

Sampson County Meth Taskforce
Meeting September 17, 2008
Minutes

The Sampson County Meth Taskforce met on September 17, 2008 at the Sampson County Health and Human Services Building.

Chair, J.W. Simmons, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and did the invocation.

Present: J.W. Simmons; Sarah Bradshaw; Lillian Wells; Judge James Moore, Jr.; Pat Green; Renee' White; Terry Miller; Gary Connolly; Wanda Robinson and Janet Rosenberger.

The minutes for the July 22, 2008 meeting were approved with a motion from Sarah Bradshaw and seconded by Gary Connolly.

OLD BUSINESS

Tax Exempt Status: Sarah Bradshaw advised the Taskforce that a group of the Event & Planning Subcommittee met August 29th. One of the discussions was getting the Taskforce established as tax exempt. Frank Bradshaw was in attendance and he is assisting with this process. He stated that there are 4 steps to be achieved: 1) Creation; 2) Articles; 3) Adopt By-laws; 4) Elect Officers. Decisions need to be made regarding the exact name of the Meth Taskforce as LLC or Incorporated. Frank plans to meet with Billy Peterson and a small group will work together to finalize the plans. We also have to elect officers for the board. JW explained that acquiring tax exempt status will enable us to do fundraisers giving us the ability to do public awareness with billboards, functions, and whatever is needed. We wouldn't have to depend on outside financial assistance like we've gotten from Star Telephone and Eastpointe.

Dr. Holley: JW informed the group that Eastpointe is funding a four-county event for Dr. Holley to speak in mid October. He's talked with Becky Jackson and they are planning for Dr. Holley to be at two Sampson County schools. Renee' White stated she will see about the possibility of her speaking at any Clinton City schools while she's in the area. Pat Green mentioned that she had distributed Dr. Holley's videos to the area libraries and it would be good to place posters at the area schools to let students, etc know that they could get them. Sarah stated that she'll contact Heather Bonney, the library Director and ask if she can do posters for area locations.

Meth Website: JW advised everyone that Jason Miller with Interstar is working on the site for us to update it and make any changes we deem necessary. Information should be reviewed by each of the members to note anything that needs to be changed. We need to come up with ideas to help educate the community so, please share any you have. We'd like to add an events calendar as well. Sarah added that she will contact David Chestnutt to get a group together to work on the resources available now since it's the most pressing area that needs updating. Lillian Wells mentioned Valley of Hope is now located at 207 W. Main in Clinton. Gary Connolly added that there is a church in Duplin County that wants to set up 2 homes for after-care once rehab is completed. Sarah pointed out that there is also Alpha & Omega in Duplin County run by Jim Brinkley that should be added to the resource list.

Terry Miller stated that the addict has to hit rock bottom before they ask for help. Gangs and drugs go hand in hand.

Referral Cards: Sarah suggested that the same group that works on the resource update needs to work on the referral card information. Gary Connolly, Brenda Fisher and David Chestnutt would be the members who would have the information needed and can work on the website information as well as the card. JW stated that he'd like to see the doctors in the community connect people with needs directly to the counselors. Presently they direct them to a phone number to call instead of following through to see that they get the necessary help. Gary added that the medical profession needs to be educated about drugs that wean addicts off of Meth. The

area pharmacies don't carry the drugs because there's no call for them. When they come out of rehab facilities now with prescriptions for certain drugs for this purpose, they can't get them locally. Sarah mentioned that the presentation Dr. Holley gave for the medical professionals got their attention but, we need to follow-up with more information.

Other Discussion: Judge Moore addressed the fact that tax deductible status for the Taskforce would result in assistance being offered from area businesses, especially the agricultural industry. They are looking for tax deductions and since Meth is a big problem specifically in their type of industry, they'd be willing to support the effort. Utilize people who could go to them for funding donations.

Sarah polled the group to see if there were any objections to the name Sampson County Meth Taskforce remaining the same for the purpose of tax exempt status. There were no objections.

NEW BUSINESS

Renew & Review: JW stated that we need to look at where the group is going and note the fact that the Taskforce has been recognized for their efforts. We've accomplished what we have due to people who contribute. Judge Moore suggested that the Taskforce get a criminal attorney as a liaison to work with the group. When someone is arrested with addictions, part of their pre-trial agreement is treatment. Lawyers need to know where there's help for their clients.

Task Force Meeting Schedule: Sarah proposed that the regular bi-monthly meetings be scheduled for a certain date each time. Everyone could put the dates on their calendar and plan around them in able to attend the meetings. They could be rescheduled if needed and subcommittee meetings would be called as needed.

The next meeting will be held November 19, 2008. We would like to meet at the Plainview Fire Department with guest presentations. Ronald Bass stated that 7:00 pm would be a good time for the community. Hopefully moving around will attract people to come. The Taskforce needs to have a brief meeting beginning at 6:30 then at 7:00 pm it will be turned over to the speakers. We'll run an ad in the Sampson Independent. Pat Green will contact Starvision to get them to do a message. Ronald will put a marquee up in Plainview to let the community know.

Tentative program: JW to open with possibly Jimmy Thornton, Dan Heinz and maybe Ken Jones to speak. Lillian will provide flyers from Eastpointe for the information table. We will have the website pulled up during the presentations.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00.