

MINUTES: Healthy Carolinians of Macon County – Mental Health Committee

DATE: September 19, 2008

PLACE: Health and Human Services Building

TIME: 9:00 – 11:00 AM

ATTENDEES: Kim Angel, Ronnie Beale, Rhonda Blanton, Jim Bruckner, Rhonda Cox, Julie Durham-Defee, Robert Holland, Tammy Keezer, Jane Kimsey, Paula Ledford, Kathy McGaha, Mike Neidig, Martin Wadewitz, Brain Welch and Mary Ann Widenhouse

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Welcome and Introductions	Kathy McGaha welcomed everyone to today's meeting of the Mental Health Committee. Ms. McGaha asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell what organization they represented.		
Purpose of Mental Health Committee	<p>Kathy McGaha explained the purpose of the Mental Health Committee. Ms. McGaha said this committee would continue the planning efforts made by the Mental Health Task Force and begin implementation of the County Mental Health Plan.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha reviewed the recommendations that were made by the Mental Health Task Force. Ms. McGaha said for three of the recommendations the primary responsibility would fall with Smoky Mountain. Ms. McGaha said this committee would provide support to Smoky Mountain. Ms. McGaha said the other three recommendations would be further discussed during this meeting.</p>		
Appoint Chair of MH Committee	Kathy McGaha stated that the committee members will need to discuss and nominate someone to be the Chair of the Mental Health Committee. Robby Holland nominated Jim Bruckner for the Chair position. Ronnie Beale 2 nd the motion, with all committee members in agreement. Ms. McGaha asked Mr. Bruckner if he would accept the Chair position and he agreed.		
Transportation Plan	<p>Brian Welch passed out a handout for the committee members to review. This handout was a draft of a possible transportation plan for the county. Mr. Welch reviewed and explained the handout and its provisions.</p> <p>Rhonda Cox said due to state directed changes, including</p>		

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	<p>a Mobile Crisis Unit, the Drop-In Center and the Hospital Based Clinician (24/7/365 Assessment) are now on hold. These factors would influence our proposed Transportation Plan.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha suggested that this committee then consider what aspects of the proposed Transportation Plan that could be developed and worked on. The following suggestions were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify what personnel or volunteers could be used ▪ Training sessions for personnel/volunteers, time frame of these sessions and who can conduct the training sessions ▪ What pieces of this plan could currently be handled at Angel Medical Center 		
<p>School Based Mental Health Services RFP</p>	<p>Kathy McGaha and Paula Ledford reported on the School Based Mental Health Services RFP. Ms. McGaha passed out copies of the cover letter and the final draft of the RFP with a timeline. The RFP will be going through the Health Department.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha said the RFP will be issued on September 25th. Ms. McGaha said an Informational Meeting will be held on October 2nd at 5:00 PM at the Macon County Schools Administrative Offices on the Old Murphy Road.</p>		
<p>Information/Referral Line</p>	<p>Jane Kimsey updated the committee members on a local information/referral line. Ms. Kimsey stated that Senior Services had applied for and received a grant for a Community Resource Center. This grant covers Haywood, Macon and Jackson counties.</p> <p>One requirement of the grant is for a 1-800 line. Ms. Kimsey said Haywood County currently has a 211 line. Ms. Kimsey said one consideration was to expand this</p>		

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	<p>211 line into Macon County to meet this requirement. Ms. Kimsey said with the possible move of Senior Services to the old library location, the Community Resource Center could be located there. This would provide an excellent central location in town for this service.</p>		
Report from SMC	<p>Rhonda Cox and Tammy Keezer next updated the committee members on the current status of several things happening with Smoky Mountain Center. Also introduced was Julie Durham-Defee, who replaced Judy Kuehn.</p> <p>Rhonda Cox further discussed the situations with the Drop-In Centers and the AMC based clinician. Ms. Cox said a provider is not readily available for the Mobile Crisis Plan. Ms. Cox said that the local LME cannot be a crisis provider.</p> <p>Ronnie Beale informed the committee members that Tom McDevitt would step down as CEO from Smoky Mountain Center on December 31st. Ms. Cox said several other positions will also be vacant due to retirement and other job opportunities. Ms. Keezer announced that she has accepted a position with Macon County and this would be her last meeting.</p>		
Other Items for Discussion	<p>Other items for discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Ann Widenhouse informed the committee members that the Macon County Board of Commissioners had passed a proclamation for the week of October 5th through October 11th as Mental Health Awareness Week in Macon County. • Mary Ann Widenhouse also invited the committee members to a special screening of the movie “CANVAS”. This screening will be held 		

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	<p>on Saturday, October 11th, from 1:30 – 4:00 PM at the Macon County Public Library.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rhonda Blanton asked Ronnie Beale to update the committee members on a recent Board of Commissioners meeting in Cherokee County that Jane Kimsey and he attended. Mr. Beale said they had been invited to speak on the forming of our Mental Health Task Force and the recommendations they had made.		
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Mental Health Committee will be held on Friday, October 17 th , from 9:00 – 10:30 AM in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.		