



She told how Haiti has 10,000 foreign aid programs that have only perversely harmed the economy, making it in one's rational self-interest to accept handouts in lieu of pursuing personal development. In the standard model of humanitarian aid, only expert professionals and dictators are enriched. Follett refers to this as the aid-industrial complex.

A perfect storm of circumstances can put any single person in poverty at any time, but generational poverty normally requires government help. In Asheville, urban renewal bulldozed vibrant black communities, with homes and businesses, for a highway, and then relocated the once economically-independent people into projects of concentrated poverty with limited transportation options.

For whatever reason, drug dealers gravitated toward those areas, and boys caught carrying drugs got a record that prevented them from ever getting a job. Given the choice of marrying a guy with a record or having children out of wedlock to get a free apartment and free food from the government, the girls acted pragmatically. It should go without saying that skin pigmentation is not holding people back; it is the failure of people to reform the institutions that target them.

A recurring theme in commissioner remarks was the recent police beating of Johnnie Jermaine Rush. He had finished a thirteen-hour work day and was stopped and beaten by police officers for trespassing and jaywalking because he was walking through the parking lot of a business that was closed for the night. Al Whitesides said it reminded him of getting pulled over twenty years ago for driving while black.

Kenyon Lake then introduced leaders representing the seven Isaac Coleman grant recipients: the ABIPA Cares Cooperative, Deaverview: Residents, Schools, and Community in Relationship, Emma Community Ownership, My Community Matters Empowerment Program Collaboration with Positive Changes and Writers in Schools, the Shiloh Community Association/Pearson Plan, United Community Development/Southside Revitalization, and YTL Training/GRACE for Teens and Access for Mothers and Families. Programs were largely efforts to get parents more involved with their children and bring neighbors together.

Three programs stood out for creating opportunity. My Community Matters is sending kids to public events where they interview movers and shakers for a documentary they're producing. United Community Development is creating living-wage jobs in the home weatherization business, filling a tremendous need. And ABIPA is alleviating pressure on care facilities by employing housekeepers for people desiring to age in place with visiting nurses.