

**Family Enrichment Meeting
May 30, 2007**

Some follow-up that needs to occur:

- 1. Talk to the Workforce and Education Implementation teams to see where there is opportunity to work together.**
- 2. Develop strategies to bring the community and agency leaders to look at the solutions on a larger community scale rather than on an agency specific scale. Be truly collaborative, not just verbal. Address the serious issue of fragmentation of services.**
- 3. Continue refining our model; getting a clearer understanding on our objectives and strategies.**
- 4. Look at successful models elsewhere.**
- 5. Develop better outcomes that will help to achieve the ultimate goals as stated in the mission.**
- 6. Brainstorm ideas on how to motivate young adults and the working poor to “drink out of the trough”.**
- 7. Get a census data map. (Barbara)**
- 8. Develop strategies to address the needs of the Hispanic population.**
- 9. Do needs and interests assessments with families.**

Minutes

Present; Julie Meehan, Mike Hackett, Tim Johnson, Monica Knight, Angie Moon, de’Avila, Jeff Lukich, Barbara Bacon, Tim Johnson, Melissa Kurtz, Red Petrovs, Jim Geiser

Initiative: Pilot a comprehensive family resource center at/near Fourth Street Elementary School to provide one-stop-access to supportive services and to facilitate family engagement by August 2008. Consider additional family resource centers as well.

Red opened the meeting. He asked everyone to review the minutes from the last meeting. The group accepted the minutes as written.

The next item was to discuss the DRAFT of the Fourth Street Family Initiative. Some technical changes were made to the document including the addition of Advantage Health Services and social services to the community enrichment component.

It seemed that the consensus of the group included:

- The group agreed with the general concept as outlined in this document although there was also some consensus that there was a need for a central hub for the community center component. There was discussion about what would be lost without a physical location for the center. There was also some agreement that listing potential expenses at this time might be premature.

There were several ideas suggested for a central location including Boys and Girls Club, a trailer or mobile facility linked to the school, etc. It was also mentioned that there was land available on the school property; perhaps a model similar to East Lake could be developed between the school and Boys and Girls Clubs. Some practical financial and building issues were discussed related to this.

This conversation led to a discussion about whether the main issue was a physical location or the need for greater collaboration. It was mentioned that there were many stand alone programs in the community including the Miriam Moore Community Center, Leisure Services, Athens Tutorial, Boys and Girls Club, Fourth Street School, Health Department, etc. It was mentioned that the philosophy of collaboration was implemented

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with the provision of all these services; however poverty is still high, and there is minimal collaboration. It was concluded that the current delivery of services in this community was not working.

There seems to be no centralizing guiding vision or leadership. What is going on in this community seems to be a microcosm of what is going on in Athens: a fragmentation of services with providers pursuing limited visions with limited leadership. Resources are under-utilized because they are program specific rather than community specific.

So the group asked themselves the question, “What will be different about this effort?”

Four things were mentioned:

- The intensity of the effort would be greater.
- The duration would be longer.
- It would be supported at the highest levels of organizations and funding sources.
- There would be strong leadership.

Using Community Connections as a partner to develop greater collaboration was suggested.

The group also discussed that it is important to get the community to use the services. If services go unused it does not matter how good they are. “How do we get people to access the services?” The suggestion of an “interest assessment” was made. This is different from a needs assessment in that it helps to find a hook—to get people in the door. For example the hook for Boys and Girls Clubs is games. However once the child is in the door they can be exposed to school enrichment, teen pregnancy prevention programs, etc.

What is our hook?

We need to decide our target population. Is it the adult male? Is it the working poor? It was also suggested that perhaps our target group is service providers and helping them to achieve a common vision and greater leadership.

Do we have all the community people at the table?

There seemed to be consensus on several items:

- The current services that are available in this community are not being used at their optimal potential.
- The willingness to collaborate is there; but getting the people in charge (i.e. B.J. Walker, Michael Thurmond, etc.) to reinforce this need would be helpful.
- We must be intentional in what is done.
- There have to be strategies developed to motivate the community to participate and the service providers to interact in a different way.
- A comprehensive leadership program targeting the leaders in this community to develop new collaborative and community building strategies could be a major strategy in moving this initiative forward.
- The Fourth Street community can be a model for developing the collaborative model for a OneAthens.

The next meeting was scheduled for June 13 at 9:00 at DFCS.