Thinking “Bigger” About Smaller Places: The Rural South

*Presented to the*

Southern Early Childhood Association
Public Policy Luncheon

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Charles W. Fluharty
President & CEO
Rural Policy Research Institute
Today’s Considerations

I. Our Current “Disruptive Milieu,” and Why it Matters

II. The Rural/Urban Tension in Place-based Policy

III. Why Systems Thinking and Regional Innovation are Essential for Rural Futures, Particularly for Children in Poverty

IV. Several Awesome Rural Innovators

V. Some Personal Reflections and Hopes Re: Equipping Professionals for the Realities of Intergenerational Poverty
China’s Great Uprooting: Moving 250 Million Into Cities

Articles in this series look at how China’s government-driven effort to push the population to towns and cities is reshaping a nation that for millennia has been defined by its rural life.
“All great truths begin as blasphemies.”

--George Bernard Shaw
Promoting Growth in All Regions
Contributions to aggregate growth depend on few hub regions…

...the fat tail is equally important - if not more - to aggregate growth...
II. Systems Thinking Re: Rural Advantage
Eight Forms of Rural Wealth / Health

- Physical
- Financial
- Natural
- Human
- Intellectual
- Social
- Cultural
- Political
The Framework for Regional Rural Innovation

Critical Internal Considerations

- Wealth Creation, Intergenerational Wealth Retention, and Appropriate Wealth Distribution
- Youth Engagement, Retention, and Leadership Development
- Social Inclusion and Social Equity Considerations
- Specific Attention to Social Mobility and Inequality
Three Questions:

Innovating What?

Diversifying How?

Transitioning Where?
Innovating What?

How “We” Consider “Us”

How We “See” Our Region

How We “Consider” Our Options

How We Support The “Connectors”
Diversifying How?

In Our Vision of the Future

In Our Sense of Possibility

In Our Actions and Alignments

In Our New Collaborations
Transitioning Where?
Collective Impact

Large-scale social change requires broad cross-sector coordination, yet the social sector remains focused on the isolated intervention of individual organizations.

By John Kania & Mark Kramer | 90 | Winter 2011

See also:
Five Conditions for Collective Impact Success

I. Common Agenda
   - Shared vision for change

II. Mutually Reinforcing Activities
   - Differentiated, but still coordinated

III. Backbone Organization
   - Serves entire initiative, coordinating participating organizations, firms and agencies
Five Conditions for Collective Impact Success (cont’d)

IV. Continuous Communication
   ▪ Consistent, open, unmediated

V. Rigorous and Shared Measurement
   ▪ Collecting predictive indicators, regional data: then measuring ongoing results consistently
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Eastern Kentucky Expo Center, Pikeville, KY
October 28, 2015  8:30a.m. till 3:30p.m.

The Summit will showcase learning innovation taking place across the east Kentucky region as a direct result of the Race to the Top-District Grant awarded to Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative and 17 outstanding rural school districts.

Join the Summit Virtually by logging into:

2015 KVEC Area Fall Gathering for Students and Their Families with Hearing and Vision Losses
September 22, 2015

KVEC will be hosting the Fall Gathering for Students and Their Families with Hearing and Vision Losses on October 16th, 2015. This event will be held...

2014 KVEC TRANSITION FAIR
March 27, 2014, Heather Hall an...

View Photo Gallery
Special Thanks to those districts that participated... by bringing their students to the fair: Floyd, Leslie, Letcher and Perry.
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Committed to the future of rural communities.
New Rural Early Childhood Education Opportunities for Collective Impact

Attention to Social Determinants of Health

Health Reform/Medicaid/RWJ’s Culture of Health

The New Farm Bill

A New Administration and Congress

Rural Infrastructure Investments

Creative Placemaking (ruralgeneration.org)
Some Final Reflections:

Southern Early Rural Childhood Education, Collective Rural Policy Impact and Rural Systems Change
Charles W. Fluharty

fluharty@rupri.org

President & CEO

Rural Policy Research Institute

Clinical Professor

Iowa Institute of Public Health Research and Policy

University of Iowa College of Public Health 145 N. Riverside Drive

Iowa City, IA 52242

(319) 384-3816

http://www.rupri.org/