

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

DATE: November 30, 2010

PLACE: Health and Human Services Building

TIME: 2:30 – 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES: Sarah Altman, Rhonda Blanton, Jim Bottomley, Tony Corbin, Jennifer Garrett, David Hinnant, Marci Holland, Robert Holland, Kathy McGaha and Mark Pilon

GUEST: Vickie Mahler

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	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. Jim Bottomley motioned for the approval of the minutes. Marci Holland 2 nd the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Introductions	Robby welcomed today's guest – Vickie Mahler. Ms. Mahler is a teacher at Macon Middle School. Mr. Holland asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell what organization they represented.		
Review of Red Ribbon Week Events	<p>Robby Holland led the task force members on a review of the events during Red Ribbon Week. Mr. Holland said he thought all events went very well and thanked the task force for their participation in these events.</p> <p>Mr. Holland said the presentation at Macon Middle School received a lot of compliments and was covered by the media. Some components of the presentation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Brief comments from some high school athletes▪ Cheers presented by both FHS and MMS cheerleaders▪ Winners announced for door decorating contest▪ Winners announced for the essay contest▪ A brief talk from Derek Roland about the recent death of his younger brother – Parker Mathis. <p>Mr. Pilon and Mr. Hinnant, with the National Guard, set up a display table at Highlands School, Franklin High School and Macon Middle School (at which they also assisted in judging the essay contest). Besides the display table at Nantahala School, they did the <i>Stay on</i></p>		

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	<p><i>Track Program.</i> They both stated that they were well received at all of the schools.</p>		
Middle School Project	<p>Vickie Mahler thanked everyone for being allowed to speak today to this group. Ms. Mahler said the events and presentations held during the recent Red Ribbon Week had really motivated some of her students.</p> <p>Ms. Mahler said these teens have formed a group titled Teens Taking Action. Ms. Mahler said these students have had several discussions and developed a pledge for everyone to sign and also want to design a bumper sticker.</p> <p>Ms. Mahler said the students want to develop flyers with the pledge on it and print 5,000 of them at a cost of \$400. Principal Maslin has volunteered to cover the costs of the flyers. The cost to print 5,000 bumper stickers is \$1,100. Ms. Mahler said donations will have to be raised to cover this cost.</p> <p>Ms. Mahler said the HOSA Club at FHS has agreed to set up a table in the school. One idea is if a pledge is signed, the signee will receive a bumper sticker. Ms. Garrett also suggested promoting this on Facebook.</p>		
Update on NC CSRS enrollment	<p>Kathy McGaha updated the task force members on the status of NC CSRS enrollment in Macon County. Ms. McGaha said she had attended a Medical Staff Meeting at Angel Medical Center in September. Ms. McGaha said 11 primary care physicians signed up.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha reminded the task force members that all pharmacies in Macon County are enrolled. Ms. McGaha said the next target groups would be physicians in the Highlands area and dentists.</p>		
SPICE/Methadrone	<p>Kathy McGaha said the Health Director – Jim Bruckner had asked if the task force members had discussed the</p>		

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	<p>impact of SPICE or Methadrone had in our county. Mr. Bruckner stated these had been discussed in a recent Health Director’s meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Holland said Macon County News had recently done an article on SPICE. Ms. Blanton said a similar article had been in the Hayesville newspaper also. SPICE is an herbal incense that when consumed mimics the effects of cannabis.</p> <p>Mr. Holland stated that an easy way for this type of product to enter a community is through a “head shop”. Mr. Holland stated there are a couple in Franklin and asked the task force members to check one out if possible.</p> <p>The task force members were not aware of Methadrone. Mr. Corbin volunteered to further investigate it and report on it at the next meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Blanton informed the task force members that the new product gaining in popularity (especially among college students) is alcohol-infused whipped cream. This product contains about 15 percent alcohol by volume (three times more than beer). The FDA is stating since this is not a food product, the FDA is not responsible for regulating the product.</p>	<p>Robby Holland asked the task force members if an opportunity arises to check out one of our local “head shops”.</p> <p>Tony Corbin will investigate Methadrone and report on it at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>Review of YRBS Presentation</p>	<p>Kathy McGaha stated a meeting had been held on October 29th to review the results of the most recent YRBS taken in Macon County. Ms. McGaha said this event had been well attended and was covered by the local media.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha gave a few examples of results from the YRBS. Ms. McGaha said the results will also be soon posted online. Ms. McGaha said the next YRBS is</p>		

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	scheduled to be given to middle grade and high school students this spring.		
Other Items for Discussion	Other Items for Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ National Guard Representatives – Mr. Holland gave a special thanks to Mr. Pilon and Mr. Hinnant for participating in our task force and all the hard work they do.		
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Substance Abuse Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11 th , from 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.		

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