

**MINUTES: Healthy Carolinians of Macon County – Strengthening Families Committee**

**DATE:** February 26, 2009

**PLACE:** Health and Human Services Building

**TIME:** 12:00 N – 1:30 PM

**ATTENDEES:** Rebecca Barboff, Rhonda Blanton, Jim Bottomley, Annie Breedlove, Jennifer Garrett, Marci Holland, Anne Hyder, Jane Kimsey, Susie McCoy, Kathy McGaha, Sherry Tilson, Jennifer Turner-Lynn and Rick Westerman

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>FOLLOW-UP</b>
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	Kathy McGaha welcomed everyone to today’s meeting of the Strengthening Families Committee. Ms. McGaha asked the committee members to review the minutes of the last meeting. Anne Hyder motioned for the approval of the minutes. Susie McCoy 2 <sup>nd</sup> the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Introductions	Kathy McGaha asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell what organization they represent. Ms. McGaha welcomed Sherry Tilson to today’s meeting. Ms. Tilson works with the Gear Up program and replaces Pat Bonard who used to attend for that organization.		
Emergency Housing Update/Homeless Issue	<p>Rick Westerman updated the committee members on the Emergency Housing/Homeless Issue. Mr. Westerman said they are still in the process of buying property. The property has two big buildings and a mobile home on it.</p> <p>Mr. Westerman stated that from the point of purchase it would take roughly two months for renovations. Ms. McGaha offered to organize a committee to assist with decorating and finishing the buildings.</p> <p>Mr. Westerman stated that one problem they currently have is availability of specific information requested by most grants. This needed information is the number of homeless in Macon County. He also stated that definitions of homelessness varies too.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha asked the committee members if this homeless issue and gathering of homeless numbers were something this committee wanted to undertake. The committee members thought homelessness was a current issue in Macon County and would be increasing.</p>		

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	<p>The committee members questioned how to obtain more exact information from different sources of organizations and how they define homeless. Ms. McCoy offered to forward information that she had onto Ms. McGaha. Ms. McGaha said she would gather more information on these topics. Jennifer Turner-Lynn also volunteered to research homeless statistics.</p> <p>Mr. Westerman said that Linda Mathias, with the Franklin Press, is also trying to organize a committee to discuss the homeless issue. Ms. Mathias hopes to have a meeting in the next 2 to 3 weeks and will be sending invitations to many individuals and organizations in the community.</p>	<p>Susie McCoy will forward homeless information onto Kathy McGaha.</p> <p>Kathy McGaha will gather more information on homelessness.</p> <p>Jennifer Turner-Lynn volunteered to research homeless statistics.</p>	
<p>Project Selection/Update Action Plan</p>	<p>Kathy McGaha next asked the committee members to look over the handout – <i>Healthy Carolinians Action Plan 2008 –Strengthening Families to Reduce Youth Risky Behavior</i>. Ms. McGaha said she had made updates and added information to the action plan.</p> <p>The first intervention – Develop a Family Resource Center to provide information about services, referrals, and education to Macon families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ October 2008, County Commissioners have agreed to include a Community Resource Center in the development of Macon County’s New Senior Services Facility.</li> <li>▪ December 2008, County Commissioners approved for the development of a Community Help-line; managed by Macon County Dept. of Social Services.</li> <li>▪ October 2008, Macon County is one of three counties participating in the Community Resource Connection Grant. This grant will hire a consultant to assist the counties in the development of their Community Resource</li> </ul>		

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	<p>Centers. The other two counties include Jackson and Haywood.</p> <p>The second intervention – Establish a Soup Kitchen that open 7 days per week for lunch and dinner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CARENET has increased the number of days they offer lunch from 3 to 4 days per week.</li> <li>▪ October 2008, CARENET has implemented a backpack program to provide low-income students with food for weekends. Currently, 124 are participating.</li> </ul> <p>The third intervention – Establish Emergency Housing for Homeless Families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ February 2009, Habitat for Humanity is in the process of negotiating the financing in order for the agency to purchase a parcel of land with cabins to be used for emergency housing.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. McGaha then asked the committee members to consider other projects for this committee with a timeline of one year to eighteen months. The committee members made several suggestions and Ms. McGaha asked the committee members to consider these suggestions and prioritize them.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Obtain donations and stockpile winter items for next year – (Kathy McGaha and Vanessa Bailey will compose a letter to send out.)</li> <li>2) Collecting Homeless Statistics</li> <li>3) Decorating Crew for the Emergency Housing Project – (Kathy McGaha will organize a crew to assist with this.) and (Rhonda Blanton will contact Zonta about participating with this project.)</li> <li>4) Community Gardens – (Rhonda Blanton will contact Ronnie Beale to gather more information.)</li> </ol>	<p>Kathy McGaha and Vanessa Bailey will compose a letter to obtain donations for winter items.</p> <p>Kathy McGaha will organize a crew to assist with decoration the Emergency Housing. (Volunteers are Jennifer Garrett, Rhonda Blanton and Sherry Tilson.)</p> <p>Rhonda Blanton will contact Zonta about assisting with the decoration project for the Emergency Housing.</p> <p>Rhonda Blanton will contact Ronnie Beale about the community garden project.</p> <p>Rhonda Blanton will contact Ronnie Beale about the issue of childcare in Macon County.</p>	

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	5) Childcare Issues in Macon County – (Rhonda Blanton will contact Ronnie Beale about this issue.) 6) Growing number of children in Macon County without health insurance		
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Strengthening Families Committee will be held on Thursday, April 16 <sup>th</sup> , from 12:00 N – 1:30 PM in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.		