

1. Pursue a Family Mentoring Program to Address the Holistic Needs of a Family.

- Families would be identified by existing service providers such as Athens Justice Project, Interfaith Hospitality, Churches, Schools, etc.
- There would be criteria and background checks for the both the mentors and the families.
- Each family would be assigned at least one highly trained mentor.
- Focus on families with young children.
- Partner with existing mentoring programs as much as possible. For instance, if a family was chosen to receive services and they had children in schools, the chamber mentoring program would be asked to serve those children (in addition to the role the family mentor would play.). If the family had a parent who was incarcerated, the Athens Justice Project would become involved, etc. It is likely there would be multiple agencies involved.
- There is a Family Promise Mentoring Program through Interfaith Hospitality that offers a 12 hour comprehensive training as well as an outline of a program. (Patty Freeman-Lynde has more details)
- Develop a service provider network with identified contacts that would help expedite the various service provider connections..
- Work closely with neighborhood churches to get volunteers, find families, and use resources and spiritual support.
- There could be four general levels:
 - Level 1—assessment, referral, introductory meeting with client/and or family, expectations
 - Level 2-Begin developing family action plan and identifying needs and resources in the following areas:
 1. Education
 2. Economic Situation and resources-budget
 3. Career Path
 4. Accountability
 5. Special Needs
 6. Outreach-resume writing, how to access, and how to mentor, collaborations with business partners to employ both students and parents. Resume writing..
 7. Team approach
 - Level 3—Implementation
 - Level 4-Graduation and Mentorship (One criteria for participation is becoming a mentor to someone else.)
- We would pilot the program with 3-5 families and hand select the first 5 volunteers.