Dependent Care Committee Notes from 4/24/06

Only about half as many attended this Committee as last time.
For the majority of the meeting, we split into three teams. The teams were organized by interests:
>Group 1-Childcare (CC)
>Group 2-Childcare
>Group 3-Elder-care

After group work, each team reported out to the entire sub-committee. We also chose two people to co-chair the sub-committee:
Dependent Care- Denise Lewis dlewis@fcs.uga.edu
>(Gerontologist in the College of Family & Consumer Sciences at UGA)
Child Care - Sherry Lee ccrric@communityconnection211.com
>(Inclusion Coordinator at Child Care Resource & Referral, and a parent advocate)

Each team reported out as follows:

Group 1:
"Why I joined the childcare group":
- o The need for childcare needs to be presented in an understandable way
- o Childcare is a critical piece of poverty/major cause of remaining in poverty
- o We want childcare providers to have a background in teaching or early child development (training)
- o Starting early for adulthood is vital
- o We are happy to be a part of a small committee because we can have a bigger impact
- o Childcare has been a hard issue for certain members of this committee

Aspirations for this group:
- o Every parent who needs child care will get it with no worries!
- o Transportation to and from child care will be available
- o We will address the length of hours child care is provided and the lack thereof
- o Address Funding
- o Make child care available for anyone who wants their child to attend
- o Employers need to understand the need
- o Family friendly work-places need to be encouraged and promoted
- o People need to be paid a living wage so they can afford child care
- o We need to show the direct correlation for how child care can increase business productivity, which should increase business buy-in – there's research supporting that

How to improve our process/Success will be measured by:
- o These sub-committee meetings will be conducted in circular fashion so that everyone will feel that their opinion is important and their voice can be heard. Name tags among members. Email/list-serve among the members.
- o Target groups: employers, youth, faith-based community

- Change of stats
- Provide living wage for everyone who works
- More men need to participate in this group!

Questions we want to answer:
- What indicators start at the bottom and keep people at the bottom? (people with power/$???) top?
- Grassroots effort
- How can we keep people excited about being a part of this effort?

Group 2:
Aspirations:
- Increase affordable and quality childcare
- Increase the hours child care is available
- Partnership with businesses
- What are the effects on businesses without child care?
- Collect data from parents: what are their greatest challenges?
- Importance of having child care available at the high schools for high school students who are parents, to increase graduation rates and offer parenting skill classes
- Use creative resources: youth in centers get class credit? Grandparents?
- Emergency childcare
- Sick-child care
- Off-hours child care
- Drop-in child care

Group 3: (Elder/Dependent)
Major Issues:
- What do the elderly and their families say that the major issues are?
- The use of multiple meds (confusing, high-costs)
- Idea: Could the UGA pharmacy school educate elders and their care providers?
- Importance of Respite Care
- Training volunteers
- Could we set up an advisory group to explain Medicare and Medicaid?
- Data need: How many care homes does A-C have currently? How many elders are there that need care currently and are not getting it? How many people do we have that are aging and will soon need care? (preparation for the next years, aging population increasing…) What can Athens-Clarke County do to be prepared?
- Recognize the many issues surrounding elder care
- Identify the Big problems and prioritize them into what we can manage
- Tap into the community and UGA
- Plan needs to be sustainable!
- We need this group to have a foundation of action and implement plans that will work!

Questions to be asked:

- Needs of the "sandwich generation" (those providing care for their parents and care for their children)
- Who is missing in our group? The poor! People in area aging services located in Athens (including Council on Aging, Area Agency on Aging, and others). We need elderly people to join our group. We need a group for people with disabilities.
- How many people are receiving home health care?

*We need to set up a group within this committee that addresses the needs of people with disabilities!