

Follow-up includes:

- 1. A marketing group was developed to devise a marketing plan to share with the community to be used to help achieve the initiative's goal. This group includes Tim and Lou.**
- 2. A policy/philosophy, curriculum group was developed to put together an initial draft document outlining the policy and implementation. Claude, Tim, Alice, and Hilary agreed to serve on this group.**
- 3. A Research Committee was developed to organize the research and develop a short research handout that would help educate the community.**
- 4. Follow-up with seeking additional persons to possibly serve on this team.**

These groups will provide their information at the next meeting.

**DRAFT
Teen Pregnancy Prevention
Minutes June 1, 2007**

INITIATIVE: Reduce the teen pregnancy rate by 25% by December 2010 through providing comprehensive teen pregnancy prevention programs at schools, in places of worship, and in communities.

Present: Holly Cirri, Nancy MacNair, Alice Harris, Hilary Ruston, Mimi Middendorf, Marcia Massengale, Cassondra Jones, Tim Johnson, Claude Burnett, Mike Blake, Denise Mewborn, Lou Kudon, Mary Hood, Rachel Hagues, Jim Geiser

Tim opened the meeting. He reported that Rick Dunn has agreed to co-chair this Implementation Team. However he is out of town this week. He also reported that Dionne Godette had indicated that she would not be able to serve as the other co-chair because she will be out of town much of the summer.

A variety of handouts and research were provided to the group. A small group composed of Holly, Mimi, Claude, and Jim agreed to help develop a short handout, based on the research, that would help educate various components of the community about the need for a comprehensive sex education policy. This would become part of the team's marketing package.

Claude shared some research that indicated that a large percentage (71%) of citizens in Athens support teaching birth control. It was mentioned that this group needed to be emphasized as our strategies are implemented. This majority apparently thinks they are a minority in regard to this issue. Only 35% believe that the community as a whole support birth control.

It was also mentioned that the group needs to engage elements of the community who have difficulty endorsing birth control and sex education.

It was also suggested that a marketing strategy be developed so that all the information can be shared with the community. This will be a vital piece in order to accomplish our goals.

Some questions/comments:

- It was mentioned that abstinence was taught as the only component of sex education in ninth grade.
- There was a question as to federal regulations related to sex education.
- It was mentioned that there is no state policy against teaching birth control.
- It was mentioned that it was very important that the school board policy be re-worded.
- Apparently birth control is mentioned in high school consumer sciences in relation to marriage and families.
- A program in Milledgeville was mentioned as a possible site visit.

Three words that might sum up the sex education policy: Motivation, Education, Means

Some components of a Comprehensive Sex Education Policy might include:

1. Help develop motivation and goal-centered behavior through various youth and community centered programs.
2. Access to birth control.
3. Youth development.
4. Abstinence programs.
5. Education about how to avoid pregnancy and STDs as well as birth control methods.
6. Repetitive education on these topics; at least annually in a comprehensive format.

It was suggested that perhaps representatives from this group could serve on the school system's committee that is looking at the school system's sex education policy to help draft a comprehensive sex education policy for the school district.

It was mentioned that there were some rules pertaining to the composition of this committee. This group could help recruit the required people. Perhaps the Parents Advisory Board could play a role.

The group then began discussing, "How do we develop the community culture to encourage the implementation of the comprehensive policy?" Some ideas included:

POLITICAL

1. Follow-up with the School Board.
 - Public needs to speak with one voice.
 - Constituents should email all the Board members.
 - Get a school board member to champion your cause.
 - Know that there will be opposition.
 - It's important to have each board member talked to.

- Perhaps get former students who became pregnant to share their testimonies and share what could have helped them not have become pregnant.
2. Host a luncheon with School Board members, Commissioners, and perhaps legislators to share the information.
 3. Organize a meeting of OneAthens to bring the conveners up to date on all of the initiatives, this being included. Tim said that he would bring this up to the Executive Committee.

MARKETING

1. Goal is to prevent teen pregnancy.
2. Develop a short research handout (Look at BART data as well as 71% approve of teaching birth control, etc.).
3. Work with the media to share facts that can be used in stories.
4. Use this information to educate the community.

Some other groups/ideas to consider include:

- Commissioners in regard to Teen Matters funding.
- Leisure Services as an outlet for positive programs (motivation).
- Rethink the idea that students should not participate in sports in sixth grade. Broaden the scope of groups like Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, YWCA, etc.
- Develop quality programming in public housing and low income communities. Perhaps developers could help with funding.

The group then discussed accountability. It was mentioned that the major accountability indicator would be a decrease in teen pregnancy and STDs. It was mentioned that quick measurement data tools would have to be used—45 days or less.

It was mentioned that the data would need to be broken down by race and culture. The Hispanic population and teen births are apparently on the rise in Athens.

There was a discussion as to the need to be more inclusive with our group. Mary Hood indicated that she could find a Hispanic representative, Jim said that he would check with one of the PPA minister groups to seek a volunteer. Ed Graham from the Chamber indicated that he could help find a business representative. Tim was going to make contact with Barbara Barnett. Denise was going to check with the NAACP. Teens and a teen parent are also being recruited. Timothy Baptist was also mentioned as a possible source. (At this point any names that are suggested please forward to Tim as Judge Jones is asking to approve additional members to the groups).

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7. A Research Committee was developed to organize the research and develop a short research handout that would help educate the community.

These groups will provide their information at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15 from 10:00-11:30 at the Dept. of Health.