

Sampson County Meth Task Force
Meeting January 23, 2007
Minutes

The Sampson County Meth Task Force met on January 23, 2007 at Sampson Community College in the Warren Student Center Board Room.

Chair, J.W. Simmons, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. The meeting was opened with prayer by Cory Oliver.

Present: J.W. Simmons; Sarah Bradshaw; Amber Cava; Cory Oliver; Deleon Wilkes; Terry Miller; Gregory Jackson; Dennis Newton; Oscar Rodriguez; Wanda Robinson; Jorge Altamirano; Gary Connelly; Lillian Wells; Regina McNeill; Ray Honrine; Jennifer Slade; Daphne Green; Brenda Fisher; Becky Jackson; Stewart Hobbs; Jeff Shipp; and Janet Rosenberger.

The minutes from the November 30, 2006 meeting were unanimously approved by the Task Force with a motion from Cory Oliver and seconded by Stewart Hobbs.

OLD BUSINESS

Deleon Wilkes informed the group that S.A.S.S.Y (Substance Abuse Screening Saves Youth) is off to an acceptable start and has been very well received. There was an article in the Sampson Independent recently about the program. This is the service offered for parents to go to school counselors and request kits to drug test their children at home confidentially if they suspect them of drug use. Counselors have been trained to educate the parents on how to administer the tests. The card that they give with the kits has contact information for assistance if a child tests positive. Becky Jackson interjected that the teachers are pleased with the informational material and there have been positive comments.

Stewart Hobbs stated that they appreciate the program and, he feels that if it makes a difference in only one child's life, it's worth the expense. He added that Deleon and Becky have presented the program at PTO meetings. So far there have been no negative calls about it. They feel that S.A.S.S.Y. will prevent children from using drugs and give them an out whenever peers approach them to use drugs because they would be in fear of their parents finding out. Presently they are discussing with the School Board the possibility of random drug testing in the schools.

Brenda Fisher stated that there is website with information for a Parents Resource Center. Their website is www.ncparentnetwork.org.

J.W. stated that they have sent out literature with students and there is training for teachers about recognition of drug use. He also reminded the group that there are flyers available for anyone who wants to distribute them where they feel would be beneficial.

Sarah Bradshaw discussed the subcommittees: Schools, Business & Industry, Faith Based, and Event & Community Relations. The first 3 subcommittees would need to meet or conference call every other month and report at the full meeting which would meet on the opposite months. The 4th subcommittee would come together when any of the other 3 subcommittees need something coordinated and planned or anytime there is a need to plan a Meth event. One course of action for the Task Force is to do an on-going annual presentation to the Board of Commissioners about work that's being done by them.

Website Update: J.W. stated that there have been a number of testimonials added to the website recently. Sarah Bradshaw introduced Regina McNeill, the Computer System Administrator at DSS. She will be trained on how to manage the website for us and keep it updated. We've asked her to take on this responsibility since no one else has kept it current.

NEW BUSINESS

J.W. informed the group that Dr. Mary Holley, Founder and Director of *Mothers Against Meth-Amphetamine (MAMA)*, who travels and does presentations on the subject, would be available April 18-May 1, 2007. We'd like to ask her come to Sampson County for our next big event. We've been told that there are funds available for teacher and student training. Becky Jackson stated that each school gets funds to use for drug awareness training. J.W. continued that it would take \$1,500 to get Dr. Holley here. Greg Jackson added that he'd seen Dr. Holley's cd and was very impressed with her work. This would be a follow-up of what schools are doing. Lillian Wells with Eastpointe also mentioned that they have funds available to use for this type of training. Sarah Bradshaw interjected that the subcommittees need to work together and give feedback about doing an event. Stewart Hobbs made a motion to support the subcommittee's efforts for this event. Brenda Fisher seconded the motion with unanimous support from the group.

J.W. spoke about an incident that occurred on Sunday, January 14th. An area minister called for advice on how to immediately assist a parishioner seeking help with drug addiction. J.W. advised him to take him to SRMC's ER. He was tested and told to obtain assistance after the holiday on Monday since most facilities would be closed that day.

This prompted a discussion on how the Task Force should be trained to respond to this type of request for assistance for anyone with a drug problem.

Greg Jackson suggested we do a flowchart of the Meth Task Force members and resources with contact numbers on where and who to call when needed. Jeff Shipp stated that it would be good if it was credit card size to be carried with them.

The following people volunteered to work on a response protocol list: Greg Jackson, Jeff Shipp, Dennis Newton, Lillian Wells, Brenda Fisher and Gary Connolly.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.