

Haralson Family Connection Coalition

Self-Sufficiency Work Group

May 6, 2014

Attending: April Rogers, Joye Carroll, Heather Williams, Darla Guiden, Jim Winchester

Re-Cap of Focus for the Group:

Jim took a moment to re-cap that the purpose of this collaborative effort is to find out how many ways the similar organizations can find to help support one another and each other's clients. The second purpose is to find ways that the community can come together through Family Connection to provide community driven activities that will help all of their clients. The third purpose is to find what activities and resources can be shared among the group.

Joye C. recommended that we add TANF representative to the group.

Sharing of Resources:

GED costs of testing- Tallatoona CAP told WIA and Voc Rehab that they can help with cost of GED exam for their clients if there are no other options. April asked if it was possible to secure money by donation from the community to help augment their funds for this activity.

Framework Summary:

Jim introduced this document as a way of accurately organizing the various areas of concern into a concise document. It lists every particular area of need that is common to all three organizations and is intended to give a framework for decisions to be made today. Jim recommended finding some "low hanging fruit" from the list, as well as at least one area of concentration for the mid-term.

After much discussion the following items and activities will be implemented from the Framework Summary:

- **Communication Area**
 - Jim will create a simple questionnaire/flow chart helping each organization decide the correct path to suggest to each client in terms of which program is most appropriate.

- **Collaboration Area**
 - Working with employers
 - Building Trust and Enhancement of awareness/perception of programs and product
 - The group will plan and implement a luncheon for employer.
 - Possible Topics
 - Success of programs
 - Personal testimonies

- Introduce our initiatives
 - Short discussion on nature of poverty in Haralson
 - Get their reactions and ideas
- Support Activities (2 to 5 For Life?)
 - Jim suggested that the group initiate support activities that can be shared by all clients of their services, as well as possible inclusion of GED students, DOL participants, and TANF recipients.
 - Many activities, seminars, etc. can be provided by community leaders on a variety of subjects
 - Decision making
 - Finance
 - Motivational speakers
 - From local businesses
 - From folks that have increased their lot in life
 - Family stress management
 - Dealing with lack of family support
 - How to develop the habit of “personal vision”
 - Etc.
 - The program must meet needs of employers as well such as:
 - Employee retention
 - Higher quality employees
 - Growing tax base
 - Messaging must speak to them

Action Items:

1. Jim will flesh out the idea of a construct for Support Activities (2 to 5 for Life)
2. Jim will act as admin support for the luncheon and will flesh out the idea, presenting a more detailed approach to the event at the next meeting
3. Partnering organizations will send Jim a “brainstorm” list of possible topics for 2 to 5 for Life
4. Jim will call TANF folks to see if they want to join the group

Next meeting on Thursday, June 5 at 10:00 at the Tallatoona CAP office