

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

DATE: January 8, 2008

PLACE: Shoney’s Restaurant

TIME: 9:00 – 11:00 AM

ATTENDEES: Stephanie Almeida, Rhonda Blanton, Jim Bottomley, Tayloe Compton, Sandra Conaty, Marci Holland, Robert Holland, Jeff King, Judy Kuehn, Katie LaFlamm, Larry McDonald, Kathy McGaha, Debra Montgomery, Mike Neidig, Bob Scott, Patti Tiberi and Brian Welch

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	<p>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. Jeff King motioned for the approval of the minutes. Robby Holland 2nd the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.</p>		
“State of Urgency”	<p>Mr. Holland informed the task force members about a recent meeting held on January 7th. The meeting was titled – “<i>State of Urgency</i>”. Mr. Holland stated that the topic of the meeting was law enforcement custody and wait-time during first commitment examinations.</p> <p>Mr. Holland introduced Brian Welch to the task force members and asked him to further discuss this topic. Mr. Welch is the Staff Attorney for the Macon County Sheriff’s Office.</p> <p>Mr. Welch said the burden for law enforcement to obtain care for a respondent is great. The job of looking after respondents and transporting them costs law enforcement officer’s time and money. Mr. Welch stated that a law enforcement officer must stay with a respondent at least long enough to determine whether a physician or psychologist is available and whether the respondent may be left under appropriate supervision, other than an officer.</p> <p>Mr. Holland stated that the Macon County Board of Commissioners is considering the creation of a Mental Health Task Force. He stated that this task force would consider the current status of mental health in Macon</p>		

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	<p>County. The task force would identify what county government is spending on mental health and how it can most effectively provide services.</p>		
<p>Forum/Town Meeting Group Report</p>	<p>Kathy McGaha asked Patti Tiberi to update the task force members on the status of the upcoming forum/town meeting. Ms. Tiberi stated the sub-committee had met on December 11th to discuss the topic of underage drinking.</p> <p>The sub-committee members discussed and considered a program titled <i>Take it Back</i>. This program is a national youth-directed movement to reduce alcohol problems. Ms. Tiberi explained that the sub-committee would act as a guide or mentor to a group of teenagers.</p> <p>The sub-committee members discussed and decided to conduct a brief survey in the school system and community. The main information that will be gathered from this survey is the student's perception of harm. One of the National Outcomes measures in addressing underage drinking is the increase in youth perception of harm. With an increase in this perception, we find a decrease in alcohol use. As we know the YRBS identifies alcohol use, we need to record a perception of harm to know how to proceed with follow up activities.</p> <p>The next step is to meet with certain school personnel and the Board of Education to get their approval for this step. The sub-committee members will then decide which students will be the best to volunteer and be involved in this project.</p>	<p>The Underage Drinking Sub-Committee will implement the survey and coordinate the town hall meeting.</p>	
<p>Other Items of Discussion</p>	<p>Other Items of Discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Debra Montgomery updated the task force members on the status of the Oxford House. Ms. Montgomery said that currently the Oxford House has six occupants and will possibly have 		

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	<p>another one after this weekend. Ms. Montgomery said the immediate needs are a riding lawnmower and a dishwasher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Kathy McGaha told the committee members about the Association of Community Health Improvement Conference to be held in Atlanta in March. Sarah Thach, Terri Wallace and Ms. McGaha will be presenters at this conference.		
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Substance Abuse Task Force will be held on Tuesday, March 11 th at Shoney's Restaurant from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM.		