

Ministers and Employers Agenda  
November 13, 2006, 11:30 – 1:00  
Department of Children and Family Services

Clay Gilbert opened the meeting with introductions.

**Update from previous meeting:**

- a. Jobs for Life program- Rev. Batts gave update
  - i. The ministers working on this program identified several people who were un- or under- employed in their congregations or by word of mouth.
  - ii. Jobs for Life organizers' goal was to have 10 participants in this first class.
  - iii. The class will be 2 nights a week through January 11 at the Department of Labor.
  - iv. Already held their orientation session- had 11 people attend, all on-time, well dressed, and ready to get started.
- b. Transitioning Felons
  - i. Meghan McCarry created a Community Change Paper for transitioning felons into work. Studies show that transportation, reluctance of employers to hire, low levels of education, limited work experience, limited vocational skills, lack of "soft skills," and limited assistance in job search are all barriers shown to inhibit re-entry. These are also all issues the Ministers and Employers committee is finding way to address.
  - ii. Stanley Johnson with TOPPSTEP reported that the Holiday Inn has already hired one person from his program and he has been in contact with several other employers since last month's meeting. Group suggested that we keep a success score board.
  - iii. Employers were in consensus on accepting graduates from Jobs for Life, TOPPSTEPP, and AJP's programs. Tony Sanchez of AJP said that the key to success are comprehensive services- looking at housing, transportation, health needs as well as job needs. Group agreed.

**Adult Education:**

- a. Athens Tech's GED courses
  - i. Athens Tech's GED courses are free.
  - ii. Candidates start by taking a test to assess ability and determine where they will begin the computer based study curriculum.
  - iii. You only take the classes you need and set your own pace.
  - iv. The test fee is \$35.
  - v. GED courses are offered through Even Start at the HT Edwards building, as well as at several schools- most recently the Performance Learning Center.
- b. Georgia Work Ready Certificate
  - i. The Work Ready Certificate Program provides an objective means to determine whether an applicant has the reading, applied math, and locating information skills to learn to do the job they've applied for.
  - ii. To receive a certificate indicating which job skill level they are qualified for, an applicant must take a test. For the test to be specific to a particular employer's job, the business must have a profile done on its jobs.

- iii. According to the Governor's new Certified Work Ready Community Program, the state may be offering to pay for these assessments (currently \$45 to test an individual and \$1000 to create a profile on a job).
- iv. You cannot require that an applicant take the test and have a Work Ready Certificate unless your job has been profiled. But, when an applicant has taken the assessment it enables an employer to see exactly what their skill level is in applied mathematics, locating information, and reading information.
- v. Athens Tech uses with WIN program to help people improve their skills as determined by Work Keys standards. Work Keys training and assessment tools are also available in Clarke County Schools.
- c. HOPE grants
  - vi. HOPE grant will pay for tuition for Technical College (up to 195 hours) and is not based on GPA- it can be used for certificate/professional programs.

Next meeting will focus on Childcare- Church/Employer Discussion of space, vouchers, etc.

Next meeting December 11, 11:30am -1:00pm, Dept. of Labor