will be available at the end of each month. Kamaal did say that to date in the month of August, he had seen 64 clients. These clients were first screened through DHHR.

Gale Lucas announced that DHHR has taken over daily supervision of the information and referral center and RRC.

**Review of RRC Partnership Meetings and Strategies:**

- The group discussed the need for the RRC to serve all three counties instead of predominately just Berkeley County. While one solution was to continue to work on volunteers or a Title V person, the group decided that there should be an RRC subgroup. Membership for the subgroup: Judy Boykin, Telemon/Kamaal, Audrey, DHHR, Salvation Army, Tony Frazier, CCAP, Community Networks.

**EITC promotional support**

The group discussed the EITC program, including the need to educate employers about the service, the need to educate low and moderate income families about the benefit of the free tax preparation program and the pitfalls of going through a paid tax provider, and the need to work with employers to educate employees. The group also discussed investigating public policy regarding the ability of paid tax preparers to use the last pay stub of the year.

The group brainstormed strategies to promote the EITC through a variety of methods and with small employers, the chamber etc. This included of a “local” campaign that doesn’t necessarily use the state prepared materials. The idea of having volunteers at the library with the AARP was also suggested.

**Goals and Objectives for Coming Year** Trina announced that all the HHSC work groups should have their goals and objectives by October 1. The following were identified as the main goals:

- Continue to promote and provide the Money Smart financial training in the community.

- Coordinate services that promote skills and knowledge that increase self sufficiency among clients, such as job readiness, computer literacy, etc.
- Develop and advocate for strategies to increase transportation options for low-income families.
- Promote the availability of EITC for low income families and encourage volunteers to help with tax preparation through the program.
- Support the development of a strong Regional Resource Connection in the Jefferson, Berkeley, and Morgan counties.

**Street Guides:** These should be available by September 15.

**Public Policy Recommendations:** The public policy recommendations are due October 31.

**Next Meeting: Monday September 17, 10:00 AM**