

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

**DATE:** June 25, 2010

**PLACE:** Health and Human Services Building

**TIME:** 8:30 – 10:00 AM

**ATTENDEES:** Sarah Altman, Rhonda Blanton, Jim Bottomley, Anthony Corbin, Jennifer Garrett, M. R. Hall, David Hinnant, Kathy McGaha and Mark Pilon

**GUEST:** Barry Patterson

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	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. Tony Corbin 2 <sup>nd</sup> the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Environmental Risks with Disposal of Medications	<p>Kathy McGaha informed the task force members that she had invited Barry Patterson, Environmental Health Director, to today's meeting to review the environmental risks associated with the disposal of medications.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson said it is not advised to flush medications down the toilet or bury them. Mr. Patterson said the recommended way of disposal is to turn them in for incineration.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson explained how septic systems are impacted and that some drugs could even survive through the septic system process. Mr. Patterson also explained how a local fish population could be affected.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha then passed out a handout for a "Medication Drop-Box Program". Ms. McGaha said this drop-box is similar to a mail drop-box. Ms. McGaha stated that this would provide a year-round solution to proper disposal of medications in our county.</p> <p>The task force members reviewed the handout and agreed this is an excellent idea. Ms. McGaha offered to try and get more information and bring this information to the next meeting. Mr. Patterson suggested contacting</p>	<p>Kathy McGaha will try to obtain more information on the medicine drop-box and also check into grant opportunities.</p>	

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	<p>a local bank to check on how much a drop-box costs. Ms. McGaha said she would also check into possible grant opportunities to cover the costs of this project.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha suggested that she meet with Sheriff Holland and Tony Corbin to further discuss if this is a viable option to deal with disposal of prescription drugs.</p>	Kathy McGaha will set up a meeting with Sheriff Holland and Tony Corbin.	
2009 YRBS Results Update	Kathy McGaha stated that the results of the 2009 YRBS will be finished by the first week of July. Ms. McGaha said Mars Hill has invited a small group to travel there to review the results. Jennifer Garrett and Ms. McGaha have already agreed to attend. Tony Corbin volunteered to accompany them to Mars Hill. Ms. McGaha said Mars Hill have also offered to do a presentation in the fall to this committee and invited guests.		
Student Essay	Jim Bottomley suggested the possibility of sponsoring a student essay contest to help raise awareness of the prescription drug abuse issue. Mr. Bottomley suggested the winner's essay could be published in the local newspapers. The task force members agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.		
Controlled Substance Reporting System Discussion	<p>Kathy McGaha asked M. R. Hall to report on her findings concerning the Controlled Substance Reporting System. Ms. Hall is currently working on her Master's degree and was able to use the information gathered in a report towards that.</p> <p>Ms. Hall and Ms. McGaha had composed a list of questions to ask each pharmacy in Macon County. Ms. Hall checked with six pharmacies. Ms. Hall said that all six were familiar with the system, but only three were actually using it. The task force members complimented Ms. Hall on the helpful information that was gathered. As a result of this process; two pharmacies had a pharmacist enroll to the use the database. This increases participation to 5 out of 6 pharmacies.</p>		

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	<p>Ms. McGaha said she had checked on the Prevention RX Program and whether it could be used in promotion of this system. Ms. McGaha reported that currently the Prevention RX Program is not being conducted, so this avenue cannot be currently pursued. Ms. McGaha said she had emailed Marty Wadewitz if another course of action could be used to promote this program to the local physicians, but had not received an answer as of yet.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha said she had met with Stan Polanski about possibly using his newsletter as a way to promote the reporting system. Ms. McGaha said the newsletter could currently not be used as a way for promoting the reporting system.</p> <p>Mr. Corbin suggested possibly inviting Dr. Creel to one of our future meetings. Mr. Corbin explained that Dr. Creel is currently the jail physician. The task force members agreed with this suggestion and asked Mr. Corbin to follow-up with Dr. Creel.</p>	<p>Tony Corbin will ask Dr. Creel to attend one of future meetings.</p>	
Billboard	<p>Kathy McGaha said she had tried to obtain a used medicine cabinet to use for the billboard, with no success. Ms. McGaha said the next option was to buy a new medicine cabinet, use a window frame, or use a picture frame. Ms. McGaha said she would continue working on this.</p>	<p>Kathy McGaha will continue working on obtaining items needed for the development of the billboard.</p>	
Other Items for Discussion	<p>Other Items for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Rhonda Blanton showed the task force members a website that she had discovered. Ms. Blanton said this interactive website covered prescription drug abuse and might appeal to a younger audience. Ms. Blanton directed the task force members to go to <a href="http://www.theantidrug.com">www.theantidrug.com</a> website and type in RX Danger Zones: The Search Starts at Home. The task force members were impressed with the website and some stated they</li></ul>		

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	<p>could use it to promote the prevention of prescription drug abuse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Jennifer Garrett suggested one possibility for Red Ribbon Week was to have a booth with information at the schools. Mark Pilon and David Hinnant said they could probably help with that by setting up display tables with information. Mr. Pilon said it would forward information to Jennifer Garrett for her to review. Ms. Garrett said all information would need to be approved by the Board of Education.</li></ul>	<p>Mark Pilon will forward information to Jennifer Garret for her to review.</p>	
Next Meeting Date	<p>The next meeting of the Substance Abuse Task Force is scheduled for Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 – 10:00 AM in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.</p>		