

**Healthy Mendocino Project**  
**POVERTY ACTION TEAM MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 10, 2017, NCO**

**Present:** Susan Baird, Healthy Mendocino; Julie Beardsley, HHSA; Rachel Ebel Elliott, HHSA; Waldi Helma, HHSA; Tola Levison; Lydia Lopez, FIRST5/ARRC/FRC; Jan McGourty, BHAB, NAMI; Angelica Millan, Legal Services of No.CA; Sheilah Rogers, WEST Co.; Stephanie Zazueta, First 5/ARC-FRC; Mary Ziegler, HHSA

1. Further discussion of the financial stability focus area (from the white board notes):

a. Possible target populations (the last group mentioned was of particular interest).

- Elderly vs. young people
- Disabled
- Low-wage employees
- Employable unemployed
- Low skill people
- People in programs, e.g., in college
- Undocumented
- Families with young children

b. Issues and barriers:

- Services
- Behaviors, need for education and behavior change
- Culture of poverty
- Jobs
- Underground economy

c. Parts of the solution:

- Jobs
- Assistance with job readiness, including resumés
- Wages and benefits
- Affordable housing
- \$ management skills
- Policies that enable saving
- Education of employers about disabilities
- Skill development
- Linkages for job-holders to:

- Childcare
- IDA and other benefits
- Education
- Mentoring
- Mutual support

2. Agreement that we need to ask people living in poverty about their perspectives and needs.

- A program at the College has CalWorks participants. Lydia recommends asking them.
- Legal Services surveys its clients every 3 years. Housing is the #1 issue identified.
- **Decision to do a needs assessment to gather quantitative and qualitative information** on people living in poverty, maybe focusing on families with young children.
- **Julie will bring data about poverty in Mendocino County to the next meeting.**

3. Another regular meeting day and time may be better for some members. **Susan will organize a Doodle poll to try and identify a better time.**

4. At the next meeting, we need to identify leadership for the Poverty Action Team. Please consider what role you would like to volunteer for.

**NEXT POVERTY ACTION TEAM MEETING: Wednesday, June 14, 2-3:30 p.m., NCO large conference room**

Minutes by Susan Baird