

Sampson County Meth Taskforce
Minutes
August 25, 2010

The Sampson County Meth Taskforce met on August 25, 2010, at Sampson Community College in the Warren Student Center boardroom. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer at 8:30 am.

Present: J.W. Simmons; Jeff Shipp; Pat Green; Sarah Bradshaw; David Kidd; Maria Paniagua; Wanda Robinson; Ken Jones; Robert Daniel; and Janet Rosenberger.

MINUTES: The July 9, 2010 minutes were approved with a motion from Pat Green, seconded by Wanda Robinson.

TREASURERS REPORT: Pat Green reported that the present balance in the account is \$2,523.86. She informed everyone that she has filed the tax return.

OLD BUSINESS:

DRUG KITS: JW discussed the drug test kits for the schools that the Task Force had pledged to purchase. He informed the group that he had asked Becky Jackson to be sure the drug kits we purchase are the same as they've had in the recent past. He reminded the group that these are for the parents to get from the school counselors to do private drug testing of their children in their homes. They are not required to inform anyone of the results but, they can seek assistance from local agencies if needed. Pat Green informed the Meth Task Force that Ken Jones has now stated that Eastpointe will pay for the test kits.

OTHER DISCUSSION: JW reminded everyone that September is National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month. Flyers were shared regarding the awareness event going on September 10th in the Clinton City Market sponsored by SOLIS. It's a public event for the community called *Join the Voices for Recovery*. Maria Paniagua explained that the main purpose of the event is to bring awareness to the area. There are several vendors already scheduled for the event and it was decided that the Meth Task Force should be there. Information about what SOLIS is about can be found on their website. Ken Jones added that this event is probably the only *recovery* event held in our area.

BILLBOARD: Jeff Shipp mentioned the Meth Task Force billboard located on Hwy 24 coming into town and stated that it looks very good. Lamar Advertising has been very complimentary of our marketing tool. The billboard will be moving around 2 more times during our contract timeframe with them.

NEW BUSINESS:

FUNDRAISER IDEAS: JW stated that there was a classic car show held in Raleigh last week and it was a big success. He feels that local merchants in downtown Clinton would be interested in such an event. We could possibly close off the area to traffic and invite various musical talents to perform. David Kidd added that with car shows, a fee is paid per car entered in competition which is how money is generated and there are trophies awarded for each division. The city might buy-in to the idea since it would be good for the merchants as well. Jeff Shipp stated that Elizabethtown has just had one of these shows so we wouldn't want to do one too soon. He also advised that we not have an event in the Fall since the city already has *Octoberfest*. The event would need to be held in the Spring and businesses should be open while it's going on. Sarah added that the Meth Task Force does need to come up with a signature project as we've discussed before. JW stated that David King would be the person to contact for information on how this type of event could be planned and put into action. It was mentioned that we could possibly invite him to the next Meth Task Force meeting.

Sarah reminded everyone that South River had recently mentioned to us that groups can apply for *seed money* for fundraisers. Pat added that we could also apply with United Way for funding. Sarah suggested that a committee work on ideas and planning. Sarah and JW decided to contact Amanda Bradshaw to see if they could meet with her next Wednesday at 4:00 pm since she would be good at organizing such an event.

Pat informed the group that she has composed a letter to send out in a mass mailing to community businesses to ask for donations for the Meth Task Force. Sarah stated that we should attach an information sheet listing the Meth Task Force accomplishments. Jeff added that we need to include personal information regarding where to pay, etc. JW will review the letter and we'll proceed from there. There was discussion on doing a media piece for any large contributions received. It was also suggested that there be more public presentations at local civic clubs, possibly an article in the newspaper done on prevention, utilize the cable channel and anything else that keeps the visibility out there since so many people are impacted by drugs.

More public awareness ideas were discussed and it was suggested that we incorporate youth groups into the Meth Task Force. It was stated that a lot of the area teens admit that they do drink and smoke pot. There were several church youth groups who did projects for the summer that impacted their communities. The Meth Task Force could work through SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). Jeff stated that it would be good to have a youth advisory council for the Meth Task Force. Ken added that an event held at Duplin High recently was geared toward the kids and some were impelled to stand up and talk to the group. Sarah mentioned that we have used the youth on the radio spots and that the kids can reach other kids much better.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Jeff Shipp to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sarah Bradshaw.

JW Simmons, President

Date