



**Rural Advisory Council:**

The RAC held its September meeting in Oakridge, at City Hall. **Gienia Baines of St. Vincent DePaul shared a wealth of information about Oakridge.** Some of the challenges faced by the community of 3,500 include:

- Very high levels of poverty, depression, and untreated medical issues
- 86% of kids receive free/reduced lunch
- 1500 households receive food boxes (although the need is higher)
- 1800 children/individuals are on Medicare/Medicaid
- There is only one medical clinic and it is not accepting new patients
- Looking Glass provides counseling, but there are very limited slots
- No resources in Oakridge for children with severe mental illness

**The RAC also heard a presentation by Dr. Rick Kincade on the integration of behavioral health and physical health.** The feedback from RAC members included: there are significant stigma/privacy issues in smaller communities; recommend provider training around confidentiality and sensitivity; recommend training to provider staff on the same issues; excitement about the “Tele Med” options to address lack of providers; recommend that information about the programs/treatment include information about confidentiality and security of private information. The RAC approved the proposal and thanks Dr. Kincade for coming to Oakridge to present the information.

**The RAC recommended that Rick Yecney be the RAC representative on the Governing Board.**