

Empower Missouri
Economic Justice Task Force
Notes from the April 27, 2017 Meeting
(Phone-in Meeting)

1. Chris Guinther called the meeting to order at 4:30. The agenda was reviewed.
2. 2017 Focus Goal: Move Missouri toward progressive Taxation through advocacy before the State Tax Study Commission.
 - Members were reminded that the Tax Study Commission will not meet until after the legislative session is over.
 - At 5:00 Mike Sutherland, Missouri Budget Project, joined the call to update members on the status of legislation related to taxation. The two bills on EITC are not expected to move at all prior to the end of session.
 - It is expected that there will be work on taxation by the Governor's Tax Commission and the (Legislative) Tax Study Commission after the session adjourns. Besides EITC, Remote Sales, Tax Credits and the Circuit Breaker are some of the issues that the Commissions are expected to discuss. The Governor seems to be supportive of the EITC. Mike recommended that Empower Missouri pay attention to the work of these two commissions and be ready to give input if needed.
3. Supporting Living Wage Campaigns
 - a. At 4:40, Richard vonGlahn, Missouri Jobs with Justice, joined the call to discuss many issues impacting workers. He shared information on the St. Louis minimum wage, and the "win" that this is for working families. This good news is overshadowed by the fact that HB1194 would nullify the STL minimum wage ordinance. Members are encouraged to contact their Senators (even if they know that their senator will support the bill) and ask him/her to vote against the bill.
 - b. Richard also updated the group on the CLEAN Missouri Initiative, and asked if Empower Missouri could commit to supporting the initiative and then work to gather signatures. Debi will ask the Executive Committee for support of the bill and then a goal for signature gathering can be set and regional groups will be asked to collect signatures. Richard will send an updated copy of the "Policy Overview" to Chris, and he asked that all previously distributed copies be destroyed.
4. Trauma-Informed Care

Nancy Spargo, Health/Mental Health Task Force Chair, led a discussion around the issue of trauma-informed care and how her task force could

help develop a common “lens” for looking at task force charges around the issue of trauma-informed care. After discussing the issue and especially how those impacted by poverty suffer trauma, it was determined that there needed to be a discussion with the Board about the issue, and Nancy, Debi and Jeanette will meet to determine how this discussion could be incorporated into the Board retreat.

5. Other Business

- Members were reminded of the October 5-6 annual conference, to be held in St. Louis

6. Next meeting - July 27, 2017 at 4:30 (Call-in)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00, and discussion about a future meeting with Jeanette, Debi and Nancy continued.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Chris Guinther.