

MINUTES: Healthy Carolinians of Macon County – Strengthening Families Committee

DATE: July 23, 2008

PLACE: Health and Human Services Building

TIME: 12:00 N – 1:30 PM

ATTENDEES: Rebecca Barboff, Rhonda Blanton, Jennifer Garrett, Jane Kimsey, Kathy McGaha, Sheila Price and Vince West

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
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. Jennifer Garrett motioned for the approval of the minutes. Jane Kimsey 2 nd the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Introductions	Kathy McGaha asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell what organization they represented.		
Committee Chair	<p>Kathy McGaha announced that Vanessa Bailey had agreed to be the Chair of this committee. Sheila Price motioned for the approval of Vanessa Bailey to be the Chair of the Strengthening Families Committee. Jennifer Garrett 2nd the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha stated that Ms. Bailey has requested that the meeting date be changed to Thursdays. After a group discussion, it was suggested that Rhonda Blanton send an email to all committee members asking if the first Thursday or the fourth Thursday would be a better meeting date. Once Ms. Blanton had received answers to this email, the next meeting date will be set.</p>	Rhonda Blanton will send out an email to the committee members asking if the first Thursday or the fourth Thursday would be a better meeting date.	After compiling the responses to the emails, the first Thursday was the final choice for the better meeting date.
Family Resource Center	<p>Kathy McGaha briefly reviewed the Action Plan printed on the bottom of the agenda. The first intervention is to develop a Family Resource Center to provide information about services, referrals, and education to Macon County families.</p> <p>Jane Kimsey informed the committee members about the 211 system that is set up in several counties like Buncombe. Ms. Kimsey briefly explained how this system works and how it is funded in the other counties.</p>		

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	<p>Ms. Kimsey stated that a grant has been applied for that that could be used to cover a 211 system or its equivalent in Macon, Jackson and Haywood counties. Ms. Kimsey said she has met with Verizon to determine the expenses for set-up and maintenance of a phone system to handle this. Ms. Kimsey said she will next meet with EMS.</p> <p>All members present of the Strengthening Families Committee stated their support of this project.</p>		
Soup Cafe´ Update	<p>Kathy McGaha said she had talked with Vanessa Bailey and gathered the latest information on the Soup Cafe´ and CARENET. The number of clients using CARENET have increased 150% over the first six months of this year. Ms. Bailey is still stressing the need for more volunteers and now more food donations with the increase in clients. Ms. McGaha stated that CARENET will soon begin offering lunch on Tuesdays.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha said Ms. Bailey is also still interested in doing the Backpack Program in schools this year. Ms. McGaha asked the committee members for their ideas and suggestions on this program. Jennifer Garrett said she is most concerned with who stuffs the backpacks and hands them out. Ms. Garrett said she would prefer that school personnel be the stuffer of the backpack to prevent confidential information being known. Ms. McGaha asked Jennifer Garrett to contact Ms. Bailey with her concerns.</p>	Jennifer Garrett will contact Vanessa Bailey with her concerns about the Backpack Program in schools.	
Do you still want to hear from Macon Transit?	Kathy McGaha asked the committee members if they still wanted to hear a report from Macon Transit? After a group discussion, the committee members agreed they did not need a presentation from Macon Transit currently. The committee members decided to keep this as option for a future meeting.		
Other Items of Discussion	Kathy McGaha asked if there were any other items of discussion.		

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vince West asked about the possibility of a local YMCA. Ms. McGaha said that Jeff King has checked into the requirements for a YMCA. Ms. Blanton will bring the information that Jeff King has gathered to the next meeting for the committee members to review and discuss. 2. Jennifer Garrett asked the committee members to remember that the dates for “Fill the Bus” will be August 1st – August 3rd. Ms. Garrett said school buses will be at both the Wal-Mart and Kmart Shopping Centers. Items needed are school supplies, craft supplies and classroom items. 	<p>Rhonda Blanton will bring the YMCA information collected by Jeff King to the next meeting.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The date of the next meeting for the Strengthening Families Committee will be set at a later date.</p>		<p>The next meeting for the Strengthening Families Committee will be held on Thursday, September 4th, from 12:00 N – 1:30 PM at the Health and Human Services Building in Meeting Rooms A/B.</p>