

**MINUTES: Healthy Carolinians of Macon County – Access to Care Committee**

**DATE:** July 21, 2009

**PLACE:** Health and Human Services Building

**TIME:** 1:00 – 2:00 PM

**ATTENDEES:** Amira Alarcon, Rhonda Blanton, Jim Bruckner, Dorothy Crawford, John Crawford, Dom D’Ascoli, Sheila Franks, Barbara Helm, Jerry Hermanson, Jane Kimsey, Kathy McGaha, Carla Miller, Jackie Romanski, Ivanova Ryan, Jim Thurmond, Linda Tyler and Martin Wadewitz

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>FOLLOW-UP</b>
Welcome	Kathy McGaha welcomed everyone to today’s meeting of the Access to Care Committee. Ms. McGaha stated that due to the content of today’s meeting the minutes will be approved at the next meeting.		
Introductions	Kathy McGaha asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell what organization they represented.		
Needs Assessment Summary	<p>Kathy McGaha briefly reviewed the findings from the last Community Needs Assessment that Healthy Carolinians of Macon County had conducted. Ms. McGaha stated that access to care had been specified as need for our county.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha reminded the committee members that the purpose for this committee was discussed and refined at the last meeting. Ms. McGaha said the purpose was to bring together people from the community that want to resolve the need for primary care in Macon County, specifically the Franklin area.</p>		
Prior Community Conversation/Efforts	<p>Jim Bruckner gave a summary of the prior community conversations and efforts on the topic of access to care in Macon County and specifically the Franklin area. Mr. Bruckner said many meetings had been held in the past and many conversations had been conducted with several groups and interested parties.</p> <p>Mr. Bruckner said two major influencing factors for the Franklin area were no community momentum and no major community leader to back this project. Mr. Bruckner said these factors were successfully overcome in Highlands to form the Community Care Clinic.</p>		

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	<p>Marty Wadewitz also agreed that not having a community leader in the Franklin area was big factor in the development and organization of a community clinic. Mr. Wadewitz stated that Angel Medical Center had over \$2 million dollars in bills for uncompensated care that was given last year. A local community clinic should help with the reduction of that amount.</p>		
Free Clinic Model	<p>Jerry Hermanson next briefly talked about the free clinic model and how the Community Care Clinic works. Mr. Hermanson explained that the free clinic model is a volunteer driven organization. Mr. Hermanson said volunteer candidates are in every community if they can be found and matched with a project or cause that is important to them.</p> <p>Mr. Hermanson briefly went over the set-up of the Community Care Clinic. Mr. Hermanson said currently it is open one night per week (Thursday). A Physician Assistant is paid to work the clinic, which sees about 30 to 32 patients per week. Mr. Hermanson said that 55% of the patients seen are from the Franklin/Otto area.</p>		
Funding Opportunities for Free Clinic Model	<p>Jerry Hermanson next reviewed and explained possible funding opportunities for a Free Clinic Model. Mr. Hermanson said that set-up funds are available from the North Carolina Association of Free Clinics.</p> <p>Mr. Hermanson also stated there are many grant opportunities available for free clinics and the services they provide. He explained that some grants require matching funds.</p> <p>Mr. Hermanson explained that the facility for the Community Care Clinic is provided by Macon County as an in-kind contribution. Mr. Hermanson stated that if the location was more accessible the patient volume would probably be doubled.</p>		

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	<p>Mr. Hermanson said the local Highlands/Cashiers area is very generous with donations to support the clinic. Mr. Hermanson said the local churches were his biggest supporters.</p>		
<p>Questions &amp; Answers</p>	<p>Kathy McGaha said a time had been set aside during this meeting for a question and answer period. Ms. McGaha asked the committee members and invited guests to ask any questions or provide answers to further understand this topic.</p>		
<p>New Board Members</p>	<p>Kathy McGaha next asked the committee members and invited guests if a new board needed to be formed and who possible board members could be. After a group discussion, the committee members were in agreement of forming a new board.</p> <p>Committee members recommended that this board would consist of 7 to 11 members. Mr. Bruckner suggested that these members, if possible, be “movers and shakers” in the community. The committee members suggested the following possible candidates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A local attorney</li> <li>➤ A hospital representative</li> <li>➤ A county representative</li> <li>➤ Someone from the religious community</li> <li>➤ Someone with marketing experience</li> <li>➤ Someone with grant writing experience</li> </ul> <p>Jim Thurmond agreed to head up the process of choosing candidates for the new board. Mr. Thurmond will meet with Mr. Bruckner, Mr. Wadewitz and Ms. McGaha before starting this process. Rhonda Blanton will set-up this meeting.</p>	<p>Rhonda Blanton will set-up a meeting for Jim Thurmond, Jim Bruckner, Marty Wadewitz and Kathy McGaha.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The next meeting date for the Access to Care Committee will be announced at a future date.</p>		