



Minutes from
Community Provider Information Session
February 25, 2011

Attendees: List Attached

- I. Welcome – Mr. Greg Davis: Call to Order at 8:35 AM. Greg also gave three points of the focus of ACLC out in the community:
 - a. Offer scholarships for GED Exam for low income residents—application on the website.
 - b. Get the word out in the community about the priority of adult literacy—“a child typically attains the same level of education as their mother.”
 - c. Support the literacy providers however we (ACLC) can—such as connect volunteers to programs
- II. Introductions—all attendees introduced themselves and the organizations associated with
- III. ACLC Overview by Mandy Seigler, Program Coordinator – Mandy gave a brief introduction of herself and connection to ACLC and reiterated the purpose and mission of ACLC, which is “ACLC exists to promote and support learning opportunities for adult residents in the Athens community. We believe that developing strong literacy skills enables learners to improve their chances for gainful employment, self-fulfillment, civic participation, and successful parenting.” She stated a brief history of ACLC, which is a part of the Certified Literate Community Program of the Technical College System of Georgia, of which there are 62 in the state. The CLCPs were created to enhance and support community literacy efforts.
She also shared four areas of service of the ACLC:
 - a. GED Scholarships—Up to \$75 per student; application online; must be instructor approved; if student has completed Money Matters course through library can get full scholarship of \$95.
 - b. Monetary and Technical Assistance—Such has been provided to several community organizations; three areas—mini grants to providers, technical assistance, and curriculum development.
 - c. Volunteer Training—Host ESL and Adult Ed workshops for volunteers who wish to tutor in these areas. Goal is to build a database of tutors so ACLC can be called when a provider has a specific need for a tutor.
 - d. Events—Our annual fundraiser the Spirited Spelling Spectacular will be August 21, 2011. Providers are invited to help. Committees will be forming soon. Please let us know if you’re interested in helping.
- IV. Volunteer Training Materials Overview by Valerie Pflug, Board Member—Valerie gave a brief overview of Tutor by Ruth J. Colvin, which ACLC provided to GED providers (and I Speak English was provided to ESL providers). She asked participants to talk about what makes a good volunteer. Each table gave an example. Valerie concluded by sharing the list of what makes an effective tutor

from the book: learner-centered, patience, understanding and respectful, creative, sensitive, realistic expectations, empathy, sense of humor, adaptable, enthusiasm, organizational skills, and commitment.

V. Provider Discussion: Mandy led an open discussion of successes and challenges amongst the providers in attendance. Here is a synopsis from notes taken by ACLC Board Member Dr. Michele Simpson:

a. Successes:

- i. An ATC long term student (14 + years) who fought cancer, family issues, etc. got her GED!
- ii. Another long term student passes GED .
- iii. ATC GED Graduation increases in numbers—270 will walk and families attend. June 9th at Classic Center. This year close to 700 passed GED.
- iv. Student passes Citizenship test after mentoring by ESL instructor.
- v. Man from Sudan, motivated and passes.
- vi. Man learns alphabet working with volunteer at Athens Urban Ministries and has so much pride in his new ability.
- vii. Man passes GED, being motivated by judge who will shorten his probation and he does! Then enrolls at ATC for post-secondary.

**Great statement made by participant—“We need to reinvent our successes.”

b. Challenges:

- i. New instructors being able to develop lesson plans to match the students' level.
- ii. After GED, what next? JOBS are rare, employers not sympathetic.
- iii. Background checks prevent students/learners from volunteering or obtaining jobs. (example given: Gaines Elem School Family Literacy—to have each student's dad come in for 1 day and volunteer, many excluded due to background checks)
- iv. Transportation issues—bus passes needed by some organizations, talk about upcoming transportation SPLOST meeting.
- v. Where do sex offenders go for GED preparation?

VI. Adjournment at 9:35 AM.