

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

**DATE:** November 18, 2010

**PLACE:** CARENET

**TIME:** 2:00 -3:30 PM

**ATTENDEES:** Vanessa Bailey, Rebecca Barboff, Rhonda Blanton, Jennifer Garrett, Jane Kimsey and Kathy McGaha

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>FOLLOW-UP</b>
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 from the last two meetings. Jane Kimsey motioned for the approval of both sets. Jennifer Garrett 2 <sup>nd</sup> the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Homelessness Action Planning	<p>Kathy McGaha asked the committee members to continue with the Homelessness Action Planning. Ms. McGaha reminded the committee members that they had been asked to consider the following two issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Define what the problem is</li><li>2. What the committee can do once the problem is defined</li></ol> <p>Ms. McGaha also reviewed the suggestions that had been made a previous meeting.</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 stated several committee members have got more involved and have been attending the Southwestern Continuum of Care meetings. Ms. McGaha said since this group also works on homeless issues, this is a good fit for both committees.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha explained that Macon Program for Progress is currently considering applying for a grant to assist with housing/re-housing or rental opportunities. Ms. McGaha stated that both Kristi Case and she have offered to assist in writing the grant.</p>		

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Point in Time Homeless Count	<p>Kathy McGaha announced that the next Point in Time Homeless Count is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Ms. McGaha gave a brief review of last year’s event.</p> <p>The committee members first agreed to change to a lunchtime event instead of an evening meal. Everyone agreed that with darkness being so early and a chance of bad weather, it would be better to do everything during the daytime hours.</p> <p>After a group discussion, the committee members chose a time frame from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. A meal with desserts will be served. Rhonda Blanton will check with Domino’s about donating breadsticks again.</p> <p>The committee members next discussed whether to have agency representatives available again. The committee members agreed not to have agency representatives, but will have their brochures available. The committee members will further discuss what organizations to obtain brochures from.</p> <p>Ms. Bailey stated that after last year’s experience with the coat drive, she would like to request only a few specific items. The committee members agreed upon new blankets, food and money.</p> <p>Ms. Garrett and Ms. McGaha volunteered to create the flyer for the event. Once the flyer is ready, the committee members will need to help in getting it out to all appropriate places and organizations.</p>	<p>Rhonda Blanton will check with Domino’s about donating breadsticks again this year.</p> <p>Jennifer Garrett and Kathy McGaha will create a flyer for the Point in Time event.</p>	
Other Items for Discussion	<p>Other Items for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jennifer Garrett said she is concerned about the number of students that don’t have a permanent home. Ms. Garrett said the problem of “couch</li> </ul>		

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	surfers” is increasing, especially among the high school age students. Ms. Garrett said some student’s home environments are so bad; they either leave or are asked to leave. Ms. Garrett wanted to make the committee members more aware of this problem.		
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Strengthening Families Committee will be held on Wednesday, December 15 <sup>th</sup> , from 12:00 N – 1:30 PM at the Macon Program for Progress Training Annex.		

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