

Dependent Care: Elder/Disabled Adults
September 25, 2006
Notes from sub-committee meeting

- I. Denise opened the meeting with review of Dependent care learnings and read through current recommendations
- II. Are there any more potential recommendations that we may want to make?
No suggestions were made at this time, so we went back to the recommendations we were already planning to develop.
- III. Discussion and further description and explanation of Recommendations that came out of what we learned.
 - A. There was a question about the focus of our recommendations, are they to be focused on the elderly disabled person or their caregiver. Denise answered that the focus is on the caregiver.
 - B. Question: when we write our recommendations, are we also thinking about how they will be funding. Answer: we are not concerned with how we will get them funded right now—that can't hinder us from making the recommendations. But we can be looking at funding options.
 - C. **Recommendation number 1:** “Recommendation to provide care training to people in poverty to help support the needs of caregivers for early and disabled adults.” Denise explained what the recommendation means. The group then decided that this recommendation needs to be further explained on paper. It is an important recommendation because it is a 2-pronged approach to poverty. It aims to break the cycle of poverty by offering scholarships for women/people living in poverty to be trained (on scholarship) as caregivers. These caregivers are then able to give back to the community, providing the needed service of care-giving. An example of a similar program are the scholarships offered to med students to become doctors and then are required to practice in the community for X amount of years as a way to pay back the scholarship.
 - D. **Recommendation number 2:** “Recommendation to help provide a volunteer time share program to help meet the needs of elderly and disabled adults and their caregivers; which leads to an overall recommendation to develop a Volunteer Center serving the university and community.” This recognizes the services we have, makes an effort not to duplicate them, but to expand them by linking in volunteers. We have talked a lot about the Time Share Program in previous meetings.
 - E. **Recommendation number 3:** “Recommend to take initial steps to understand the role a Community Foundation could play in Athens-Clarke County.” A community foundation is something that could be developed to manage the funds provided by different philanthropic organizations and the linkage of the funds to recommendations.
 - F. **Denise then read emails she has received from people on the Dependent Care list serve who offered their critiques and input.**

Kathryn Fowler wrote that she would like to see some recognition of the need to expand support service for these caregivers, whether it's through support groups, respite, education, or more intensive care. She also added that a Volunteer Center could easily duplicate work already being done by agencies, Community Connection, and even the Council on Aging senior volunteer programs and recommends that we acknowledge the existence of multiple volunteer centers now and propose combining and expanding their efforts.

- G. Two other members of the committee who could not attend tonight's meeting expressed their interest in participating and have arranged meetings with Denise to discuss these recommendations. Denise will post the results of those meetings to the group through the listserv.
 - H. Question was asked by a new attendee: "How many people involved in this committee are caregivers currently?" Denise said that she has talked with several who are a part of the committee who are also caregivers or who work as staff at agencies that serve the elderly or disabled and know the caregivers. Many of those that are interested in this committee are caregivers but cannot attend the meetings because they are *care-giving*. Several have expressed their interest in staying informed through the dependent care listserv.
 - I. It was emphasized that Athens has a lot of the caregiving services we have talked about—just not enough! A **fourth recommendation** could be to: Expand the services we have. We have a strong caregiver system—just not enough. Don't reinvent things that are already are working! This is similar to Kathryn's concern. Anne Hansen said we need to be sure in further developing our recommendations that we go beyond addressing the symptoms and address the causes. We need to be innovative, as well, because that is sometimes how we get funding.
 - J. We discussed adding to recommendation #2, incorporating the University to utilize Service Learning opportunity to expand services as well as develop volunteers—teaching them the importance of giving back to the community (discussions in the classroom= the learning component). This might help with the need to expand services but not have a proportionate expansion of expenses (we'd need a way to track students/volunteers but much of that could be done by the professor/teacher supervising the student and coordinated through the agency being assisted).
 - K. Question: Is there a vision of pulling all of this together in a volunteer center? Many committees are talking about the need for a volunteer center. The Time Share is the unique part of this that Dependent care is offering and has done much research on.
 - L. Anne Hansen had to leave early, but before she left, reported that she has received a grant for the Council on Aging to hire 2 staff members to help coordinate Developmental and Aging systems in the community. They will also work with our committee.
- IV. We decided rather than breaking into teams, to stay together and work on one recommendation. The committee chose to focus on number 1. Denise said that

she has spoken to Labor Commissioner Michael Thurman and that he said there is money that could go to this type of program, that some skilled nursing facilities or assisted living facilities might also fund this sort of program.

A. Using the Recommendation Worksheet given to us, this is the work we have done so far:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION WORKSHEET

I. List the Learning(s) that this recommendation is addressing

Addresses Learning #1: Caregivers for elders and people living with disabilities need support with emergency care, respite care, and transportation.

- **WRITE THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION** (limit focus to one subject or action item, more than one recommendation may be needed to address a particular learning):**

In order to meet the growing needs of caregivers for the elderly and developmentally disabled such as emergency care, respite care, and support, the dependent care committee recommends an approach that breaks the cycle of poverty in two ways:

- 1- This recommendation provides a marketable skill for people living in poverty and
 - 2- This recommendation provides respite for the caregiver.
- **Identify any research, or other kinds of information that was used to craft this recommendation.** (add additional sheets as necessary)

Community conversations and committee meetings

- **Identify additional research or information that could help clarify this committee recommendation. List potential sources if possible.**

Costs of training, prerequisites that may exist to training, legal aspects (parameters for judging need, how to enforce the contract, who monitors the contract), how do we follow-up?, what sorts of training like this (CNA or similar) already exist and where?,

- **Indicate people or groups that we need to talk to help clarify this committee recommendation. List any recommended locations.**

Engage an attorney to look at the contract

Foundations that might be willing to offer scholarships or funding

- **What kind of action or resources would be necessary to implement the recommendation?**
- **Indicate what forces and influences are likely to occur that will support or oppose implementation.**
Forces that support (please list):

Forces that oppose (please list):

- B. Other things that we need to figure out about this recommendation:
1. Who pays for in-home respite care? Would the current caregivers?
 2. how can we promote this recommendation to people living in poverty that might be interested in the training?
- C. Division of Tasks of deeper research:
1. Denise—Literature review on retention and movement of people out of poverty. CNA training and other trainings that relate to relief.
 2. Cara Jean—Costs and prerequisites of training. Who provides this training already in Athens? (Athens Tech, St. Mary's...) and where is it provided? What is the criteria for training?
 3. Linda Davis—contact existing agencies to talk about how we would monitor this. How are people trained?
 4. Paul Griffin—review of Legal aspects
- D. Report to the committee by email on a weekly basis (check-in to let everyone know the status of the research). Email Denise and she will send to listserve. (dlewis@fcs.uga.edu) . Please also let Rachel know if we would like to schedule a meeting before October's monthly meeting or if anyone needs any sort of support. (rachjoy@gmail.com)