

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

**DATE:** May 21, 2009

**PLACE:** Health and Human Services Building

**TIME:** 12:00 N – 1:30 PM

**ATTENDEES:** Vanessa Bailey, Rhonda Blanton, Kristi Case, Jennifer Garrett, Anne Hyder, Jane Kimsey, Paula Ledford, Linda Mathias, Susie McCoy, Kathy McGaha, Cindy Phipps and Sherry Tilson

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. Susie McCoy motioned for the approval of the minutes. Jennifer Garrett 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 represented.		
Letter to Merchants	<p>Kathy McGaha and Vanessa Bailey updated the committee members on the status of the Letter to Merchants. Ms. McGaha and Ms. Bailey have finalized the letter. Ms. McGaha said she has sent a copy of the finalized letter to HCMC’s Steering Committee/Board of Directors for their approval.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha asked the committee members for ideas of who should receive this letter. Ms. McGaha asked the committee members to send a list of businesses with the contact person to her.</p>	Kathy McGaha asked the committee members to send a list of businesses with a contact person to her.	After suggestions from members of HCMC’s Steering Committee/Board of Directors, the letter was put on CARENET’s stationery and signed only by Ms. Bailey. The letter did state that HCMC does support this project.
Emergency Housing	<p>Vanessa Bailey stated that Rick Westerman could not attend today’s meeting. Ms. McGaha said she had contacted him about today’s topic of Emergency Housing.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha said that the Habitat for Humanity’s Board had just met. Ms. McGaha said that Habitat’s Board had expressed concerns about Habitat for Humanity being the local lead agent for emergency housing in Macon County. Ms. McGaha said that Mr. Westerman will update the committee members more at the next meeting.</p>		

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	<p>Ms. McGaha asked the committee members to consider who else in Macon County could be the lead agent for this project. Suggestions were made of CARENET or MPP. Ms. Bailey offered to meet with Chuck Sutton of MPP to further discuss this issue.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha said that Mr. Westerman stated there still is a need for a feasibility study on the homeless situation in Macon County. Ms. McGaha passed out handouts titled – <i>A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People</i>. Ms. McGaha said if this information is gathered it can also be used towards the health assessment. Ms. McGaha volunteered to talk with local law enforcement agencies about their possible assistance with this project. Jane Kimsey suggested that all committee members read the handout before the next meeting and be ready to discuss it next time.</p> <p>Jennifer Garrett informed the committee members that there was a homeless problem in the Nantahala community. As school nurse, Ms. Garrett has become aware of students who are living in houses with no utilities, in tents, or in temporary situations in other households.</p> <p>Kristi Case next explained the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) to the committee members. Ms. Case stated that this program is to provide assistance for homelessness prevention to households who might otherwise become homeless and to provide assistance to rapidly re-house individuals who are homeless.</p> <p>Ms. Case explained that North Carolina will receive approximately \$22 million in HPRP funds, of which around \$4 million will be allocated to administration</p>	<p>Vanessa Bailey will meet with Chuck Sutton of MPP.</p> <p>Kathy McGaha will contact local law enforcement about possibly assisting with the homeless count.</p> <p>The committee members will read <i>A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People</i> before the next meeting.</p>	

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	<p>costs. Ms. Case stated that the remaining \$18 million will be allocated competitively based upon submissions in response to the RFA's (Request for Applications).</p>		
<p>Update from Childcare Committee</p>	<p>Kathy McGaha, Susie McCoy and Rhonda Blanton updated the committee members on the Childcare Issues Committee (CIC). Ms. McGaha explained that the purpose of the CIC was to determine what childcare issues exist in Macon County and list possible solutions. The members of the CIC will then provide a report to Macon County's Board of Commissioners.</p> <p>Ms. McCoy stated that there was a drastic need for more available and affordable infant care. Ms. McCoy explained that MPP is currently applying for available money for childcare (ages 0-3). Ms. McCoy said the money is available for two years and hopefully will be extended after that time. Ms. McCoy said MPP is currently considering building solutions. Ms. McCoy stated once this building situation is resolved, 40 slots will be available. Ms. McCoy said currently they have 90 names on their waiting list.</p>		
<p>Other Items for Discussion</p>	<p>Other Items for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jane Kimsey briefly updated the committee members on the status of the move to the new location for Senior Services. Ms Kimsey said the hoped moving date of July 1<sup>st</sup> will not be met. Ms. Kimsey also said the Resource Center will be located with Senior Services at the new location.</li> <li>○ Vanessa Bailey said the construction of the new storage building at CARENET is progressing.</li> <li>○ Kathy McGaha invited everyone to the Full Partnership Meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM at Tartan Hall. Ms. McGaha explained that a viewing of a 30-minute segment from the documentary series –“Unnatural Causes”. Ms. McGaha said after this viewing the audience will</li> </ul>	<p>Kathy McGaha asked the committee members to RSVP to Rhonda Blanton for the Full Partnership Meeting.</p>	

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	discuss and explore how policy and environmental circumstances are affecting the lives of Macon County residents. Ms. McGaha reminded the committee members to RSVP to Rhonda Blanton.		
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Strengthening Families Committee will be held on Thursday, August 6 <sup>th</sup> , from 12:00 N – 1:30 PM in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.		

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