

**Partners for Prosperous Athens  
Service Providers' Group  
November 17, 2006**

**WRITE THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Develop and implement a community wide strategic planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation process to assure all community members have access to resources and opportunities for success.

All funding and service delivery organizations prioritize all funding (including HED, United Way, foundation support, private charities, government funding, etc.) to implement this strategic plan and service delivery systems will focus their resources to support implementation of this strategic plan.

**Identify any research, or other kinds of information that was used to craft this recommendation.**

- This issue has been identified by all PPA Committees.
- Service providers have years of experience with overlapping strategic planning efforts with duplicated costs, time commitments and lack of community wide focus
- Coordinated strategic planning efforts have been highly successful (i.e., Family Connection)
- America's Promise, United Way, National Partnership for Reinventing Government have emphasized importance of coordinated community wide strategic planning.

**Identify additional research or information that could help clarify this committee recommendation.**

- Identifying all existing planning efforts in Athens
- Identify legal/regulatory barriers for coordinates strategic planning
- Identify other locations where coordinated strategic planning has worked
- Train service providers/community on process and benefits
- Get buy in from highest level in agencies
- Identify regulations guiding strategic planning efforts
- "service providers really have figured out how to work together" ??

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

**What kind of action or resources would be necessary to implement the recommendation?**

- Identify all current planning processes in Athens
- Get buy in from all top level administrators

- Convene representatives of each planning group re: proposed strategic planning process
- Develop coordinated strategic planning process for community
- PPA conveners require coordinated strategic planning as condition of funding; advocate other funders to do same
- Funding tied to reduction of duplication of services
- Include evaluation in strategic planning process
- Find funding/resources for process

**Indicate what forces and influences are likely to occur that will support or oppose implementation.**

**Forces that support**

- PPA Committees identified this need
- Most providers support idea
- Better use of Board members of organization
- Funders like it
- Community likes it
- Cost/time efficient
- Consumers complain about system dysfunction

**Forces that oppose**

- Time and regulatory constraints
- Some see as threat
- Change is hard
- Different cycles of strategic planning