

West Jefferson County Community Task Force
Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2003

**The NIA Center
Second Floor Conference Room
2900 W. Broadway
Louisville, Kentucky
(502) 852-4609**

Bobby Hickey, Board VP Presiding

I. Legal and Ethical Issues of Environmental Concerns, Larry Palmer, Atty- U. of L., Department of Public Health

Dr. Palmer spoke about his background and how his perspective relates to his mission in Louisville. He came to Louisville from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. at which he served as Vice-President for several years. He is originally from St. Louis, MO. His area of expertise is **Health Policy**. He is the author of several books, including the definitive study of the infamous Tuskegee Experiment.

He defined his primary job at the University of Louisville as research. Additionally, he intends to work closely with community groups on Urban Health Policy in addition to his regular teaching duties. His areas of interest include the disparities in Health Care delivery system to minorities and the economically disadvantaged and is particularly interested in the relation between African Americans and asthma. He mentioned that the Human Genome project will change medicine tremendously and will contribute to removing disparities on ethnic, racial, and geographic lines.

He stated that his definition of good research was “with people”, not “on people”. As an example, he stated that the state of Kentucky does not have a surveillance on incidents of asthma. They measure hospital discharge rates. This raises a policy issue. “How are you going to collect the data?” Hospital discharge rates is one measure. The data show that there are proportionately higher rates in Eastern Kentucky, ostensibly related to coal mining activities, but there is also a disparity in portions of Jefferson County. This raises a question of what are some of the other causes of asthma- Is there a genetic predictor?

Attention should be focused on Health Policy-what it really is. His idea is that policy should assist legislators, insurance companies, etc., help people cope with asthma, to live with the disease in as productive a manner as possible. He believes in Community Participatory Action Research, i.e., what are the barriers to prevent “lost time days” in school, as opposed to how do you reduce the count of the number of hospital discharges.

Dr. Palmer answered questions from the task force members. We thanked him for this informative and well received presentation.

II. Update on Risk Assessment/Risk Management Plan

Jonathan Miller updated the group on the Risk Assessment Plan prepared by Sciences, Int'l, and scheduled for completion in a few weeks. The Risk Management Plan draft was also nearing completion and was scheduled for delivery to the task force before the Risk Assessment Plan was published.

III. Community Forum

Community Forum is scheduled for May 22nd, Jay's Cafeteria 1817 W. Muhammad Ali, 6:00 p.m.

IV. Concerns from the Community

Guests at the meeting included Mr. And Mrs. Friedman of the 12th Ward Neighborhood Club, formerly known as the Chickasaw Federation were present and acknowledged. The members of their organization were invited to the Community Forum and they took some invitations with them. They extended an invitation to task force members to attend their meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month.

Tom Herman questioned whether Sciences, Int'l was experienced in making presentations to diverse community groups as we are expecting to attend the Community Forum, as opposed to just scientists and academics. He was advised that this requirement was specifically stated in the contract agreement.

Pat Germany discussed smokestack discharges she observed from an industry in her neighborhood from AST Technologies on 15th Street between Oak and Ormsby Ave. She said discharges were heavy and generally in the late evening. The task force discussed following up on this with the APCDJC and one of their inspector's, Sam Bate.

Fran Thomas had requested a breakdown of employment numbers in Rubbertown by ethnic group and was told that it would be made available to her by task force members.

V. Concerns from the Board

None were discussed at this time.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.