

**Partnering for Portal Meeting
March 24, 2008
Minutes**

Members/visitors who attended were: Dianne Bath, Larry Motes, Linda Williams, Abraham Williams and his wife, Rev. Emory Hagins and his wife, and Stephanie Kenney.

News/Updates – Stephanie has contacted Dr. Charlie Hardy to inquire regarding interest among his College of Public Health faculty in working with PFP. Dianne contacted Angela Thompson, GSU School of Nursing, to inquire regarding the results of the community survey. Linda reported that the Portal Community Centennial Celebration was very successful. Many local and state government dignitaries attended. The road running in from of the IGA store was renamed “Leila Denmark Highway” in honor of Dr. Leila Denmark. Larry Motes reported that the County has drawn plans for the new Portal High School and they will vote on these plans in this Thursday’s School Board meeting. If the plans are approved, construction will begin in Fall 2008, with occupancy expected in Fall 2009. If this occurs, Larry believes we might have an opportunity to use one of the existing Middle/High School buildings in Portal for our Boys and Girls Club. Also, Larry thinks that we will have money left after building the new sewer system to help support our Boys and Girls Club. Finally, Larry believes that it might be useful to write a proposal to present to our new Portal Community millionaire who, Larry believes, might be responsive to our PFP goal to improve academics and life in general for Portal’s youth.

Full Service Community School Grant – Dianne outlined the requirements in the Grant Registry, listing each area of information needed in order to complete the grant. Twelve areas of possible focus for our full service community school were discussed, considering activities that might be included and the barriers to implementing these activities. Finally, Portal Community members identified the areas of focus/activities they felt were the highest priority in terms of being urgently needed in the Portal Community. These are the areas of focus that will be written into the grant and will be the first activities developed in our full service community school. These are identified below in bold print. The following table reflects that discussion.

Focus	Activities	Barriers	Notes
#1 Early Childhood Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 1-2 classes for 3-year olds b. After-school program for 4-year olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Classroom space 	
#2 Remedial Ed. & Academic Enrichment (including #	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. After-school program for K-6 b. After-school program for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Transportation b. Communication c. Space d. Parent education about curriculum, 	An after-school program is needed to replace the current Boys & Girls Program.

	<p>grades 7-12</p> <p>c. Computer programs to support the curriculum and computers</p>	<p>standards</p> <p>e. Lack of technology in homes.</p>	<p>The after-school program for grades 7-12 should be required of students not passing classes; students should be identified early in semester to prevent failure.</p>
<p>#3 Programs that promote parental involvement and family literacy activities (including # 4, Parenting Education and Parent Leadership)</p>	<p>(a) GED preparation</p> <p>(b) Parent training program for young mothers</p> <p>(c) Parents and other community leaders involved in “watching” their neighborhoods. High visibility of adults who care about Portal’s youth is needed.</p>	<p>(a) Better communication re. GED.</p> <p>(b) Adult literacy</p>	<p>Schools, churches and City Hall must work together to improve communication.</p>
<p>#5 Mentoring and other youth development programs (including # 7, Programs that provided assistance to students who have been truant, suspended, or expelled.</p>	<p>(a) Truancy watch program that involves parents and other community folks who have interest and time.</p> <p>(b) Mentoring program for young boys, ages 10-12 for prevention of truancy, etc.</p>	<p>Time commitment of mentors.</p>	<p>There is currently little follow-up done on chronic school truancy. Little is done about placing folks in jail because of the expense incurred by Portal for residents placed in the jail.</p>
<p>#8 Job training and career counseling services</p>			<p>Later.</p>
<p>#9 Nutrition services</p>			<p>Done.</p>
<p>#10 Primary health and dental care.</p>			<p>Underway</p>
<p>#11 Mental health counseling services</p>			<p>Later</p>

#12 Adult education, including instruction of adults in English as a second language			GED currently; more later.
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Dianne reminded us that the Grant proposal is due April 15. Catherine Hendrix will do the primary writing for the grant but may be contacting PFP members for information.

Our next scheduled PFP meeting will be April 28, 6:30 pm, City Hall. We adjourned our meeting at 8:30 pm