

**MINUTES: Healthy Carolinians of Macon County – Strengthening Families Committee**

**DATE:** February 17, 2011

**PLACE:** CARENET

**TIME:** 12:00 N – 1:30 PM

**ATTENDEES:** Rebecca Barboff, Rhonda Blanton, Elena Carlson, Kristi Case, Jennifer Garrett, Linda Mathias, Kathy McGaha and Jennifer Turner-Lynn

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	<p>Kathy McGaha welcomed everyone to today’s meeting of the Strengthening Families Committee. Ms. McGaha asked the committee members to review the minutes of the last meeting. Rebecca Barboff motioned for the approval of the minutes. Kristi Case 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.</p>		
Homelessness Count Report and Warmth in Winter Discussion	<p>Kathy McGaha passed out two handouts for the committee members to review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>North Carolina Point-in-Time Count Reporting Form</i></li><li>▪ <i>North Carolina Point-in-Time Count – Sheltered Count</i></li></ul> <p>Ms. McGaha asked the committee members to review the forms. Ms. McGaha said our local homeless numbers were higher this time. Ms. McGaha said one factor was that more places were recognized as places to count the homeless in our county.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha said the numbers for the second report covered the sheltered count for our county. Ms. McGaha said the only shelter location we currently have is REACH. Ms. Turner-Lynn reminded the committee members that REACH is involved with domestic abuse victims and their families.</p> <p>Ms. Mathias asked if there was any way to determine how long people are staying homeless in our county. Ms. McGaha said no, not at this point.</p> <p>Ms. Carlson said the numbers of people using the library have increased with the recession. Ms. Carlson said</p>		

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	<p>some people were spending great lengths of time in the library, because they have no where else to go. The committee members agreed to include this location in next year's count.</p>		
<p>Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Grant</p>	<p>Kathy McGaha next discussed the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Grant. Ms. McGaha said that Ms. Case had forwarded two grants to her. Ms. McGaha said she had then forwarded these two grants to MPP.</p> <p>Ms. Case suggested that probably the best way to locally to apply for this grant was as a multi-county group. Ms. Case suggested possibly Macon, Clay, Graham and Swain could form a partnership to apply for this grant.</p>		
<p>Other Items for Discussion</p>	<p>Other Items for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rhonda Blanton said she had met with three local insurance agents and talked to two representatives of the North Carolina Department of Insurance to research what restrictions and possible cost of coverage for a church to house our area homeless. The biggest recommendation was to house the homeless in a building that is separate from the church if at all possible. Other topics that were covered were security, bathing facilities, areas for pets and the problem of bedbugs.</li> <li>○ Kathy McGaha reminded the committee members that the upcoming Community Needs Assessment meeting will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 8:30 – 10:30 AM in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.</li> </ul>		
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The next meeting of the Strengthening Families Committee will be held on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 N – 1:30 PM at CARENET.</p>		