

STATE OF MINNESOTA

SEVENTH MEETING
EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO END POVERTY BY 2020

MINUTES

Sen. John Marty, co-chair of the Legislative Commission to End Poverty by 2020, called the seventh meeting to order at 12:50 PM on Wednesday, January 23, 2008, in the Basement Hearing Room of the State Office Building.

The Committee Legislative Assistant noted the roll:

Members Present:

Rep. Carlos Mariani	Sen. John Marty
Rep. Morrie Lanning	Sen. Scott Dibble
Rep. Nora Slawik	Sen. Steve Dille
Rep. Neva Walker	Sen. Michael Jungbauer
Ms. Donna Bauer	Sen. Tony Lourey
Mr. Michael Hawton	Sen. Sandra Pappas

Members Excused:

Rep. Jim Abeler	Sen. Paul Koering
Rep. Bruce Anderson	Sen. Mary Olson
Rep. Frank Moe	Sen. Claire Robling
Rep. Bud Nornes	
Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba	

A quorum was not present.

Chair Marty welcomed the audience and Commissioners, and talked about tomorrow's Southeast Tour.

Presentation: "Emergency Assistance"

Ms. Jessica Webster, Legislative Advocate for Legal Assistance Advocacy Project.

Questions and Discussion followed.

Chair Mariani assumed the gavel at 1:12 PM

A quorum was present.

Presentation: “Governor’s Workforce Development Initiative”

Ms. Brenda Norman, Executive Director, Governor’s Workforce Development Initiative

Powerpoint presentation: “Minnesota Shifting Gears: a System and Policy Change Initiative to Advance Low-Wage, Low Skilled Workers”

Questions and Discussion followed.

Presentation: “Developmental Assets”

Dr. Peter Benson, President, Search Institute

Handout: “The Asset Approach: 40 Elements of Healthy Development”

Questions and Discussion followed.

Chair Mariani acknowledged members of Ramsey and Washington County Community Action Partnership Low Income Fellows and Duluth Community Action Partnership Low Income Fellows in the audience and invited them to report to the Commission their thoughts on Dr. Benson’s testimony.

Panel Discussion: “The Impact of Education on Poverty”

Moderator: Ms. Mary Cathryn Ricker

Panelists:

Ms. Gayle Kelly, Executive Director, Minnesota Head Start Association

Dr. Kathleen DeVore, Professor, Minneapolis Community and Technical College

Dr. Whitney Harris, Executive Director of Diversity, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU)

Mr. Kent Pekel, Executive Director for Post-Secondary Academic Success, University of Minnesota

Dr. Peter Zetterberg, University of Minnesota

Mr. Yusef Mgeni, Director of Educational Equity, St. Paul Public Schools

Questions and discussion followed.

Presentation: “Safety Net Programs”

Ms. Deborah Schlick, Executive Director, Affirmative Options Coalition

Members of the audience introduced themselves to the Commission and gave an idea about how to end poverty in Minnesota.

Mr. Gregory Gray, Executive Director for the Legislative Commission to End Poverty by 2020, gave an update on the Commission's work, tomorrow's southeast tour, and the forthcoming Interim Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Rep. Carlos Mariani, Co-Chair

Sen. John Marty, Co-Chair

Celeste Marin, Committee Legislative Assistant