

Sampson County Meth Taskforce
Meeting February 26, 2008
Minutes

The Sampson County Meth Taskforce met on February 26, 2008 at Sampson Community College in the Warren Student Center Board Room.

Chair, J.W. Simmons, called the meeting to order at 10:30 am and did the invocation.

Present: J.W. Simmons; Sarah Bradshaw; Pat Green; Margaret Vincent; Renee' White; Lillian Wells; Joyce Gaskin; Jonathan Jernigan; Nestor Rivera; Oscar Rodriguez; Jeff Shipp; Daphne Green; Bud Gilmore; Becky Jackson; and Janet Rosenberger.

The minutes for the December 5, 2007 meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Sarah Bradshaw summarized the subcommittee discussion for the Taskforce regarding bi-monthly meetings and meeting at outreach locations in order to reach the general public. Those meetings could be advertised. She informed the Taskforce that Margaret Vincent has volunteered to put a template together for the resources for the information cards. She will bring a design to the table to be reviewed for input from the group.

Becky Jackson stated that there is a pot of funds that could be used for financial assistance for some of the Taskforce projects, like bringing Dr. Holley to other area schools. We need to get information to the principals as well as guidance counselors. The principals meet two times a month and the Meth Taskforce could be put on the agenda for a meeting. She also added that Dr. Holley's videos are already being used in the school system.

NEW BUSINESS

Sarah informed the Taskforce that a committee is working on starting a Boys and Girls Club in the area. Taskforce support is needed for this undertaking. JW stated that a Boys and Girls Club would have a positive impact on the environment. This would keep kids active and off the streets. Pat Green made a motion that the Taskforce support the endeavor. Sarah Bradshaw seconded the motion. Motion carried with unanimous support by the Taskforce. Joyce Gaskins stated that there is already an existing Girls Club at 106 Melody Drive run by Fanny Draughon (592-5692). She would be a good contact for the committee to work with.

JW stated that they will be planning a date and time for bi-monthly meetings and will send emails with updates when needed. The outreach meetings can be advertised in the Sampson Independent as well as radio spots announcing the date and location to help draw the public. Joyce Gaskins added that Tri-County has done presentations at Head Start in Clinton, Roseboro and Garland.

JW mentioned that there had been an increase in Meth labs statewide. There is a need to find financial resources to support our functions to generate more awareness about Meth. Star Telephone has assisted in sponsoring our literature. We need a strategic approach for getting information out. Jeff Shipp with Star stated that we should work to make the Meth Taskforce an entity in order to have funding provided for their endeavors. Pat Green stated that she has information on how to develop an entity to make the Taskforce a charitable organization. JW added that any fundraising would be monitored as well as spending those funds. Pat added that we would need by-laws and our mission statement in order to proceed. She is willing to work with a committee to pull this together. JW called for support to explore this task. Nestor Rivera mad a motion for support. Jeff Shipp seconded the motion with unanimous support the Taskforce.

Jeff Shipp asked where the schools are as far as random drug testing of students goes. Becky Jackson stated that they do have random testing on bus drivers but no others are tested across the board.

Lillian Wells stated that a crisis center for emergency bed placement is much needed. If beds are full at SRMC, people needing help need somewhere else to go. JW added that if they don't have a process in place for addicts to turn to, and unless they break the law and are incarcerated, there is no support. Daphne Green stated that Child Protective Services has to have parents wait for availability of beds for substance abuse assistance. There are just not enough counselors. Nestor Rivera stated that they have 10 beds for a 30-day program for males only and the waiting list is extensive.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 with a motion from Becky Jackson, seconded by Jeff Shipp.