

8. Collaborative Holistic Approach to Reducing Teen Pregnancy

DRAFT

Draft Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative

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

GOAL 1: Make policy recommendations to the Clarke County School Board to ensure that children are receiving accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive sex education each year in grades six through twelve.

Focus: Support adoption of a comprehensive sex education policy for students in grades six through twelve. The Implementation Team has adopted a set of specific recommendations.

Estimated New Costs: There may be new costs associated with developing new curriculum and training staff to deliver these programs. It is assumed that these costs are within the school system budget

GOAL 2: Work with community and faith-based organizations, including schools, to implement appropriate educational programs that reduces at-risk sexual behavior.

Focus: Encourage faith-based organizations and community groups to take greater responsibility in educating their clientele around the issues of sexuality. Programs would be provided/developed to serve the mission of the organization. For example, abstinence programs may be provided in some faith-based organizations, and more comprehensive models may be provided in other organizations. Relationship building and character development would continue to be emphasized.

Estimated New Costs: Costs that might accrue would be related to training trainers and for curriculum materials. It is hoped that most organizations would be able to bear these costs.

GOAL 3: Educate parents to be effective health educators of their children.

Focus: Provide parents with the appropriate information and training to provide sex education to their children.

Estimated New Costs: Costs that might accrue would be related to training trainers and for curriculum materials. It is hoped that most organizations would be able to bear these costs.

GOAL 4: Support policies and increase funding for public health and community organizations' efforts to prevent teen pregnancies including supervised constructive youth activities during out of school hours and support services for children who have been sexually abused.

Focus: Build community awareness and support to increase funding for public health and community organizations to provide comprehensive sex education in Athens. An annual summit is planned to provide ongoing feedback with the community.

Estimated Costs: No New Costs?

GOAL 5: Provide teens with convenient, confidential access to birth control.

Focus: Data indicates that approximately 2/3s of teens in Athens become sexually active before leaving high school. Access to birth control is a proven method for reducing teen pregnancy.

Estimated Costs: ?