

**Question 1 : What does the community need to do differently?**

Focus work with young people, preventative programs, parenting programs

Awareness about mental health related substance abuse, Safe Place programs, foster care

Access to programs, expand transportation, expand concept of educator so that it includes life-long learning

Job-share among service agencies and facility share

Engage a transient population

Opportunities for ex-felons to get to work

Look to peer communities- what are they doing differently?

Better communication and cooperation between all stakeholders

Compassion for the poor

Share resources, welfare reform

Elect people in positions of power that will foster change and not give lip service to change

Intensify interventions at the earliest possible point, instead of too little too late, provide micrio-level wrap-around services in communities

More money

Find creative ways to keep children in school, inspire children to achieve greater goals

Keep kids in school- successfully

Faith community needs to come together

Quarterly summit of service providers with \$50 stipend to their agency organization to share needs and resources

Come together and hire the homeless and provide a living wage

Recognize that people will need supportive services at different rates and levels

Empower people in poverty to help themselves, help people break cycles, financial resources for nonprofits to provide services to the indigent

Enhance services, teach to fish

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More emphasis and more support for education system, attract companies to the area that have good salaries for qualified people, need to promote education and job training

“de-bunk the myth of poverty”, include UGA students in those to be educated about poverty in ACC MSA, creating/expanding public’s conscience

Link up with more churches, year planning, expand bus routes, list of ways people in the community can get involved with PPA, effort to reach out to poor/disabled

Provide hope through program visibility

Increase advocacy for increasing federal funding for child care

Make it a regional effort

Increase collective knowledge of poverty and homelessness

Provide more to services for the poor

First we need to get a holistic idea of what we are doing

Evaluate the services that are provided, put states in the newspaper

More collaboration between agencies and services

Look beyond UGA and into the permanent needs of Athens residents

Teach essential thinking skills in the schools, pursuer vo-tech programs, improve transportation

Educating churches to help get them involved

Less duplication of services

Become more aware of the problem facing Athens in terms of poverty

Provide services with respect and values that builds the confidence of clients, refer consumers to businesses that are family friendly, employ minorities

Provide more options for healthcare and prescription drug coverage for uninsured and underinsured, better access to specialty care

Increase access to education

More programs and assessibilities for people with disabilities to live a more independent lifestyle

Conduct meetings and programs in accessible environments with accessible materials

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Take ownership of the problem. Every person should think about the problem and do something to eliminate it

More child care providers who understand how to meet the needs of poor children who may have behavioral/emotional challenges

More efficient services

Better manage Section 8 housing

Limit services to specific time periods and have those services include a track to self-sufficiency rather than a lifetime entitlement

Set time frames for help in all areas. This may instill in many a desire to work or be educated

Get the public schools involved in the summit

Allow and assist in planning for mobile homes, make changes in zoning,

Community-wide all sectors

Think about the problem different. Stop the NIMBY attitude

Businesses and schools need to be working together, basic financial skills need to be taught starting at elem. Level and continuing into middle school and high school.

**Question 2: What does the community need to be doing about poverty in Athens that we are not doing?**

Involve neighboring counties to help take on services/housing for poor people

Preventative measures for families/youth in crisis, decreasing the gap in programs

Offer jobs that pay living wage, every family should have access to a family mentor that helps them, every one, every agency, church etc. take responsibility for getting children to school

Living wage, preventative measures, family-cohesiveness of family, women to break cycle of poverty

Every social service or should incorporate poverty eradication in their mission. This will increase awareness in the community of these issues and help focus the efforts of the organization. It will help provide some common ground and a more unified front.

Map of bus services and times composed to largest employers of low-wage workers

\$ an issue for providers

How can this initiative provide for services

Are we looking at what other communities are doing to address the same issues

There has to be a mind set that poverty is unexpected and those who are poor must help their children prepare to live a better life. This means encouraging the obtainment of education, the benefits of work.

Job creation, housing revitalization

More involvement from legislative delegation and commission, we need to create a better list of service providers, lower housing costs, target Hispanics, transportation

Job development in community is a big need. The jobs that are created need to be at a living wage with liveable benefits

Involving legislators and state representatives

Start doing programs that are focused on results

1) Increasing resources to support the youngest poor. Improve pre-natal and childcare. 2) Improve re-entry efforts for ex-offenders. Lack of employment is one of the greatest risk factors to re-offending families of incarcerated and ex-offenders are more likely to receive public assistance  
Planning and coordinating between providers. Education and resource building with providers and recipients of services. Regulations interpretation and education. Technical assistance provider for per providers which would work on building resources based on a coordinated effort

Coordinate all efforts. Get broader community aware of needs, expand economic opportunities, focus on solutions that give resident control, alternative models like CLTs, don't promote one solution to the exclusion of others

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Continue to inform community of the disparities, create jobs across the board, coordinate services and funding for service providers

Involve the target groups in discussion and planning.

- 1) We need to target our efforts somehow to those in need.
- 2) We need to better coordinate the services of the service providers.

Stop paying lip service to helping and actually doing something to help with wages, jobs, and affordable housing

Address the cycle of poverty, adequate jobs, housing, healthcare, transportation

Informing the community about the current state

Address the needs of the working poor who are not earning a living wage, recognizing the individual differences in family's circumstances, employers who are actively NOT providing benefits and full time positions to be pressure to do so

Recognizing poverty- except lately

More collaboration in services

More local gov'n't leadership

More involvement of the largest employers in ACC w/ service providers

Connecting- I need to know resources available to refer clients that I am unable to help.

Child-care

Link resources

More awareness of what is going on in Athens

Raise the minimum wage- make it at a level that allows those living in poverty to get out of it. Provide more educations. Start targeting students at risk at a younger age providing them and their families with services/education

Preparing people/students for graduation in order that they may be better equipped to find a decent job. Provide good paying jobs.

Examine the needs of the working poor and that are going unmet and develop programs to meet those needs. Identify the causes of the working poor problem

Study how does the undocumented immigrant community contribute to the prosperity of Athens. Then, does Athens need to create a strategic planning to support and protect such community?

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- 1) Raising awareness 2) removing blinders, 3) publicly acknowledging the problem. We need to hear from those living in poverty, but those living well need to be that the table

Support programs that help with education, expand Athens Transit hours, more reaching out to Mexican/Latino immigrants who are poor and may be here illegally—and also now may be scared to look for help b/c of fear of deportation or just being in trouble for being here illegally

More published reports on the lines of struggling families  
Interfaith poverty initiative  
More parent involvement

University of Georgia needs to be a leader

Educating everyone, growing existing businesses, more consumer empowerment, more parent involvement

Prevention- education Alleviation- funding, wages

Pay more, full-time hours, benefits, sick leave, child care for sick children

Employer child-care vouchers, free short term child care for poor, sick child care, expanded public transit

Providing affordable housing and living wages, more employment opportunities, further assistance

Jobs

More GED classes  
Community meetings  
GED in the school  
Child care to attend classes  
Increase minimum wage

Salary levels, job opportunities, attracting industry

Address the lack of decision making skills and life planning skills among those who are living in poverty

Agencies w/ different mandates need to coordinate efforts

More community outreach to consumers/families, incentive programs, supportive housing programs, poverty support systems, going into homes to provide services

More homeless shelters and housing authority placements available. Decrease in housing expenses and increase in length of time buses run

Increase job wages, higher education opportunities, assistance to working families (non-TANF)

Address entry-barriers

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Allocating more money toward programs to educate those in poverty toward better jobs, housing, etc.

Changing the image and understanding of low-income citizens, focusing on educational attainment and its importance, growing the economy to provide a full range of employment opportunities and a ladder for economic success

Community needs to be more proactive in providing self-assistance in the community is primarily responsible for maintaining itself through outreach such as self-care, neighborhood watch, financial substance, become more aware of the problem and deal accordingly

Promoting the development of affordable housing as a priority

Empower young people

Talk to the poor

Place more emphasis on the needs of persons with disabilities, most of these individuals believe that the community does not care about them

There appears to be a lack in effort for person's who are disabled

O-S children need more community resources to get them ready for school.

Determine needs of those in poverty, coordinate existing agency programs, identify what services are needed, mobilize to serve those needs, provide a bed for each and every homeless person

Employers need to be educated about the positive aspects of employing people with disabilities. Families of children w/ disabilities may need financial or other forms of support even though they may not fit the traditional definition of poverty

Life skills education in middle/high school. Teach basic job skills

Require more personal responsibility and accountability, start with children and teach them to be self-sufficient

Connect with people as a preventative means

Get the true figures on poverty excluding students

I feel we have been doing great things in Athens. This committee will make it even greater. Getting more high school students out in the community working with any one of these

Plan for additional affordable housing. Encourage employers to pay a living wage. Gear all planning and zoning efforts to be inclusionary of the needs of the poor

Promote living wages, affordable housing, 24-7 transportation, 24-7 child care

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Ensure a living wage for everyone, city should fund services from the general fund, provide affordable housing options

Provide job training opportunities, helping people find, apply for, and keep jobs. Supporting working families by providing childcare and transportation

In-depth resource list for all providers, awareness of need in the community and lists of specific ways the community can get involved. Big business to take responsibility for their employers



### **Question 3: What works and needs to be expanded?**

Social programs for children and women. Women are the ones who raise children and to break the poverty cycle you have to influence beliefs. The way to do this is through women and mothers.

More accessibility and awareness of resources

Non-denominational resources for families in crisis.

More opportunities more flexibility to prepare for work and career evaluation, student support services in schools

Funding for mental health/substance abuse, financial support programs and/or life skills

Commitment to higher wages, affordable housing with access to public transportation, affordable quality day care

Adult education and job training programs

More services for homeless other than the shelter

Job development needs expanding

Allowing and fostering community volunteers to participate on a regular basis working hands with the agencies

Job creation and fair wages

-maybe the annual fight for resources doesn't work. Isn't there a way to get an overarching mission and set of goals for multiple agencies and then give out money over a longer time period

Living wage efforts and job creation

Pre-natal care, parenting skills, affordable child care, affordable insurance

Educational services and support to young children in need

Make more affordable and subsidized housing available. The fact is there are not enough housing facilities for the person who work hard and earn minimum wage

Measureable results

Public transportation- people without personal vehicles have responsibilities outside of the current routes/time tables

New recognition and a plan with teeth

Transportation (public)

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Awareness

Pregnancy prevention programs, health care benefits, more support programs when a family has a crisis

Affordable health care for un-insured people

Education- that also helps with child care. There are so many HS dropouts with babies who might want to get their GED and go on to school but are limited w/ resources and can't afford child care

Getting the word out to the people who have the money and power to fund and support new and existing programs

Providing education for home ownership and business development

Pre-K, Athens (something) Project

One-on-one assistance in whatever need, study needs of clients

Case-management, networking of service providers, follow-up with clients. Increase in number of effective service providers and service workers to provide social services to community members

Public Health programs

By analyzing current services we would know who does what and for how much money

Partnerships!

Mental health services

Community connections such as 211 and Holiday Coalition that we continue to network like this meeting

Programs directed by Faith Institutions, programs with same/similar goals partnering

WIA program in schools

A fair playing field for all regardless of economic background. Also, creating a dialogue between the haves and the have-nots.

Meetings and other things like what we are having today. I would love to have a list of the resources and contacts for those resources.

More money

Community services. I think there are a lot of programs doing great work for community citizens, however increased funding and a more cohesive effort and collaborations will help

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A more comprehensive approach, access via public transportation to Athens Tech in the evening

Career guidance for middle schoolers

High quality, free after school programs

More services and outreach programs for persons who are blind, etc.

Subgroups that are well-attended

Homeless advocacy, acceptance of homeless individuals into the community

There are local incentive programs for family and group child care homes to improve the quality of care, but not for child care centers—only state program available. We need higher standards for the education and training of child care teacher and subsidies for increasing the pay scales so child care can recruit and retain trained and talented people

Public transportation that serves more areas

Hold individuals accountable for their own behavior

Education!

Secondary and Tertiary service provision, publicizing stats and perspective, performance learning center is working, new TANF is working, PeachCare is working

Bus services

These meetings are a great step in continuing the process, expand programs that are working

Health care and dental programs need to be funded, supported and expanded to assist all who cannot afford these services, shelters are a necessary step in the process of re-entry into the mainstream- they need to be supported and allowed to operate

More partnerships, private/public partnerships, more health care resources, emergency assistance

**Question 4: The Partners for a Prosperous Athens must hear from those that live in poverty. How do we meaningfully engage more service customers in Partners for a Prosperous Athens?**

On site meetings with existing service-user groups. We must reach out to them and meet them in their comfort zone.

Through schools- At Alps Rd we hold regular 'Parent Coffees' - PPA would be welcome to attend to hear from people living in poverty.

Go to communities that are in poverty areas (provide food/services)

Interview those in poverty. Specific questions to determine needs: Group approach, get infor, hard facts & relationship building. Go to waiting room/health, every second Monday night/homeless,

We must actively engage those in poverty in the total process of services provided. Partnering with and engaging individuals and families in poverty with all aspects of community development, education, business, mental and social health, leisure, etc. I feel that it is important to not continue to stigmatize, label, and demean those in poverty. Meet the clients on their level, not yours!

1<sup>st</sup> engage the community as a person/individual group instead of as service consumers. Engaging churches in their respectful places with the concerns at hand. Bringing politicians along to engage in the monetary aspect of providing svcs to those in poverty. Identifying the most at need group first as to supply needed resources to them.

Language must be understandable to all. Meet the people where they are at (making them feel important, showing genuine concern about their situation)

Set up meeting in the housing authority. Offer transportation and have a meeting at the Classic Center. The Athens Boys & Girls Club could have their parents available for someone to come and talk to.

Focus groups at places where the actual consumers convene.

Go out to these people. Most of us are fearful of "getting our hands dirty" by interacting with persons who are poor, disables, and distressed.

Offer prizes. Offer food. Avoid "meeting mentality." Understand people in need are often in survival mode.

Need regional approach. Use the school system as an access point for families with children. Take the meetings to the communities where people live. Continue to offer transportation and child care. Make it clear what benefits would result to a person who takes the time to get involved. Use the TV channels. Use the radio stations. Meet with people at the service agencies that they utilize. Offer coupons for meals for people who may need to manage a meal out if they come to a meeting.

Go to where the consumers are- housing authority, rec centers, Aunt Bee's Country Buffet for Reed St. residents, in gathering areas in mobile home parks, and provide a meal for the ones who come

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Reducing the stigma of being poor. Relating to people on a human level. Accessibility to meetings, services and other enrichment activities. Having representatives from PPA talk w/ people on buses, in churches, at DFCS. Paying people for their time, small focus groups.

Have service providers distribute questionnaires to clients. Acknowledge to the continuum of poverty and wealth. Engaging people of privilege in a non-threatening, non-shaming way.

Have service providers meaningfully invite their consumers, offer to pick them up and bring them to meetings.

Move meetings to existing meetings at the homeless shelter, at Mercy Health Center, at Child Abuse Prevention Council's parenting classes, etc.

Go into the communities through churches, social organizations, community centers, head start family meetings

Communicate and partner your efforts with the Athens faith community. You can gain access to a large percentage of impoverished citizens through the churches.

Go to DFACS and pay people to attend a focus group.

Focus group @ reasonable times. Incentives. Move groups into actual communities. Engage churches to do focus groups. Use UGA interns to go into community.

Conduct surveys at the Clarke Cty DFCS office during their busy hours.

Attend TANF orientation at the DFCS office Monday mornings at 9 am. Attend businesses that employ people at poverty level and speak with them on the job-site. Be available to discuss at the shelters around town.

The providers can be given questions that could be submitted to committees, since we may deal with them one on one.

Go to them---ask them what they need.

Every organization needs to take responsibility for getting several knowledgeable clients to give them valuable information. Would it not be more cost-effective to get the information from providers rather than all the costs associated with focus groups? Providers have the valuable relationship/trust already established that will be much more authentic and useful information rather than bringing someone into a new and potentially uncomfortable environment.

Members of the service community themselves can be responsible for a "questionnaire" presented to our clients on site. Question: What do you want to know from people in poverty?? Why are clients not taking advantage of services provided.

Hold anti-poverty dialogue.

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Have service providers interview them at the point of service. Having done this in the past at the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank, I have gotten exceptional results. This will work better than having you, a stranger to them, asking the questions as they have been accessing our services for years and will be more open and honest with us. Having large groups of the poor together will likely not work well as there is a stigma attached to poverty and they will not want to expose their experiences to so many people. If a group discussion comes together, it could be facilitated by providers selecting one to three clients from each agency to come together for open discussion.

Meet on their turf, with incentives for participation. Focus groups of weekends at community meeting rooms within housing complexes where lunch is served. Think about paying for participation. Ask service providers to “invite” some clients to a meeting where they can explain about poverty.

Give the emergency services and agencies a prepared questionnaire on whatever form you decide upon. Let them handle the interviews since the client will be more comfortable with the person they have been talking to.

Focus group, survey through providers. Whoever collects data must be trained. Neutrality, validity, not biased and anecdotal.

Students at Classic City embrace many of Athens’s challenges. This would be a good population to conduct a focus group. They are great spokespersons and have endearing life stories. They have come to the PLC to make a difference in their lives. Schedule for meetings at various times and locations- go to meet them if they can not come to us.

Have a few people go to some of the agencies or meetings and speak one on one w/ consumers.

Community meeting at Athens Area Homeless Shelter every Sunday night at 7:00 pm.

Link up with DFCS and meet with TANF applicants. Go to TANF orientation on Monday morning. Set-up information tables at community events. Use “minority media”—WBKZ, WXAG, Zebra Magazine, EchoLatino- to outreach to these communities

Go to the folks living in poverty

Target agencies w/ groups of consumers to visit. To what extent does this initiative want to engage those in poverty? Just a one-time focus grp. Or actual involvement in the committees. ID true community leaders in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. Engage these leaders in the initiative, therefore engaging their communities.

Visit with TANF applicants. Visit the senior center.

They need to know and believe that it will benefit them and others- be informed of how their information will help—be used.

Get service providers to nominate or ask for their input.

Our Daily Bread soup kitchen is open M-F for breakfast and lunch. We serve 100-125 persons in poverty daily. The time between breakfast and lunch 10-11:30 could be used for education, training,

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information gathering—also the time after lunch 1pm Oconee St. UMC where the kitchen is housed would be able to provide space for conversation. Send teams downtown to talk with homeless. Send teams to tent city and other gathering places. PPA has to go where they are. Don't wait for them to come to you—there's too much history and suspicion, doubt, false hopes.

Provide an incentive to participate. Go to the communities- AHA meetings, Our Daily Bread meals

Approaching service consumers during community meetings and other gatherings that already take place. Person-to-person interaction. You have to approach these individuals with honesty about who you are and a sincere desire to learn from them and to elicit their assistance in educating you and others. They are the experts. Being genuine can make all the difference.

We have 3 families at a time in our program for homeless families. Those parents would be available. There are also some “graduates” of our program in the community that we may be able to reach. Schools are a good place to find parents- DFCS, housing authority, many other agencies could father information. Make it easy to participate. Simplify what you want to know so it is truly meaningful.

Would like for you to interview clients at Clarke County Health Department. We serve over 3000 WIC participants. Have to be 185% below the poverty level to receive benefits. They have to be certified every 6 months and have educational contact every 2 to 3 months.

Pay consumers to facilitate process—e.g. have our existing clients reach out to the potential clients and get their feedback. Have social events in neighborhoods with food and fun for kids and solicit feedback as part of the program. Pay people to take surveys door-to-door, they must live in community being surveyed.

Go where they are!

One-on-one contacts- a personal invitation to participate

Engage participants at the Park and East Athens Community Center

Provide vouchers for a meal for those service consumers that attend

Hold meetings in neighborhoods, churches, schools, and places of employment. Send a flier home in all elementary school folders. Hold meetings at different times. Work with service providers to advertise. Pay meeting attendees and service providers who advertise. Shape meetings around what solutions people see for their situation. Similar to UGA's human subjects guidelines, the PPA should state up front its intentions/ what it can and can't provide and what follow through and opportunities to register complaints if people participate.

Churches, get gift card donations from area grocery stores and give them out to low-income individuals willing to answer a survey. Communicate clearly what the interview will provide- do not build false expectations.

Got to the “service consumers” directly to give them information. Go to the communities- if there's a community center, use that for an agency fair/community meetings. Publicize your event every way you can- not just flyers or mailings, but door-to-door. Also get community center staff to spread the word.

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KEEP PUBLICIZING to the moment the meeting starts, if it's a relatively small community or you have several volunteers, send one or more folks around to collect people for the meeting. Give them concrete information about what the group can do for them. Don't just talk about vague, New Agey things like wanting to empower people to lift themselves out of poverty. Tell them that participating in PPA will help them improve their situation by \_\_\_\_\_. Follow-up!! Let them know what you have done in response to their questions. Talk with them in ways that they will understand. Don't use PhD-speak. If you are going to address a Latino group, make sure any written material is in Spanish and that you have a least one person who speaks Spanish well (not a 2000 level UGA student) available to translate if you don't speak Spanish well.

Need to develop a program that will provide job training and education to adults who are on welfare and enforce and encourage and motivate them to get jobs and keep jobs. Provide free childcare to their young children, provide them with needed services until they are able to support themselves completely. When children see their parents go to work everyday, they will learn the value of hard work and rewards that come with it. Children with working parents tend to excel in school and tend to have ambition to go to college. Encourage all school age kids to stay in school.

Go into places they congregate- housing projects, churches, school system, leisure services, community centers, even food services of physical plant at UGA. Parents of Head Start, students at even start. Personally invite them to come to meetings and provide childcare. Maybe have a BBQ in their neighborhood and invite them to come and then engage them.

Pay them- stipends to participants or to community-based leaders to recruit and coordinate in the neighborhoods.

Go where they are. Use/hire/encourage a person to attend. Interview them in the same way one would interview a person when you're doing a genealogical study. Pay them to attend the meetings and feed them.

PPA to attend: DOL-TANF, Athens Community Agenda, Churches, DFACS, EADC, Public Health Neighborhood clinics

Offer opportunities in a location in their neighborhoods for sharing. Take meetings in to the consumer's comfort zones, churches, community centers in public housing, etc. Offer: food, childcare, convenience, transportation, different times in same location, trusted facilitator, smaller group meetings

Invite groups to participate in discussions such as this that we are having today. Ask for a representative that will carry ideas, issues, and concerns back to others and will look or share ideas that may work.

Try to get a participant from one of our services to meet with us PPA and give us some real information and to engage in discussions.

Publicize PPA in waiting room at DMV. It's a captive audience representing all SES level.



**Question 5: What are some specific things that you would like to see implemented by the conveners and the community in order for Partners for a Prosperous Athens to achieve its goal of reducing poverty?**

A greater focus on the part of everyone in the community on educational attainment and fostering a “culture of education” throughout the entire economic spectrum.

Not so specific—but to address the bottom line- take things that cause folks to live in poverty. There seems to be a lack of decision-making skills and life planning skills

- 1) Career and Academic Plans are developed for every student prior to the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - a. That plan is review at the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> grand year
  - b. These plans are developed at alternative sites
- 2) Quality after-school and summer-day programs are available for all children residing in poverty without placing a financial burden on the family

Have more family planning counseling and services

I would like to see conveners take a community focus by going into poverty areas and conducting one on one interactions

Better collaboration between agencies that provide similar services, a clear, concise policy to address poverty, policies on how each service provider will assist with poverty

1. Remove stigmas regarding poverty, 2. Design a panel consisting of community members to discuss openly in a safe environment what they have endured as being labeled poor, 3. Conveners to become visible in the community—building a relationship

Engage more persons with disability into community. Reach out and make them feel that they are value and they have a place in the community. Connect with organizations that deal with disabled persons and the elderly, they need to hear from other organizations

- 1) Developing a relationship in the communities who are most affected by poverty. 2) Being available to provide information of svcs available. 3) Engaging the Hispanic Community

The provision of services need to be enthusiastic that enthusiasm is contagious. Burnout= renewal or pass the torch, Stated values should be evaluated

Meetings on a consistent, frequent basis for focus groups. Investigate causality and involve other agencies, pilot projects in other states, federal/ political involvement. Youth adolescent steering committee- giving children/teens a voice. Systems approach/family approach, solutions approach -Zero in on underlying causes of poverty and address causes rather than focusing on supporting poverty, engage neighboring counties to help with the solution

-Initiate a regional approach to helping with all the factors impacting poverty, adopt programs that help students stay in school, using the support facets of all of the community, get employers to pay a living wage, develop programs to fosters long-term mentoring relationships with families in need, recognize

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the strengths that families have, schools own responsibility for teaching social-emotional skills and career education

- 1) Activity that has a very, very, very clear goal (not “improved” or “decreased” and not “expanded partnerships” or “developed listservs”—FOCUS ON FAMILY) an example would be “High School Drop-out Rate Decrease by 20% by 2009”.
- 2) Activities that are obviously based on reality (not the type of reality that says “it will never work because the school board won’t approve” but rather the type of reality that says, “the only way to decrease h.s. dropouts is to increase the number of h.s. kids graduating and here’s what’s keeping them from doing it and so here’s out intervention to get rid of what’s been identified as the reason they currently aren’t.”)

Of course, meet with the poor. Work on pay scale at UGA. Include education focus.

This was covered: define poverty, define our goal, create more awareness, change stigma of poor, poverty

- 1) I would love to see PPA take the resources provided for this project actually be used for people in poverty and assisting them out of poverty. Unfortunately, we spend so much money talking and never enough on measured outcomes.
- 2) Let’s also have a voice of hope and success instead of woe is me
- 3) Let’s start with impoverished people who want to take responsibility and want a helping hand out because it will change their life not because we are offering them a cash prize or a gift card!

People willing to mentor pregnant ladies—teaching them to take care of themselves and how to parent the infant. We need resources for maternity clothes, car seats, cribs, etc.

Provide more jobs with higher wages, do workshops w/ low-income families to educate them about the resources that are available and to find out more about their needs

More community providers, questionnaires

If you get to the point of hiring, hire from within the poverty community

Help people understand that poor people have the same issues as rich people, they just don’t have the money to make them go away. Family dysfunction is not just a poverty issue.

Beyond the data which has been provided to us (which is great) I feel like we need more info. In order to make good decisions. Specifically, what makes Athens different? Our weekly wages are \$100 lower why? Our housing stock is abysmal why? What are our peer communities doing differently?

Outreach/service delivery in low income communities. Volunteers individual and group, to achieve identifiable goals whether it is roadway/yard clean-up to child care assistance. One-on-one connection is required, mentoring children is essential as well.

Before going any further community members must be engaged. We need guidance from people in poverty and people who came from poverty. We also need to know why our community members NOT in poverty don’t know, don’t care, or don’t help.

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Keep it in focus to the problems.

Recommend having the newspaper provide a feature story of a service provider each week. Assessment of what services are provided and what services are not provided.

Develop a BIG PLAN and go after funding from organizations that are likely to find large coordinated efforts.

Include the region as much as possible.

Put lots of educational material out there.

Collect data for each of the need areas. Create structure that helps the sub-committees focus on a) meeting needs of those in poverty and b) implementing programs, policies, procedures to more people out of poverty. Identify factors that cause people to be in poverty.

Consolidate and coordinate efforts- communicate with each other to provide services conveniently and efficiently, redistribution of wealth. Sometimes we spend money on meetings that could go to people who need it. Register to vote- advocates for services and funding on a national and state level.

On-line database of providers and services

Make all forms from DFACS, Medicaid, etc. available in Spanish, and make sure they get sent to clients who are applying for services or are going through annual review. In think some of the forms are available, but not getting to clients!

Involve employers in the community

“Regular” periodic support groups or service fairs to keep consumers informed

Mentoring school children, mentoring adults, provide childcare  
Come up w/ database and controlled access system that would allow gov't and NGOs to coordinate help for people with multiple needs—better able to fill gaps and avoid redundancy, need more poor people involved—regular meetings, personal outreach, rewards for participation.

Develop a budget. Look at establishing a network for the overall group. Develop performance measures and outcomes that will assist as many as possible. You can't help all but you can help a majority and once you start you can critique and make better in the future.

**Notes from Service Provider's Meeting flip charts:**

Add to Learning Communities:

Childcare providers  
Cultural Competency Groups- Building relationships  
Been there, done that, and achieved group  
Talk to workers group  
Business owners group  
Inter-faith learning community  
Integrated services committee

Going to them (finding the voice)  
Hold meetings at various locations (churches, schools, etc.)  
Give providers a list of Q to ask clients during regular daily service  
Using IRB regulations about working with clients (ethical standards)  
Give out giftcard to grocery or some services  
How to build relationships/trust with individuals  
Follow-up with what you have done

Where do Emergency Services (housing, food, medicine, utilities) go?  
Where do homeless folks fit?  
Use regional resources to benefit Athens

Pregnancy prevention/health care  
Identifying who is living in poverty  
Living wage needed  
Services-lots available, already doing good things  
Plan for additional affordable housing (zoning)  
Form a network of agencies to assist, meet together, working as a whole  
What assistance do folks need (housing, health care, job training, etc.)  
Where is the political leadership?  
Transportation- extending bus routes as well as hours  
Benefits  
Education- need to improve drop out rate  
Enough income- how to invest, best use of financial resources  
These mtgs. Need to be publicized...if we make people angry...too bad  
Community needs to understand that this is a problem  
Perspective of those living in poverty to understand needs and plug them in to available services  
Education- Expand programs that are working, beef up vo-tech, qualified for higher wages  
Expand child care hours  
Expand bus times  
Groups like this should be done more often-linking groups instead of competing

Get paid to show up  
Pay low-income folks to participate  
After emergency care  
Outreach

## Service Provider Summit 4/20/06

Housing-empty apartments

Increasing wages

Buses need to run longer (cars expensive to run/maintain)

More funding!

Education- sex ed., drop out rate

Accept that poverty is unacceptable

Education in depth- encouraging students, guidance from counselors, educators need help, overhaul of system, to move kids into workforce

Living-wage- double edged sword if companies leave

Prevention- parenting classes, family cohesiveness, teach women to help children set goals, encourage education

211 does a resource list- expand the guide to provide in depth info on service providers

Is PPA going to have teeth

Big businesses should provide child care

Empowerment v. Entitlement

Reach out to disabled in poverty

Community-based solutions

Network of agencies/communication important

Access to services for those who don't speak English or are undocumented

Stigma associated with being called "poor", how do we best talk about it?

Church involvement vital

Collaboration between agencies

UGA resources should be available to local service agencies

Male component