

MINUTES: Healthy Carolinians of Macon County – Elder Care and Caregivers Committee

DATE: October 26, 2010

PLACE: Senior Services Center

TIME: 12:00 N – 1:30 PM

ATTENDEES: Rhonda Blanton, Dorothy Crawford, John Crawford, Mike Grubermann, Leslie Lawson, Kathy McGaha, Derek Roland and Sheila Southard

GUESTS: Reggie Holland and Jack Morgan

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	Sheila Southard welcomed everyone to today’s meeting of the Elder Care and Caregivers Committee. Ms. Southard asked the committee members to review the minutes of the last two meetings. Leslie Lawson motioned for the approval of the minutes. Mike Grubermann 2 nd the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Introductions	Sheila Southard introduced today’s guests: Reggie Holland is a local contractor/builder and is president of the local Homebuilder’s Association. Jack Morgan is the Director of Planning, Permitting and Development for Macon County. Ms. Southard asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell what organization they represented.		
Senior Friendly Advocacy Efforts	Sheila Southard first passed out a handout that was presented at the recent conference – <i>Building a Livable and Senior Friendly North Carolina</i> . The handout was a painting that had been done by an elephant. Ms. Southard said the message stressed with this handout was – We can make anything work. Ms. Southard said the handout and message was presented by Governor Perdue. Ms. Southard next passed out three handouts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Recommendations for NC’s Aging Population – Homes & Neighborhoods❖ Building a Livable and Senior-Friendly North Carolina – Reports from the Policy Sessions❖ Building a Livable and Senior-Friendly North		

MINUTES: Elder Care and Caregivers Committee

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Carolina – Policy Topics and Descriptions</p> <p>Ms. Southard said all counties in the state are to be deciding how in the future they will deal with the increasing numbers of senior citizens as the “baby boomers” age.</p> <p>Ms. Southard said at the recent conference she attended had a breakout session on homes. Ms. Southard said this session on homes stressed two basic components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Affordable housing 2) Accessible housing <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Affordability b) Doesn’t have the appearance of an old person’s house <p>Affordable Housing</p> <p>Ms. Southard passed out a handout titled – Affordable Housing in North Carolina – The Numbers. Ms. Southard stated that these are very useful numbers for the committee members to have. The second page contained information on Haywood County.</p> <p>Ms. Southard explained that affordable housing doesn’t necessarily encompass housing options like HUD housing, but what the individual/family can really afford.</p> <p>Accessible Housing</p> <p>Ms. Southard stated that she had obtained some figures that she wanted the committee members to have. Ms. Southard said the additional amount needed to cover “senior friendly” adaptations into the initial building costs are \$3,500. But the costs for construction to cover remodeling costs are \$30,000 to \$50,000.</p>		

MINUTES: Elder Care and Caregivers Committee

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	<p>Mr. Holland informed the committee members that the average length that a house is lived in is five years. Mr. Holland also stated that with the current economy, people are staying in their current homes longer (not including foreclosures).</p> <p>Ms. Southard said also at the conference the following recommendations were made to assist with the promotion of accessible housing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Education and Information 2) Central person that can be contacted for information and able to answer questions 		
<p>Summary from Today's Discussion</p>	<p>Sheila Southard asked the committee members to list the main summary points from today's discussion. The following suggestions were made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Compose a one-page informational sheet listing the top reasons for universal design 2) Set up a meeting with local real estate agents, homebuilders and contractors to educate and promote universal design 3) Get this information out to local agencies and organizations like AARP and the Chamber of Commerce 4) Add this information to the County website under the Senior Services Section <p>Suggestion #1 – Jack Morgan stated he is currently reviewing the information available and could narrow down the possible suggestions to just a few. Mr. Morgan stated it needed to be kept simple and easily readable.</p> <p>Suggestion #2 – Reggie Holland suggested that since the local realtors meet monthly, it would probably be easier to invite everyone suggested to their meeting.</p> <p>Suggestion #3 – The committee agreed to develop a list</p>		

MINUTES: Elder Care and Caregivers Committee

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	<p>of local agencies and organizations that would benefit from this list, once it has been finalized.</p> <p>Suggestion #4 – Sheila Southard said she had already talked with Macon County’s IT Department about adding this information to the Senior Services website, and they stated that it could be done. Ms. Southard said it might also be advisable to meet with Tony Angel. Ms. Southard also explained that there might be some available money that could be used for this project.</p>		
Other Items for Discussion	<p>Other Items for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Haywood County Senior Friendly Program – Rhonda Blanton said she had contacted the professor at Western (Candace Roberts) who had assisted Haywood County with their project of certifying commercial businesses as being “Senior Friendly”. Ms. Blanton stated she is in the process of setting up a meeting with Ms. Roberts and Victoria Young of Haywood Community Connections. ○ Leadership Class – Sheila Southard said Southwestern had been in touch with her about restarting the Leadership Class for the Franklin area. Ms. Southard said she would have more information later. ○ Special Thanks – Sheila Southard offered special thanks to Reggie Holland and Jack Morgan for meeting with her first and then attending today’s meeting. 	Rhonda Blanton is in the process of setting up a meeting with Candace Roberts and Victoria Young.	
Next Meeting Date	The date for the next meeting of the Elder Care and Caregivers Committee will be set at a later time.		