

MINUTES: Healthy Carolinians of Macon County – Substance Abuse Task Force

DATE: March 9, 2011

PLACE: Health and Human Services Building

TIME: 2:00 – 3:30 PM

ATTENDEES: Sarah Altman, Rhonda Blanton, Jim Bottomley, Tony Corbin, Jennifer Garrett, Robert Holland, Kathy McGaha and Patti Tiberi

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	Robby Holland welcomed everyone to today’s meeting of the Substance Abuse Task Force. Mr. Holland asked the task force members to review the minutes of the last meeting. Tony Corbin motioned for the approval of the minutes. Jim Bottomley 2 nd the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Update Middle School Project	<p>Robby Holland apologized for Marci Holland, who went home sick today. Mr. Holland updated the task force members on the Middle School project.</p> <p>Mr. Holland said he had a chance to review all the designs for the flyers. Mr. Holland said he then had picked out the top five. The task force members asked if it was possible to see the top five choices and find out which one was the eventual winner. Ms. Blanton will contact Ms. Mahler about viewing the top designs.</p>	Rhonda Blanton will contact Victoria Mahler about the task force being able to view the top choices for the flyer.	
Synthetic Drug Abuse	<p>Sheriff Holland led the task force members into a continued discussion on synthetic drug abuse. Mr. Holland verified that the task force members reviewed the letter that he had sent out to local businesses asking them to not sell the synthetic drug products.</p> <p>Tony Corbin read an article that stated that synthetic drugs are also a problem overseas. Mr. Corbin said even with current laws banning the drugs, if one ingredient is changed the new product might not be covered under the current ban. Mr. Corbin also said that Dr. Oz had recently talked about synthetic drugs on his show.</p> <p>Kathy McGaha explained that the Youth Risk Behavior Survey will be done in the schools again this spring. Ms. McGaha said there is now a question on the survey</p>		

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	<p>pertaining to synthetic drugs, which will provide this committee with useful information.</p> <p>Rhonda Blanton stated that she had received some information from the North Carolina Athletic Association. This information stated that synthetic drugs were becoming more appealing to some athletes, because these drugs did not test positive in drug tests.</p> <p>Jennifer Garrett stated that she would love to have a hotline that kids could call/text/email and get their questions answered. Ms. Garrett thought this would be very beneficial for students in our county. Mr. Holland asked Ms. Garrett to further research this and report on it at a future meeting.</p>	<p>Jennifer Garrett will do further research on starting a drug hotline and report on this at a future meeting.</p>	
<p>Other Items for Discussion</p>	<p>Other Items for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Robby Holland reminded the task force members that the next “Pill Crusher” event will be held on March 26th at the Wal-Mart and K-Mart Shopping Centers. Mr. Holland said it will also be held at four locations in Highlands. ○ Stephanie Almeida explained the program titled “Shoulder Taps”. In this program, youth are positioned outside of businesses selling alcohol or beer. The youth ask people entering the business if they will buy alcohol or beer for them. Ms. Almeida said we could modify this and if the person being asked says yes they are given a card explaining what could happen to them; if they say no they are given a card saying “Thank You!” ○ Kathy McGaha explained there was an upcoming training for dentists and physician (plus their staff) in the area titled “Let’s Make SMOKING and SPIT TOBACCO Things of the Past”. This program will be held on March 17th, from 6:00 - 9:00 PM at the McCollum House. Ms. McGaha 		

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	<p>said a sign-up sheet will be available to any dentist or physician that is interested in using the North Carolina Controlled Substances Reporting System.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kathy McGaha informed the task force members of the current situation with Healthy Carolinians. Ms. McGaha explained that the Healthy Carolinian State Office had been dissolved and there will no longer be regional representatives at the start of the next business year (July 1st). Ms. McGaha said the current makeup of our Healthy Carolinians will be changing, but she is not sure of its final makeup. Ms. McGaha asked the task force members to be considering what makes HCMC successful and forward these ideas onto her. ○ Robby Holland informed the task force members of a new club that Marci and Danni Burrows are forming at Franklin High School. This will be a youth leadership club called R.I.S.E. This club is open to all juniors and seniors. The first meeting will be on March 8th from 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM. Ms. McGaha suggested inviting Deputy Burrows to a future meeting. Mr. Holland said he will ask her. ○ Patti Tiberi updated the task force members on the Teen Institute. Ms. Tiberi said this group will next meet on March 26th and look at the topic of bullying. ○ Patti Tiberi also asked the task force members if they had heard about the program that Melisa McKim is trying to start in Highlands. The program is titled “Gilliam’s Promise”. The idea behind this program is stop the use of drug and alcohol abuse in middle school before it starts and keep encouraging this philosophy through high 	<p>Task Force Members will forward any suggestions to Kathy McGaha.</p> <p>Robby Holland will invite Deputy Burrows to the next Substance Abuse Task Force meeting.</p>	

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	school. A student will promise to remain drug and alcohol free; if the student does this a \$1,000 will be placed in an escrow account each year. Ms. McKim also wants to conduct a fact finding survey to faculty, students and parents of Highlands School.		
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Substance Abuse Task Force is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27 th , from 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.		

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