

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION RESULTS

SITE: Performance Learning Center **DATE:** 10-3-06

CONVERSATION TEAM: Diane Bales, Delene Porter

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (Approximate): 10

IDEAS AND THOUGHTS:

Women introduced themselves and talked about what it was like to be a parent-

- Stressful to balance parenthood and school
- Can't find a job-
 - they want you to be done with school
 - they want you to know computers
 - there aren't enough jobs
 - the hours are difficult to balance with school and kids
- No time to rest
- 1 paycheck can't support a household
- Family support is important
- It's hard to ask for help from family though
- The Early Learning Center is really helpful- you can come and check on you child during the day
- Bus isn't easy to use
 - Hard to take strollers on the bus
 - If it came every 20 minutes it would be better
 - Later hours have been good
- Difficult to deal with DFCS
 - Hard to do all the reporting they want- who is in house, what is their income, if there is a change you have to report in 10 days
 - How did you hear about DFCS services-I heard because everyone we know uses DFCS
 - DFCS doesn't have money for child care anymore
 - Need more food stamps- can't get them until you're out of parents house or 22 years old
 - You can only have TANF for three years so you have to decide if you really need it now, or if you should wait in case something really bad happens in the future
- Child care is expensive
 - A few moms had kids at PLC, one at Little Ones
- Health Care is hard to get-

- Children aren't on PeachCare, they're on Well Care which doesn't cover much
 - Medicaid gets taken away and you have to prove everything
- We let the men off too easy
 - Hard to get Child support
- All have Goals for themselves
 - College- double major
 - Parole Officer
 - Nurse
 - Lawyer
 - Military
 - CAN
- All have Goals for their children
 - Not have kids early
 - Finish school
 - Steady job
- What do you need and what do your children need to achieve these goals:
 - After school programs
 - Mentors
 - Sex Education
 - Support System- someone you can talk to other than your parents, sometimes parents should believe you or look out for you, but they don't
 - Need people who know what you're going through- People who made it through similar experiences
 - Education for the girls to delay pregnancy- they think having a baby is cute or it will help them keep the boys, they don't realize how hard it is to be a teen mom
 - Several women talked about being abused by their father or step-father- in relationships they were looking for a father-figure