

PPA Service Providers Meeting  
August 11, 2006

Upcoming Events:

**Health Fair**

Saturday, August 12, 10am-2pm, Health Fair  
First AME Church, 521 North Hull Street, Athens, Georgia

**Job Fair**

Wednesday, August 16, 9am-1pm, Athens Veterans Job Fair 2006  
VFW Post 2872 located at 835 Sunset Drive in Athens.

**Advocacy Workshop**

Wednesday, August 23, 1-5pm, Advocacy Workshop for Nonprofits  
First Presbyterian, call IHN 706-425-1881 to register

**Volunteer Fair**

Monday, August 28, 5:30-7pm, PPA Volunteer Fair  
Clarke Central High School Cafeteria, Service Providers will set up tables to attract volunteers and give out info before the regular PPA meeting. Contact Tim Johnson 706-202-1414

**Partners for Prosperous Athens**

Monday, August 28, 7-9pm, PPA Community Meeting  
Clarke Central High School, The “Poverty in Athens: What We Have Learned” report will be discussed and the work of the Housing and Transportation, Health, Dependent Care, Education, Economy, and Workforce Committees will move to identify strategies to addressing poverty for Athens.

**Service Providers Meeting**

Monday, September 8, 9-11am Service Providers monthly meeting  
Department of Family and Children Services

Meeting Notes:

- I. Group made Introductions.
- II. PPA Update was given by Tim Johnson and Joe Whorton.
  - a. Tim discussed the need to have service providers who were seeking volunteers sign up for a table at the Volunteer Fair, happening from 5:30 – 7:00pm on August 28 at Clarke Central before the regular PPA meeting.
  - b. Joe discussed the “Poverty in Athens: What We Have Learned” document being released on **August 28. This is a critical meeting to attend** since it will mark the next phase of finding strategies and making recommendations to address the cycle of poverty in Athens.
- III. Gail Kurtz reviewed suggestions made at the July 14 Service Providers Meeting:

- a. Service providers should meet with the Education Committee to get message out to general public and adults.
- b. More collaboration and networking needs to happen.
- c. Increase knowledge and access to resources.
- d. Community Foundation needs to be started to address funding issues and support strategies to address poverty in Athens.
- e. Employer involvement in child care.

Discussion began around whether there was a need to have all of the agencies come together to set joint goals and strategies- it was mentioned last month that we needed to craft our message and get it out the general public to better serve our clients.

Tim said that Family Connection does a Strategic Plan with agencies through the inter-agency council. This is the time of year that the inter-agency council would be working on the Strategic Plan, but we are instead joining efforts with the PPA process.

Rick pointed out that there needs to be a specific focus for a meeting, because it is too hard to have a meeting about everything every time there is a meeting. Maybe, meetings could take shape around a specific focus.

Group discussed the need to get integrated at this stage in the PPA process as the broader public begins to identify strategies and make recommendations to address poverty. Group wanted to help the PPA subcommittee's not re-invent the wheel and use their expertise into what works.

Gail asked group to divide into the 5 suggested areas of focus from the last meeting and report on what victory/accomplishment would look like in 1 year and what activities this group would take to get there.

a. Service Providers talking with Education Committee- (Jim Geiser, Kim)  
Discussed the need to teach life skills and involve the family- create a cultural change. Look into charter schools that will target the population in poverty K-12. Connect to the Education Committee's efforts.

b. and c. Increasing Collaboration among agencies and Access to knowledge joined together. Julie mentioned her interest in having an education piece accompany all volunteer opportunities- so if you volunteer with the homeless shelter you also do a workshop on housing in Athens. Mike Ingram discussed the Department of Labor would like to have agencies come in to their new facility so that their customers could see multiple agencies with one-stop.  
Group discussed what a victory/accomplishment in a year and felt that getting clients education and good-paying jobs were the best ways out of poverty. Discussion centered on needing to have everyone in an agency know what the other agencies do (potentially putting that into a quarterly training that new and

old employees from all the agencies could attend), need to figure out what the road blocks preventing people from getting jobs really are (employers say people won't show up, but is it because they don't have childcare, transportation etc.), and getting info about about what jobs are available. Tim mentioned that 15 years ago, the community came together to address the high teen pregnancy rate and everyone- employers, social services etc.- came up with ways to address the issue and this worked. Group identified the following action steps:

- 1) Identify service providers who are or will attend each of the 6 PPA committees and will report back to the Service Provider meeting (Delene and Tim)
- 2) Have a sub-committee of Service Providers identify an effective networking strategy including how many meetings, the format of those meetings, protocol for the listserv, etc. (Tim, Julie, Delene)
- 3) Get 211 Database online (Julie)
- 4) Have every provider see what they can do to address education and employment
- 5) Have Service Providers meet with the Ministers and Employers group. Want to know if Service Providers can help get people connected with work and discuss the barriers they've seen (rotating shifts etc) that make it hard for their clients to get work (Delene)

d. Community Foundation- This would be a source of funding and overarching support for the local nonprofits addressing poverty. Mary O'Toole, Eppie Boze, and Joe Whorton reported out that their action step would be to do some research into community foundations and report back at the next service providers meeting.

e. Childcare and Employers (Kristie- from CCRR)- This group will:

- 1) ID employers that are giving childcare vouchers, etc. and see why they bought in to doing this, see what other employers are doing (New Horizons helps do this).
- 2) Explore the need for 24 hour care and sick care. Child Care Resource and Referral gets mostly calls for regular care, but some are for non-traditional care.
- 3) Look into "Hope" scholarships for infants needing childcare.

Service Providers will report on progress to these 5 strategies at next meeting.