Name of Project: R.O.O.T.S of Sunflower County

Date of interview: June 21, 2016

Location of Interview: Indianola, MS

Name of Interviewer(s): (A) Calvin Griffin

Name of Interviewee: Deborah Moore (B)

Name of file used for transcription: 025.MOV

[0:07] **A**: How do you feel about Sunflower County?

[0:10] **B**: Sunflower County is a very welcoming county that has a lot of potential and opportunity that’s lying before us.

[0:20] **A**: Do you feel safe in this community?

[0:28] **B**: Based on what I see on the news at night, there’s a high crime rate in Sunflower County but I don’t ever feel unsafe when I’m here.

[0:40] **A**: If you could change something about Sunflower County, what would you change?

[0:43] **B**: I would change the way that organizations and people work together because we have a lot of opportunity here but I don’t feel like we are fully coordinating services to ensure that everybody that actually need services are receiving services properly. There are a lot of resources here and I don’t feel like we are coordinating those resources in a way that we can help those with most their needs.

[1:16] **A**: What brought you to Sunflower County?

[1:18] **B**: Well I actually go to church in Sunflower County. I attend the church of Christ in Ruleville so I have a history with Sunflower County and when I started working for Delta Health Alliance, I started working in Indianola.

[1:32] **A**: How would you change things here?

[1:37] **B**: I think the problems that exist in Sunflower County, as well as across the Delta and most rural areas—there’s a high poverty rate here that relates back to education also relates back to work force development and all those other issues such as high teenage pregnancy rates and STDs. How would I change Indianola? I don’t think I can change Indianola, I don’t think I can change Sunflower County. I think as a team, as a group, the community working together, the faith-based organizations, the schools, the businesses, parents, community members; I think it would take all of us in a very coordinated, concerted effort to make the changes that need to be made in Sunflower County because what’s happening here is not anybody’s sole problem, it’s all of our problem and we all have to work together to solve it.

[2:40] **A**: How long have you been staying here, in Sunflower County?

[2:43] **B**: I don’t live in Sunflower County, I actually live in Bolivar County but I work and go to church in Sunflower County so I’m vested(?) in Sunflower County.

[2:52] **A**: Have you ever went to Gentry High School?

[2:55] **B**: Have I attended as a student? No but I be at Gentry all the time working with the principal, the teachers, the counselors, students.

[3:14]**A**: What is one thing you would change about the school?

[3:20] **B**: I would say the environment, the facility, itself, would be one thing. I mean there are several things contributing to a student having a great outcome—not just the building and not just teachers. I think there are several things that contribute to that but I think the environment is very, very important that the students feel like there are high expectations for them and they deserve the best and I think that it starts with perception, the way things look. In addition to that, having a core (?) group of highly qualified teachers and good leadership is also very important.