

**Report of Meeting for  
Alabama Asset Building Coalition – South Alabama Region  
February 3, 2011**

In attendance: Floyd Pough- Mobile Development Enterprises; Shirley Worthington – UWCA; Marsha Bell – United Bank; Elizabeth Skiba – IRS; Michael Milner – Alabama Asset Building Coalition; Jennifer Edwards – SAWDC; Leida Javier Ferrell – MACC; Raymond Huff – IRS; Erik Davis – Commonwealth Bank; Ted Morris – The Salvation Army; Danny Patterson – CFSA; Terri Grodsky – RSVP; Jean Broach – Goodwill Easter Seals; Pamela Ramos – MACC/AL.MBEC; Virginia Inge –BPSOS; Carol Lambert – Mobile Chamber; Sherman Blosser – Women’s Business Center; Robyn Anderson – CNB; John Olsen – FDIC; Diana Brinson – Hands On South Alabama; Carolyn Douglas- CFSA

The Alabama Asset Building Coalition-South Alabama Region (AABC-SAR) met in the Assembly room of the AIDT-Austal Training Facility. Sherman Blosser – co chair of AABC-SAR called the meeting to order. After welcome and introductions, Raymond Huff of the IRS gave a report on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) - Build Capacity Campaign. (See attached report) A presentation was made of four lap top computers obtained by the Community Foundation through its Strengthening Communities Fund Sub-Grant from United Way of Central Alabama. These four lap top computers will be loaned to organizations that provide Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) as well as VITA services.

Attention was then focused on three financial literacy agenda items. First Shirley Worthington of the United Way gave a presentation on the *Managing Household Finances: 2011 and Beyond Survey Research*. (See attachment for the power point presentation) In her presentation Shirley pointed out the need to determine the best way to deliver financial education, not to develop another curriculum. The purpose of the survey is to learn what the people of the region want/need in financial education. Among the things expected from the survey are answers to questions about: Where, How, When and in What terminology should financial education be delivered. Two consultants will be involved with the gathering of information and implementation from the survey. Claire Parker of Parker Consulting, Inc. will oversee the survey process. Claire has extensive experience in this field and has managed surveys all across the state. Inger Giuffrida is a nationally recognized consultant in the delivery of financial education. She is currently under contract with the United Way of Central Alabama to develop a program to train the trainers in financial education. The end result will be to have those providing financial education a better way to address their audience. The survey will seek to engage a cross section of our region in this assessment. While the survey will target the consumer seeking financial education, it also will seek feed back from the financial industry, financial educators and the business community. Those in attendance made several comments about the value this survey could have for the future of Financial Stability in our region. ***Stay tuned for further updates concerning this survey.***

Michael Milner and John Olsen provided information regarding the Bank On project AABC-SAR will initiate. John provided an over view about Bank On. (See power point presentation

attached) Michael presented a template for beginning a Bank On project (See attached power point presentation). It was agreed that AABC-SAR would establish a work group to explore how a Bank On South Alabama project can be initiated. Chris Tracey with Wells Fargo and Rodney Lee with Commonwealth National Bank have agreed to co chair that work group. They will meet in the near future to begin forming their work group. If you would like to be a part of that work group, you may contact Carolyn Douglas at [ced@communityendowment.com](mailto:ced@communityendowment.com) or call her at 251-438-5591.

The final agenda item examined the relationship between small business and workforce development. Jennifer Edwards with the Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council (SAWDC) told a story to underscore how lack of financial education impacts workforce development. A member of SAWDC told of a married couple who are both employees of his small company whose financial issues spilled over into the work place. Those issues ranged from garnishment of wages to need for time off from work in order to take of financial problems. In the discussion Jennifer mentioned the World of Work event for eighth grade students in this region as an opportunity to introduce students to the importance of Financial Stability to workforce development.

Sherman Blosser with the Women's Business Center stated that people who want to be business owners need to be financially astute. Often when clients came to them, the first step was to deal with their personal finances. She mentioned the work that had been done to reach out through Girl Scouts on this subject.

Marsha Bell with United Bank pointed out that for banks to make loans required Financial Stability on the part of the customer. All in attendance agreed that it would be beneficial for Workforce/Small Business Development and the Alabama Asset Building Coalition- SAR to continue to explore ways for collaboration.

Several announcements were made.

Diana Brinson reported on the SaveNow WinLater initiative being carried out by Impact Alabama. For an update, see attachment.

February 20-27 is America Saves Week. The Alabama Cooperative Extension

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