

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

**DATE:** August 6, 2009

**PLACE:** Health and Human Services Building

**TIME:** 12:00 N – 1:30 PM

**ATTENDEES:** Rhonda Blanton, Jim Bottomley, Annie Breedlove, Kristi Case, Robert Holland, Jennifer Garrett, Jane Kimsey, Linda Mathias, Susie McCoy, Kathy McGaha, Derek Roland, Andy Shields, Sherry Tilson, Jennifer Turner-Lynn and Mary Tyson

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 stated that due to the content of today’s meeting the minutes will be approved at the next meeting.		
Introductions	Ms. McGaha asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell what organization they represented.		
HUD Funds	<p>Kathy McGaha updated the committee members on the HUD Funds. Ms. McGaha said that both MPP and CARENET decided not to apply for these funds, but that The Children’s Home did apply. Ms. McGaha said the awarding of the funds will be announced in September.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha (reporting for Rebecca Barboff) said these funds would help establish a youth homeless program for Macon and surrounding counties. Ms. McGaha said this program would help youth who are aging out of the system. Ms. McGaha also said this program could also help runaways in our area.</p>		
Counting the Homeless	<p>Kathy McGaha asked the committee members if they had done their homework assignment of reading the handout from the last meeting titled – <i>A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People</i>, before leading them into a discussion on counting homeless people in Macon County.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha stated that the next Point-in-Time Count should be conducted within the last seven days of January 2010. Ms. McGaha explained that there are several ways to count the homeless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Sheltered Count – Contact agencies that deal with homeless people and obtain their numbers. This</li></ul>		

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	<p>would include emergency shelters and transitional housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Unsheltered Count – These numbers would include “street people” and others who are at locations like soup kitchens, food banks, or emergency rooms.</li> <li>❖ Combination Count – These numbers would reflect both sheltered and unsheltered counts.</li> </ul> <p>The committee members discussed the best way to obtain these numbers in our county. The committee members were in agreement that offering a meal in a location like CARENET would provide the best location and opportunity to conduct this count. Locations in Highlands and Nantahala would also have to be considered.</p> <p>The committee members agreed that one of the biggest issues to get homeless people to the suggested location was transportation. Jane Kimsey will contact Kim Angel about use of the Transit buses for this purpose. Ms. Kimsey will also ask Ms. Angel to the next meeting.</p> <p>The committee members also considered if the 2010 U.S. Census could be filled by the homeless during this count. Derek Roland will check with the Andrea Robel if the census forms could be obtained early enough to do this. Rhonda Blanton will get a copy of the 2010 U.S. Census form for Ms. McGaha</p>	<p>Jane Kimsey will contact Kim Angel about use of the Transit buses and invite her to this committee’s next meeting.</p> <p>Derek Roland will contact Andrea Robel about obtaining census forms to use during this count.</p> <p>Rhonda Blanton will give Kathy McGaha a copy of the 2010 U.S. Census form.</p>	
Community Resource Information	<p>Jane Kimsey informed the committee members about the Community Resource Center. Ms. Kimsey said the Macon County Helpline will be transitioning to the new Senior Services Center. Janet Norman will be heading this center.</p> <p>Ms. Kimsey said that information is currently being</p>		

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	gathered to use at the resource center. Ms. Kimsey asked the committee members to take a packet from Ms. Blanton and fill out the agency information, including services provided and information that needs to be brought in with the person.		
Other Items for Discussion	<p>Other Items for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jennifer Garrett announced that you can now access information from the School Nurses websites. Ms. Garrett said to go to the website you click on the Macon County webpage and look for the Health Services heading. Under that heading, you next look for Macon County School Nurse Program. Ms. Garrett explained there are sections for Nurses, Teachers and Parents. Ms. Garrett asked the committee members to review the site and provide her with comments and suggestions.</li> <li>○ Kristi Case reminded the committee members of the upcoming Caring for Every Child Event to be held this Friday at Kmart.</li> </ul>	Jennifer Garrett asked the committee members to review the new School Nurses website and bring comments and suggestions to the next meeting.	
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Strengthening Families Committee will be held on Thursday, October 15 <sup>th</sup> , from 12:00 N – 1:30 PM in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.		