

MINUTES: Healthy Carolinians of Macon County – Strengthening Families Committee

DATE: January 8, 2009

PLACE: Macon County School’s Central Office

TIME: 12:00 N – 1:30 PM

ATTENDEES: Vanessa Bailey, Rebecca Barboff, Rhonda Blanton, Jim Bottomley, Margaret Freeman, Jennifer Garrett, Anne Hyder, Paula Ledford, Susie McCoy, Larry McDonald, Kathy McGaha, Sherrie Peeler, Carol Pitts, Sheila Southard, Jennifer Turner-Lynn and Carlos Vargas

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	Vanessa Bailey welcomed everyone to today’s meeting of the Strengthening Families Committee. Ms. Bailey asked the committee members to review the minutes of the last meeting. Paula Ledford motioned for the approval of the minutes. Jennifer Garrett 2 nd the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Introductions	Vanessa Bailey asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell what organization they represent. Ms. Bailey welcomed Carol Pitts to today’s meeting. Ms. Pitts works at the Macon County Cooperative Extension office.		
Community Resource Center Report	<p>Sheila Southard updated the committee members on the Community Resource Center. Ms. Southard said the goal for Senior Services to move into the old library is July 1st. Ms. Southard said this is where the Community Resource Center will also be located.</p> <p>Ms. Southard briefly explained about the Aging and Disability grant that had been applied for. This grant would cover a community resource system including a toll free resource directory phone line. Haywood, Macon and Jackson counties were awarded this grant for \$67,000.</p> <p>Ms. Southard explained that the Macon County Board of Commissioners had asked for the creation of a temporary information and help line. Ms. Southard said the new help line is operational from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Monday – Friday). The number is 349-2128.</p>		
CARENET Soup Café Report	Vanessa Bailey updated the committee members on the CARENET Soup Café. Ms. Bailey said the numbers		

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	<p>attending keep rising, especially among the homeless. Ms. Bailey said thankfully there has also been an increase in people wanting to volunteer.</p> <p>Ms. Bailey said the recent food drive by the Rotary Club was a great success. Ms. Bailey said the Rotary Club had grocery bags inserted in The Franklin Press. Ms. Bailey said a lot of people responded to this request.</p> <p>Ms. Bailey also gave a brief update on the local Knapsack Program. Ms. Bailey said they had started at one school with five children and now they have 96 families. Ms. Bailey explained the process of how the food is divided and given to the children.</p>		
Transportation Plan Update	<p>Kathy McGaha stated that on December 16th a Transportation Planning Workshop was held in the Environmental Resources Center. This workshop was used to gather local information to help create a regional public transportation plan.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha said that participants were divided into groups and compiled a list of local needs. The participants then prioritized these needs. The number one need for Macon County was for extended hours.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha explained that creating this plan will allow county transit agencies to be eligible to apply for additional funding.</p>		
Next Project	<p>At the last meeting, Kathy McGaha asked the committee members to be considering what the next project for this committee will be and bring their suggestions and ideas to this meeting. Jennifer Garrett suggested bringing the last Action Plan this committee completed to the next meeting for the committee members to review. Ms. McGaha and Ms. Blanton will bring this information to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Kathy McGaha and Rhonda Blanton will bring this committee's last Action Plan to the next meeting.</p>	

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Other Items for Discussion	<p>Other Items for Discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanessa Bailey had got information from Rick Westerman on obtaining property for emergency housing. Ms. Bailey said he hoped to close on 14 acres of property on February 19th. The facilities on that property will house up to 80 people. It will be a multi-use facility with a full-service kitchen. • Jim Bottomley updated the committee members on the current status of the Samuel’s House. This organization is still looking for property in Clay County. Mr. Bottomley said the Samuel’s House representative will be speaking to the Zonta Club soon. • Jennifer Turner-Lynn is replacing Bob Scott on this committee. Ms. Turner-Lynn is hoping to do an in-depth survey of the older population (over 65) in Macon County. Ms. McGaha suggested using the upcoming Senior Expo and Health Fair as a location to gather this information. • Rebecca Barboff asked the committee members to consider the plight of the older teenagers (16-21) transitioning out of care into adulthood. Once they transition out, they must become totally self sufficient and learn to live and survive on their own. • Jennifer Garrett explained that Dr. Vargas is starting the Tar Wars program back up in the local schools. Ms. Garrett said the program will be done in the fourth and fifth grades. Ms. Garrett said if anyone wanted to volunteer to let Dr. Vargas know. 	Rhonda Blanton will ask Rick Westerman to attend the next meeting to provide an update to the committee members.	
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Strengthening Families Committee will be held on Thursday, February 26 th , from 12:00 N – 1:30 PM in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.		

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