

State Caucus
July 23, 2004

Arkansas: Thank you for, first let me thank the Arkansas group for participating in just such a most engaging manner. I'm gonna try to talk about all the things we talked about, let me just tell you what we did and what we're going to do, and then if you need further information, come to town, we'll have lunch. And since you'll be coming to town it will be on your expense, and we'll be glad to share with you what we did.

What we did, we reflected on what we had heard and seen and talked about while we were here, and in light of that we wanted to bring it down to the Arkansas level. And so then we kind of brainstormed what we wanted or what we thought should happen at the Arkansas level that could get a lot more people engaged and more knowledgeable about the process. And we ended up with probably four or five pages of items that could be done. We ended the session, I think which is most important, by coming up with a list of things that we should do, starting next week and cover next year that would keep us all engaged in the process. So we end up, we have a schedule of contacts, or schedule of being engaged in the process... that between now and the end of the October we will have been engaged at least six times. We'll either be receiving something or in face to face dialogue, and it's at that last session that we will define and design what we will do the rest of the year that will keep alive the processes that we've seen presented to us while we're here today. Let me just say thank you for allowing the Arkansas group to be here and again...that's all.

Louisiana: I'm Sharon, and I facilitated the group from Louisiana, and what we initially did, we broke our room into different areas. We had the Baton Rouge, New Orleans and also the rural communities, because as you know there are different issues that someone that is in New Orleans or Baton Rouge wouldn't have to deal with. So some of the issues that we addressed are organization, education, commitment, addressing threats, transportation, tradition and research. So our groups addressed each one of these issues, well our groups addressed some of the issues and then we got back together to discuss some of the different components. We exchanged email addresses, telephone numbers, addresses and names. We planned to compile all of the information and email it to everyone and we will actually start a dialogue and continue the process. We also passed out some surveys in our group. We want to do a statistical analysis and look at that information, because if you just look, if you glanced at the surveys, one of the things that I noticed, depending on your age, you have a different perception or opinion about how we should proceed with the process; if you should use television or if it should be one on one

conversations. So we'll compile the information and share that with the foundation.

Mississippi: I think that what came out of the Mississippi Caucus when you get to the crust of it is, this is the beginning of change for us, we learned some information that challenged who we are, what we thought and what it is we have to do. And so at the very local level, it begins with talking to yourself, having a conversation and doing a checklist, do you have a will, have you done a state planning, and then moving it from there to the organizations that you are part of and making sure that they have the information. So we recognize, then when we move to the state level, that there is an opportunity of us to create a resource network. We have resources and opportunities in Jackson that may not exist in the Mississippi Delta, so it becomes creating a _____. We're also encouraging the Foundation of the Mid-South with the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson to develop a tool kit of what to do that fits us in Mississippi. We recognize that we've got to continually, continually educate ourselves and that is important that what the synergy that came about today, continues on. So we shared, we will share, names, addresses, phone numbers of all the participants of Mississippi. And there was a recommendation that we do a list-serve of those of us who have access to the internet, that we can just drop a line and keep that going and that it is important that we begin to share with each other, visit with each other, learn from each other so we can keep that synergy going. We recognize that in many ways we are a very wealthy state, we're number one in _____. We don't know what that looks like in the African American communities, but we need to begin to look at that and leverage regional and national foundations to help us create endowments here in the state. At the crust of it we decided that we want to get together, sooner rather than later, so within the next sixty to ninety days the Harden Foundation _____ has volunteered to host a luncheon for all the members of the Mississippi delegation to come together to continue the dialogue, the learning and the exchange. Thank you.