

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

**DATE:** February 13, 2008

**PLACE:** Macon County Public Library

**TIME:** 12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM

**ATTENDEES:** Danny Antoine, Rhonda Blanton, Pat Bonard, Jim Bottomley, Teresa Breedlove, Jim Bruckner, Sandra Conaty, Bill Dyar, Rita Esterwood, Margaret Freeman, Jennifer Garrett, Marci Holland, Robert Holland, Anne Hyder, Jane Kimsey, Paula Ledford, Kathy McGaha, Justin Moffitt, Mozart Moliere, Sherrie Peeler, Cindy Phipps, Sheila Price, Brian Terrell, Sarah Thach, Mary Tippet, Jennifer Turner-Lynn, Carlos Vargas and Vince West

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>FOLLOW-UP</b>
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	Anne Hyder welcomed everyone to today’s meeting of the Strengthening Families Committee. Ms. Hyder asked the committee members to review the minutes of the last meeting. Jim Bruckner motioned for the approval of the minutes. Jennifer Garrett 2 <sup>nd</sup> the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Lunch	Lunch was provided by Healthy Carolinians of Macon County.		
Introductions	Anne Hyder asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell what organization they represented.		
Brief Summary of Past Meetings	Kathy McGaha gave a brief review of why this committee was created and summarized the past two meetings. Ms. McGaha stated that the ultimate goal is to strengthen families by reducing youth risky behavior. Ms. McGaha recounted that this was one priority from the Community Health Assessment.		
Review Problem and Vision	Kathy McGaha and Sarah Thach reviewed the definition of the problem and the vision that were discussed in earlier meetings.		
Review List of Interventions from last meeting	Kathy McGaha and Sarah Thach reviewed the list on interventions from the last meeting. Ms. McGaha and Ms. Thach categorized the list with subdivisions and presented this to the committee members for review and discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Access to Care<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Mental Health Services</li><li>○ Comprehensive Community Health Ctr.</li><li>○ School-linked Health Center</li><li>○ Free Health Clinics</li></ul></li><li>❖ Spread Information regarding Resources</li></ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Publication of Local Resources</li> <li>○ Recreation Center</li> <li>○ Local Family Resource Center</li> <li>○ Helpline</li> <li>❖ Education               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Character Education Programs</li> <li>○ Teach Parents how to Set Expectations of Children’s Behavior</li> <li>○ Parenting Programs at Workplaces</li> <li>○ Classes for Adults to bridge “Generation Gap”</li> <li>○ Mentoring Programs</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Daycare               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Business Incentives for Child Care</li> <li>○ Community daycare program</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Create Positive Atmosphere               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Local Festival/Health Fair</li> <li>○ Inspirational News Stories</li> <li>○ Delete “Rants &amp; Raves” from Newspaper</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Other               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expansion of Local Transportation System</li> <li>○ More School Personnel (ex: SRO’s and School Nurses)</li> <li>○ Develop a Local Foundation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Ms. Thach asked the committee members to review this list and make additions or changes to it. Jim Bottomley suggested adding Post-jail Employment Opportunities (Educating Businesses). Ms. Thach added it to the Other category.</p>		
Discussion of Selection Criteria	<p>Sarah Thach next led a group discussion on the selection criteria. Ms. Thach asked the committee members to decide what these criteria would be. The committee members came up with the following suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Feasibility (Ability to Fund)</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Non-duplication/facilitation and collaboration</li> <li>➤ “You” personally committed to working on the project or committee</li> <li>➤ Combination of short and long term projects</li> <li>➤ Combination of individuals, social networks, institutions, community-wide and policy changes</li> </ul>		
<p>Identification of Priority Interventions</p>	<p>Sarah Thach and Kathy McGaha next asked the committee members to consider the selection criteria while they voted on the priority interventions. Ms. Thach gave each committee member four dots and asked them to place the dots by which intervention they wanted most to consider and work on.</p> <p>Ms. Thach totaled the interventions. The following finished with the most votes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 15 votes – Local Family Resource Center</li> <li>2. 10 votes – Emergency Housing</li> <li>3. 7 votes – Mentoring Programs</li> <li>4. 6 votes – Teaching Parents how to set expectations of kids behavior</li> <li>5. 6 votes – Character Education outside of School</li> <li>6. 6 votes – School-linked Health Center</li> </ol> <p>Ms. Thach asked the committee members to review these six items and decide how many of these items as a group could be undertaken.</p> <p>After a group discussion, the committee members wanted more information on the School-linked Health Center and Expansion of Local Transportation System, Mini presentations of each topic will be presented at the next meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Thach next divided the committee members into two groups to discuss the Family Resource Center and</p>		

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	<p>Emergency Housing. Ms. Thach asked each group to consider their topic using the selection criteria discussed earlier. After a short discussion period, each group was asked to make a brief presentation on their topic.</p> <p>Some highlights from each group discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Emergency Housing               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Funding for temporary housing</li> <li>b. Partnering with organizations like CARENET</li> <li>c. Food vouchers for meals on nights and weekends</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Family Resource Center               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Considered funding sources</li> <li>b. Central location for center</li> <li>c. Partnering with organizations like the Health Department</li> <li>d. Staffing issues</li> <li>e. Provide free child care</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		
Next Meeting	The next meeting of the Strengthening Families Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 12 <sup>th</sup> , from 12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM at the Macon County Public Library.		