

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

**DATE:** May 27, 2010

**PLACE:** Health and Human Services Building

**TIME:** 12:00 N – 1:30 PM

**ATTENDEES:** Vanessa Bailey, Rhonda Blanton, Jim Bottomley, Kristi Case, Jennifer Garrett, Jane Kimsey, Linda Mathias, Kathy McGaha and Jennifer Turner-Lynn

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. Jennifer Garrett motioned for the approval of the minutes. Kristi Case 2 <sup>nd</sup> the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Homelessness Action Planning	<p>Kathy McGaha first gave a brief review of the Homeless Count Event held this year and secondly briefly reviewed the Homeless Count Report. Ms. McGaha complimented this committee on all the work they had done this year for the homeless population in Macon County.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha next led the committee members into an action planning session. Ms. McGaha asked the committee members to consider the following two issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Define what the problem is</li><li>2. What this committee can do once the problem is defined</li></ol> <p>The committee members made the following suggestions for defining the problem:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Lack of affordable housing (specifically for the at-risk population)</li><li>2. No rental assistance</li><li>3. Lack of supportive services</li><li>4. Lack of coordination of available resources (shared data would be helpful)</li><li>5. Education</li><li>6. Mental Health</li><li>7. Bad economic conditions</li></ol>		

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	<p>The committee members next discussed what could be done in Macon County.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Offer affordable housing options</li> <li>2. Develop a Housing Choice Voucher Program</li> <li>3. Develop a Rental Assistance Program</li> <li>4. Build more affordable housing options (especially in Highlands and Nantahala)</li> </ol> <p>Ms. McGaha asked the committee members to consider everything that had been discussed at today's meeting and plan to continue working on this topic at the next meeting.</p>		
<p>Bullying Awareness Campaign</p>	<p>Jennifer Garrett and Kathy McGaha were asked by Dr. Brigman at the last SHAC Meeting if this committee could possibly assist with and help promote the new School Violence Prevention Act.</p> <p>Ms. Garrett stated that the new School Violence Prevention Act will be implemented in every school in North Carolina starting in August. Ms. Garrett explained the act would require schools to adopt strong policies against bullying and harassment; including bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.</p> <p>Jennifer Turner-Lynn informed the committee members that the Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force is currently planning a training session for all school personnel this fall. Ms. Turner-Lynn said one component of this training session would cover bullying.</p> <p>Ms. Garrett and Ms. McGaha suggested that this committee support Ms. Turner-Lynn in this training presentation, but also look at ways to promote information on bullying to the general public and parents with children in the school system. Ms. Garrett asked the</p>	<p>Jennifer Turner-Lynn and Kathy McGaha will draft a Bullying PSA to be approved by Dr. Brigman.</p>	

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<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>FOLLOW-UP</b>
	committee members to further consider this topic and discuss it more at the next meeting.		
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Strengthening Families Committee will be held on Thursday, July 29 <sup>th</sup> from 12:00 N – 1:30 PM in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.		