

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

DATE: March 19, 2009

PLACE: Health and Human Services Building

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES: Stephanie Almeida, Rhonda Blanton, Jim Bottomley, Anthony Corbin, Jennifer Garrett, M. R. Hall, Kathy McGaha and Patti Tiberi

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION | ACTION | FOLLOW-UP |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------|-----------|
| Welcome and Approval of Minutes | <p>Kathy McGaha welcomed everyone to today’s meeting of the Substance Abuse Task Force. Ms. McGaha asked the task force members to review the minutes of the last meeting. Jim Bottomley motioned for the approval of the minutes. Stephanie Almeida 2nd the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.</p> | | |
| Finalizing Prevention Strategic Plan | <p>Kathy McGaha led the task force members into a discussion on finalizing the Prevention Strategic Plan. Ms. McGaha asked the task force members to review the Strategic Plan for Prevention handout that Susan Johnson developed.</p> <p>Priority Area 1 – Prescription Drug Use</p> <p>Ms. McGaha stated that the first two action steps had been completed. The YRBS Review Team had developed wording of prescription drug questions based on similar questions regarding alcohol and tobacco that were included in the YRBS questionnaire that is currently being given to all middle school and high school students in Macon County. Also, pharmacists Angie Stahl and Debby Cowan had spoken to the task force members.</p> <p>The task force members next discussed the best method to inform the public to keep medications locked up and not be easily accessible. After a group discussion, the task force members agreed to promote putting posters and signs up in the local pharmacies. Some suggestions for ideas were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Printed in English and Spanish▪ Bright eye-catching paper▪ Print in readable size (not small) | | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider pads with tear off sheets ▪ Consider other places to place signs and posters <p>Jennifer Garrett agreed to work on the design and graphics for the posters and signs. Tony Corbin offered to look through all his DARE materials for usable ideas. Ms. McGaha offered to talk with Robby Holland about possible funding sources.</p> <p>The task force members next discussed whether to have a community meeting or just meet with individual groups and organizations. The task force members agreed not to have a community meeting. The task force members then agreed upon the most important points for the public to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prescription drugs are risky ▪ Don't share medications ▪ Lock up all medications <p>The task force members next discussed particular groups to target such as teachers, coaches and parents. Ms. Garrett said she had an educational session already in places for the coaches. Patti Tiberi informed the task force members about a program being done in Swain County and offered to get more information on it.</p> <p>The task force members also discussed different venues of getting this information out to the public. These venues were suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pickin on the Square ▪ Senior Games ▪ Senior Expo ▪ Fraternal Order of Police Meeting ▪ School children – send home to parents ▪ County Fair Booth ▪ Local clubs and organizations | <p>Jennifer Garrett offered to work on the design and graphics for the posters and signs.</p> <p>Tony Corbin will look through his DARE materials for usable ideas.</p> <p>Kathy McGaha offered to talk with Robby Holland about possible funding sources.</p> <p>Patti Tiberi will gather information on a program being conducted in Swain County.</p> <p>Tony Corbin will check with Robby Holland about use of the Sheriff's Dept. fair booth.</p> | |

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| | <p>Priority Area 2: Underage Youth are Consuming Alcohol</p> <p>Ms. McGaha asked the task force members to review the handout on Safe Homes Program. In this program, participating parents agree through a pledged commitment to maintain an alcohol and drug free home that is safe for their children’s social activities and recreation. Ideas to promote this program are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meet with school administration and PTO presidents ▪ Send information home to parents ▪ Develop a webpage ▪ Maintain a list of parents that sign the pledge ▪ Identification of safe homes (ex: stickers for doors or windows) ▪ Develop a timeline ▪ Check on obtaining ABC money <p>Another item the task force members considered was possibly applying for the Prevent Underage Drinking (PUD) grant. This grant promotes strategies in your community to prevent underage drinking and promotes development of tactics and ideas to stop practices that make underage drinking easy and acceptable. Ms. McGaha suggested possibly developing a regional partnership to apply and promote this grant.</p> | <p>Tony Corbin will check on ABC money and how it is given out.</p> | |
| <p>Other Items for Discussion</p> | <p>Other Items for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Patti Tiberi informed the task force members of an upcoming conference being held in Jackson County on June 1st – 5th. The conference is titled – Community Capacity Building Training. ○ Patti Tiberi also asked the task force members to consider being part of a region-wide meeting involving the seven western counties to promote the Teen Institute. Ms. Tiberi will work on setting this meeting up. | <p>Patti Tiberi will work on setting up a region-wide meeting to discuss the Teen Institute.</p> | |

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| Next Meeting Date | The next meeting of the Substance Abuse Task Force will be held on Friday, April 17 th , from 1:00 – 3:00 PM in Classroom #1 at the Health and Human Services Building. | | |