

Sampson County Meth Taskforce
Meeting July 22, 2008
Minutes

The Sampson County Meth Taskforce met on July 22, 2008 at Sampson Community College in the Warren Student Center Board Room.

Chair, J.W. Simmons, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and did the invocation.

Present: J.W. Simmons; Sarah Bradshaw; Lillian Wells; Jeff Shipp; Becky Jackson; Amber Cava; Brenda Fisher; David Chestnutt; Joni Fetterman; Gregory Jackson; Ronald Bass; Ron Lessard; Ted Brown; Jennifer Slade; and Janet Rosenberger.

The minutes for the February 26, 2008 meeting were approved with a motion from Jeff Shipp and seconded by Sarah Bradshaw.

OLD BUSINESS

Tax Exempt Status: JW informed the Taskforce that a small group is working together to get the Taskforce established as tax exempt. Frank Bradshaw, Attorney at Law, has volunteered to assist us with this process. They're also working to locate a CPA who could assist. This will allow us to raise funds for any events the Taskforce wants to pursue, as well as do more aggressive advertising. Star Telephone has assisted us in the past with printing the flyers we have in both English and Spanish. JW thanked Jeff Shipp for their continued support since they have also offered to provide up to \$500 if needed toward becoming tax exempt.

Marketing Prevention and Intervention Programs: We have been discussing moving our meetings around the county to various locations to reach the rural areas. Sarah Bradshaw stated that we could possibly have the next meeting in the Plainview area to start. She spoke to Jimmy Thornton about speaking at one of these meetings and he's agreed to that. We could also contact Dan Heinz and ask him to speak. For a future meeting, we could also use the Westbrook Center in Newton Grove.

JW mentioned that when the dates are decided, we can notify Sampson Independent to advertise in order to attract public attendance. It was stated by Ronnie Bass and Gregory Jackson that the Plainview Fire Department and the Clement Civic Center would be good locations to hold meetings as well. Sarah made a motion that the Events and Community Relations Subcommittee get together to plan the next Meth Taskforce meeting. Gregory Jackson seconded the motion with total support by the Taskforce. A tentative date of August 5th for them to meet was suggested. They would like to have a Faith Based and School rep attend. Sarah stated that they can hold the meeting at the new Human Services Building and possibly hold some future Meth Taskforce meetings there as well.

NEW BUSINESS

JW stated that the Taskforce has been hosting events annually. He met with Dr. Holley in Southern Pines recently and she brought him up to speed on some national activities. He feels that we need to continue to have informative events and not depend solely on handouts getting information out there. Rev. Slade inquired as to whether anything has been geared toward the addict since most recent events have been educational. JW responded that there could possibly be something done in collaboration with Eastpointe. David Chestnutt stated that we need to look at the family aspect and do something of that nature. When he's working with Open Door Ministries, most families are clueless to the addictions their loved ones have.

Brenda Fisher advised them that the medical and psychology fields have come together and now understand that the addiction is a disease. She'd be willing to teach about the disease side. Rev.

Slade suggested having a format with a morning keynote speaker, lunch and then several workshops. JW added that we could focus on the impact of addiction on families and have a question and answer model. After sharing some personal experiences, Ron Lessard stated he would like to hear more about the family survival and aftereffects of addiction. David Chestnutt stated that it would have a better impact if local people who have struggled with these types of issues with their own or family member's addictions could speak to the public. He knows some people who would be willing to come and share their story. He also thinks that the ones who have recovered would give people hope that they could change. Sarah Bradshaw added that they usually have to hit rock bottom in most instances before they'll seek help. Becky stated that they would like to have this type of speakers at the schools but they would have to know their background first. David added that Johnny Wilson is one who does speak at events and he's geared to religion.

Sarah mentioned again that the Events and Community Relations Subcommittee need to meet and come back with recommendations. We need to keep it local and we can sort through all the suggestions and plan from there. The youth group at her church has grown and these kids want to make an impact on other kids. We could focus on the faith connection and families working together. The subcommittee can also make a determination as to whether or not a big event can be held later in the Spring.

Committee Reports

Events and Community Relations Subcommittee: The last time we met was in February. We'd discussed working on the referral cards. We plan to get back on track with that. Gregory Jackson mentioned that a 'card' wouldn't hold all the pertinent information needed.

Other Business: JW shared several copies of the books *Beautiful Boy* and *Tweak* that anyone interested could take with them to read. These were written by a father and son respectively about each of their experiences with the son's past Meth addiction and how it impacted each of their lives. These were purchased by Star Telephone and at a later date, JW would like for Jeff Shipp to present them formally to the libraries.

Ron Lessard stated that law enforcement is really making headway in the fight against Meth. From January through March of this year they disassembled 48 Meth labs. Since then, there have been 5 disassembled. This low number is due to users and suppliers being targeted by them and it's making a real impact.

Sarah reminded that the Meth Taskforce has 4 initiatives: (1) Early Intervention, (2) Public Awareness, (3) Response Plan, and (4) Training. There is a Response Protocol that goes into affect whenever children are found at Meth locations. She mentioned the response protocol has now been put into use as DSS recently had to remove some children from a home in the Plainview area. She stated since it's been awhile that the group of 'responders' need to get together soon for a meeting to review the response protocol. Ron Lessard agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30.