

MINUTES: Healthy Carolinians of Macon County – Steering Committee

DATE: December 9, 2009

PLACE: Health and Human Services Building

TIME: 10:00 AM – 12:00 N

ATTENDEES: Rhonda Blanton, Teresa Breedlove, Lisa Hilliard, Anne Hyder, Teresa Mallonee, Kathy McGaha, Barry Patterson, Yvonne Smith, Roberta Swank, Jim Thurmond and Martin Wadewitz

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	Marty Wadewitz welcomed everyone to today’s meeting of the Steering Committee. Mr. Wadewitz asked the committee members to review the minutes from the last three meetings. Jim Thurmond motioned for the approval of the minutes. Roberta Swank 2 nd the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Unnatural Causes	<p>Marty Wadewitz next asked Kathy McGaha to update the committee members on Unnatural Causes. Ms. McGaha briefly reviewed the past meetings with Rachel Rosner and the development of two priority areas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Participation in Comprehensive Planning Processes, including Health2. Social Isolation <p>Ms. McGaha said the priority of participation in the Comprehensive Planning Process was to include possible representation of a member of the health community on the Planning Board and increase health awareness in this process. Ms. McGaha said a sub-committee covering Health/Seniors/Childcare had been formed to discuss and develop recommendations to present to the Planning Board.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha said for the objectives for the priority of Social Isolation are first to recruit a decision maker from the education system. Roberta Swank volunteered to talk with Dr. Brigman about participating as an HCMC Board Member. The second objective is to organize two focus groups to better understand social barriers and interests for engaging social participation.</p>		

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	<p>Ms. McGaha also updated the committee members on the Regional Project involving Unnatural Causes. Ms. McGaha first said the grant had been extended to January. Ms. McGaha stated that of the six counties participating, three (Macon, Polk and McDowell) were going strong. Buncombe County has showed the DVD series in multiple places, but had not developed an action plan. Henderson County is currently without a director and the directors of Mitchell County were involved in a serious car accident.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha said also that Rhonda Blanton, Melissa Leatherman and herself had recently attended an Advocacy Training session on December 7th in Asheville. Ms. McGaha said this session was an all day event covering many aspects of advocacy.</p>		
Committee Updates	<p>Marty Wadewitz asked for an update on the following committees:</p> <p><u>Access to Care Committee</u> – Lisa Hilliard, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. McGaha said this committee is excited about an opportunity for a free clinic in the Franklin area. Ms. McGaha said that the Community Care Clinic in Highlands had applied for a Community Health Center grant for this opportunity. Ms. McGaha said the awardees of the grant will be announced on December 21st. <p><u>Chronic Disease Committee</u> – Teresa Breedlove, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. McGaha gave an update on the Regional Obesity Project. Ms. McGaha said that three regional strategies had been agreed upon: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A regional database of obesity efforts 2. A consistent measurement of BMI's throughout the region 3. A weight management referral resource 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. McGaha said this first objective has been worked on. MAHEC has developed a wiki in which will contain local information of activities and events in the western counties. Ms. McGaha said Jennifer Stuart with MAHEC will be here on January 14th to show the Chronic Disease Committee how to obtain passwords and add information to the wiki. <p><u>Community Needs Assessment</u> – Anne Hyder, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Hyder reported that this committee has been reactivated and has had two meetings. Ms. Hyder said the next meeting is scheduled for January 28th. Ms. Hyder said during the next meeting the membership of this committee will be discussed and determined. • Ms. Hyder also reported that the SOTCH Report has just been turned in and this committee will also review and discuss this at the next meeting. <p><u>Elder Care and Caregivers Committee</u> – Sheila Southard, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. McGaha was happy to report that the Grand Opening for the new Senior Services Center is scheduled for December 18th. • Ms. McGaha said this committee is currently considering Senior Friendly Communities and if this can be done in our county. Ms. McGaha said this committee will continue reviewing and discussing this at their next meeting. <p><u>Environmental Quality Task Force</u> – Barry Patterson, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barry Patterson stated that the task force’s last project was informing the general public about septic systems and proper maintenance of them. Mr. Patterson said this information is posted on the county’s website, placed in their lobby and given out with all new permits. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Patterson said that one objective involving septic systems has not been met yet. He stated that this objective involved notifying owners of older systems about proper system maintenance has not been completed yet, due to technical problems. Mr. Patterson said hopefully this will be resolved soon and these letters can be sent out. • Mr. Patterson said the members of this committee have been discussing possible topics to undertake as their next project. Mr. Patterson said that the committee is leaning toward the topic of water issues. <p><u>Mental Health Committee</u> – Jim Bruckner, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. McGaha said this committee has no current focused activity but has been hearing and discussing updates on current happenings in the mental health field. <p><u>Strengthening Families Committee</u> – Vanessa Bailey, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. McGaha said this committee is currently working on “Warmth in Winter”. This event will be held on January 27th from 4:00 to 8:00 PM at CARENET. This event will provide food and basic essentials to the needy and homeless in our county. Ms. McGaha said a count of the homeless will also be done during this event. • Ms. McGaha reminded the committee members that the Resource Center is open and located in the new Senior Services building. Ms. McGaha asked anyone that hasn’t filled out an information sheet for their organization, to please do so. • Ms. McGaha also informed the committee members that the Childcare Issues Committee will present a report to the Macon County Board of Commissioners on Monday, January 25th. 		

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	<p>Substance Abuse Task Force – Robby Holland, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. McGaha said this task force is starting to work on prescription drug abuse prevention as their next topic. Ms. McGaha said a trip is planned to Wilkes County to review their program. She stated it has been very successful in Wilkes County, which has a prescription drug abuse problem.• Ms. McGaha said this group has not been very active lately, but is hopeful with this upcoming trip that interest and activity in this group will increase.		
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 10 th , from 10:00 AM – 12:00 N in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.		