

Plan of Evaluation – Testimony Panel

Panel members: Misty, Brandy, Linda, Terri, and Jamie

11/08/07

1. Process:

Toward project objectives:

1. Have each student collect two to three economic human rights violations
2. Discuss in class the criteria for choosing testimony to fit the goal of the Truth Commission

Group process:

1. Make copies for all Testimony Committee members for evaluation
2. Meet to determine which testimony to include in Truth Commission
3. Determine how testimony will be delivered
4. Communicate during off class weeks through e-mail and individual group meetings with group minutes e-mailed out after each meeting for corrections and additions

2. Outcome:

1. Unplanned: The Truth Commission testimony will cause further discrimination to those who testify
2. Unplanned: Added stress to those who have been identified and to the students planning the event
3. Planned: People will understand that their rights are being violated
4. Serendipitous: Everything will go exactly as planned and our goal to eliminate poverty in Chattanooga will be realized

3. Impact:

1. Truth Commission testimony will raise awareness in the larger community of economic human rights violations that occur in Chattanooga
2. Further discrimination of the poor and/or lack of services will be provided
3. Conditions could improve and the Ten Year Plan would be implemented and not placed on the back burner for ten more years
4. Giving testimony will empower new leadership in the community and foster a collective change in delivery of services
5. Media attention: focus on issues of economic human rights violation putting pressure on community leaders to work together toward a solution to end poverty in Chattanooga
6. Find out “the word on the streets” by interviewing clients and social workers at local service agencies to determine if people are more aware of economic rights violations after the Truth Commission

Minutes from group meetings follow this evaluation plan. We have no instruments for measuring the success/failure of this committee other than finding people willing to testify in person.

Practice III Individual Group Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/8/07

Group: Testimony committee

Attendees: Misty, Brandy, Jamie, Terri, Linda

Non-Attendance: N/A

Meeting Place and time: Metro building rm 161 1:30 – 3:00

Tasks completed:

Students collected testimony of economic rights violations

Made copies of all testimony collected so far for review by the committee

Asked the class to identify anyone of those collected testimonies who would be willing to speak in person – not a single person said that their person would testify!

Decisions/ discussion:

1. We discussed what measures to take because as of now we have no one willing to testify in person. We polled the class and got ideas such as: have the junior students read them, have a local church come and read them, try and get the original people to “testify” via video tape with their identity hidden.
2. We discussed with the larger class that we are stuck-we can’t force them to tell their story. And we feel that rushing out to find people in agencies at the last minute to testify smacks of exploitation.
3. We discussed having students read them with a disclaimer like this:
“Due to the very real fear of further discrimination the following human rights violations documented from September through November 2007 by BSW students at UTC will be not be delivered in person. Rather we will have _____ read the testimony. The reporting of these human rights violations in this manner underscores the fact that in Chattanooga people are still being persecuted for being poor, lacking adequate housing, lacking adequate access to healthcare, and being denied the right to a living wage and education. Please listen carefully to their plight.”
4. Discussed how lack of participation of in person testimony may hinder our goals.
5. Discussed how we could have improved the relationship with the community and found people willing to testify by involving ourselves in local charitable organizations and agencies that serve the poor in Chattanooga. At this late date it will be impossible to establish trust and make people see that testifying would help them become visible to the community at large.

Assigned tasks/person responsible/date due:

Linda: send testimony to Misty electronically by 11/12/07

Misty: will document collected testimony and put into categories so we can determine which violations to focus on by 11/15/07

Group: continue to decide how best to present the testimony and discuss with Dr. Bricker

Next meeting date: 11/29/07

Agenda for next meeting: Finalize truth commission testimony and how it will be delivered