

Messages from “what works”

- Everyone in community needs information about accessing resources
- It is important to break fears (blaming, disregard) regarding involvement in systems; equally important to change systems
- Community does not always know resources available
- Clients believe they know about resources but may not always be accurate
- Important to involve all in system change and political process
- What are implications of “classic city”? How does that impact employment opportunities?
- Need “mentoring “ for adults
- Important to work with adults to create their own economies
- Need immigrant leaders and service providers involved in PPA
- Important to assist clients in getting work; work is more than “money”
- What do we need to do to attract employers?
- Current “system” can’t be flexible enough to deal with people in crisis
- Important to have collaborations with non profits and systems
- Important to bring programs to people where they are; non system; decentralized

Several suggestions were made at the Service Provider Meeting on July 14 at DEFACS. Some of these ideas included:

1. It was suggested that the Service Provider Group meet with the Education Committee to discuss some ideas so that these ideas could be formally incorporated into the findings and ultimately the recommendations of Partners for a Prosperous Athens.
 - Educate general public
 - Reach adults
2. More Collaboration and Networking were two major areas where the service providers felt they could help provide more continuous service. Some specific ideas related to this included:
 - Develop collaborative training and service delivery strategies. This training could include Legislative Advocacy Training.
 - Do collaborative strategic planning
 - Identify service gaps and system barriers
 - Develop collective fundraising and grant writing strategies
 - One goal might be to develop a single application and a one stop shop for service delivery
 - Identify ways to go to the community/ to decentralize service delivery
 - Research what other prosperous communities have done as providers
 - Build on what we have
 - Have a one-stop-shop or open-door policy with standardized intake form so that someone can get info/help in any area at any agency- the Gateway Center in Atlanta is one version of this for health services

Service Providers Meeting Notes

7/14/06

3. Increase knowledge and access to resources
 - To update and improve 211
 - Provide bi-lingual access to information
 - Continue to educate the community about the needs as well as the successful practices
 - Provide bi-lingual access to information
 - Educate general public
 - Providers know resources
 - Empower our clients to train one another (peer to peer)

4. Help the Development of a Community Foundation. The role of this foundation could include:
 - To become a private, independent organization to support the coordinated efforts of funding service delivery gaps and needs
 - Provide data analysis to support the funding for community-wide service delivery programs and service gaps
 - To serve as an advocate for economic development and social justice.
 - To help provide grassroots leadership development from teens to adults

5. Some other ideas which were discussed included: Seems like this is something about employer involvement and support in assuring stable families...
 - Campaign for employer sponsored child care.
 - Develop employer recognition programs
Employer recognition program