

**Clark County Strategic Plan  
Education Sub-Committee Meeting  
May 6, 2009**

The Clark County Strategic Plan Education Sub-Committee met for a quarterly meeting on May 6, 2009 at Southern Bancorp. The following members were present: Phil Hardin, Sharon Kimery, Donnie Whitten, Bob Houston, Pat Wright, Lewis Shepherd, Terri Hardy, Mark Overturf, Judy Harrison, Dusty Schmid, Wesley Kluck and Carrie Roberson.

The minutes from the January meeting were presented. The minutes will be corrected to reflect the attendance of Judy Harrison and Lewis Shepherd.

Chairman Lewis Shepherd welcomed the committee and thanked them for the attendance.

Lewis reported the National Apprenticeship Foundation (formerly Metal Working Connection) has about 20 students from Arkadelphia Public Schools and Gurdon Public Schools who have enrolled in the program. The students are enrolling for a variety of vocations including office and pharmacy work. National Apprenticeship Foundation is working to place the students in local businesses but has had some difficulty due to the economy.

Chairman Terri Hardy reported on the summer camp program. Letters have been mailed to both universities, as well as, all public schools to see if instructors or teachers are interested in offering academic/enrichment summer camps to local students. To date, the following camps have been submitted: Around the World Camp-AHS, Art Camp-OBU, Aviation Camp-HSU, Theater Camp-OBU, Drum Major Camp-HSU, and Football Camp. There will be a limited number of scholarships available; Pat Wright will verify the student's eligibility based on the free or reduced lunch schedule.

Pat reported on the summer feeding program provided by the USDA and offered at the Community Family Enrichment Center. Free lunches are available to any child throughout the summer. This program insures children receive a nutritious meal even when they are not in school. The program is open to any child from 1 – 18 years. Information will be sent to area churches to inform the public about the program.

Donnie Whitten reported on the College Prep Academy. The Academy opened on April 13 with 39 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. The students were announced at a banquet held on HSU's campus. The collaborative project between Henderson's Educational Renewal Zone and Arkadelphia Public Schools is privately funded through grants from the Ross Foundation and Southern Bancorp. The faculty of the academy includes 2 OBU professors, 2 HSU professors and 3 APS district employees. The students, in groups of 10, rotate between 4 academic modules. Currently, funding is being researched to continue the project at APS and to start the project at Centerpoint Schools and Gurdon Public Schools. In June, the Arkansas Joint Education Legislative Committee will meet in Arkadelphia and observe the program.

Carrie Roberson presented a CCSP grant request from Southern CDC. Southern CDC built Clark County Child Care and incurred \$38,000 of additional construction expenses to increase the building by 2000 square feet to adhere to the state's per child space requirement. Discussion followed. Donnie Whitten made a motion to approve the grant request and submit to the CCSP finance committee for consideration. Judy Harrison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee discussed established priorities and goals for 2009. One suggestion was to establish a Clark County Education Foundation and research the funding requirements to offer college tuition for all Clark County high school graduates. Another suggestion is addressing the achievement gap between local schools sub-populations.

The committee agreed to meet for an extended meeting, tentatively set for May 14, to discuss and set priorities. A representative from the Little Rock Education Foundation will be invited to attend the meeting to give an overview of their foundation. A representative from the El Dorado Promise will also be invited to the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:  
Carrie Roberson