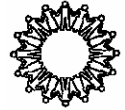


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THE ADVOCATE



The Newsletter of the Greater Taunton Health & Human Service Coalition (GTHHSC) and the Greater Attleboro Taunton Health & Education Response (GATHER) – www.geocities.com/gathercoalition

Volume XV, No.12

December 2005



Friedman Middle School Receives Healthy Choices Grant



Congratulations to Friedman Middle School! They have been awarded a \$9,000 grant for Healthy Choices, a middle school-based nutrition and physical activity program supported by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts in partnership with the Massachusetts DPH. Funding will be provided for 3 years to improve the school's environment and encourage healthy behaviors by incorporating the concepts of nutrition and physical activity into the school day.

Healthy Choices is built around the 5-2-1 message:

- **5-a-Day Is the Healthy Way** encourages students to eat five or more fruits and vegetables a day
- **2-or-Less for Success** encourages students to limit screen time to 2 hours a day
- **1-or-More Builds a Strong Core** encourages students to be physically active for at least one hour per day

The Healthy Choices Grant has 4 components:

- **School-wide Promotion** – Schools conduct school-wide activities that target the entire student-body around the 5-2-1 message.
- **School Policies and Environment** – Schools address at least one school policy or procedure change.
- **Before-After School Program** that provides opportunities for physical activity, nutrition education and activities.
- **Planet Health**, an interdisciplinary middle school curriculum, integrates health messages into the existing core curriculum, health and physical education.

The 5-2-1 message will be highlighted to the whole school population through new posters, signs and at school events. There will be new activities before and/or after school to encourage more kids to participate. They will also look at school policies and procedures to see what changes can better support healthy

choices and introduce the 5-2-1 message into the curriculum.

Parents are invited and encouraged to support 5-2-1 through the following:

- Encourage children and family by serving a fruit or vegetable with every meal
- Set an example, be active and encourage children to join you, or plan family activities that are active
- Don't let children have a TV in their bedrooms; set limits on the amount of TV they watch
- Ask your school board how you can be an advocate of 5-2-1
- Volunteer to help with or start a new before or after school club

Friedman Middle School has Healthy Choices Coordinator's who are responsible for leading a team at the school. For information, please contact school nurses Nancy Vincent, RN or Bernadette Bagni, RN at **508-821-1499**. ♥

GTHHSC Networking Meeting:

12/20/05, 9:00, Associates for Human Services, 68 Allison Rd.

Maria Evora-Rosa, MA Department of Public Health, will present the "Stroke Awareness Campaign"



CHRISTMAS DINNERS, BASKETS, AND GIFTS AVAILABLE IN GATHER AREA

(United Way of Greater Attleboro/Taunton)

Christmas dinner will be held on December 25, 2003. All phone numbers are in the 508 exchange. Some have deadlines.

City/Town:	Dinners:	Baskets:	Gift Programs:
Attleboro	Call United Way for further information: 223-4636	Self Help, 226-4192 St. John's Church, 222-8400 South Attleboro residents: St. Theresa's Church, 243-4386 St. Stephen Church 572-5335	Council for Children's Christmas Is For Kids, 226-2336 , or www.councilforchildren.org St. Stephen's Giving Tree (Ages 0-12) 572-5335
Berkley	Corline Cronin Family, Inc. at Coyle & Cassidy H.S., Breakfast 8:30, Dinner 11-1	St. Bernard's, Assonet 644-5585	Operation Christmas, Citizens for Citizens, ages 0-12, 823-6346
Dighton	Corline Cronin Family, Inc. at Coyle & Cassidy H.S., Breakfast 8:30, Dinner 11-1	N. Dighton: St. Joseph's, 822-1425 <hr/> S. Dighton: St. Peter's, 669-6463	Operation Christmas, Citizens for Citizens, ages 0-12, 823-6346
Mansfield	Call United Way for further information: 223-4636	Mansfield Social Services, 261-7464 Westside Benevolent, 339-3397	Christmas Is For Kids, Westside Benevolent, 339-3397
N. Attleboro	Call United Way for further information: 223-4636	Ann Marie Fleming, Town Nurse, 699-0104 St. Mary's SVP, 212-4755	Council for Children's Christmas Is For Kids, 226-2336 , or www.councilforchildren.org
Norton	Call United Way for further information: 223-4636	Cupboard of Kindness (Norton residents only) 942-3083 St. Mary's, 285-4462	Council for Children's Christmas Is For Kids, 226-2336 , or www.councilforchildren.org or pick up applications at Norton Public Library, Norton Fire Department. Judy: 285-0248
Plainville	Call United Way for further information: 223-4636	Call United Way for further information: 223-4636	Call United Way for further information: 223-4636
Raynham	Corline Cronin Family, Inc. at Coyle & Cassidy H.S., Breakfast 8:30, Dinner 11-1	St. Ann's, 823-9833	Citizens for Citizens' Operation Christmas, (Ages 0-12) 823-6346 St. Anne's Church Giving Tree, Ages 0-16, 823-9833
Rehoboth	Corline Cronin Family, Inc. at Coyle & Cassidy H.S., Breakfast 8:30, Dinner 11-1	Rehoboth Helping Hands, 252-3263 Council on Aging, 252-3372	Council for Children's Christmas Is For Kids, 226-2336 , or www.councilforchildren.org Rehoboth Helping Hands, 252-3263 Council on Aging, 252-3372
Seekonk	Corline Cronin Family, Inc. at Coyle & Cassidy H.S., Breakfast 8:30, Dinner 11-1	Doorways, 761-8448	Council for Children's Christmas Is For Kids, 226-2336 , or www.councilforchildren.org
Taunton	Corline Cronin Family, Inc. at Coyle & Cassidy H.S., Breakfast 8:30, Dinner 11-1	St. Vincent DePaul, 823-6676 The Lord Cares Food Pantry 823-8234 Or any Catholic Church	Citizens for Citizens' Operation Christmas, (Ages 0-12) 823-6346

Did You Know That...?



Morton Hospital and Medical Center offerings include *The Why's of Children's Behavior*, **12/6/05**, 6:30pm, Margaret Stone Conference Room, Free, Pre-registration required; *Health Plan Options for Seniors*, **12/2/05**, 8:00am, Silver City Galleria Community Room, Free; *Beat the Sugar Blues*, **12/8/05**, 6:30pm, Margaret Stone Conference Room, Free, Pre-registration required; *Current Concepts in the Treatment of Osteoarthritis*, **1/6/06**, 8:00am, Silver City Galleria Community Room, Free. To register for events, please call **508-828-7777**

The Mulligan Center for Health Promotion is offering *The Unintended Consequences of Abstinence-Only Sex*

Education: How Race, Sex and Class Matter, **12/6/05**, 2-4pm. Free. For information, please call Jane at **508-583-2250, x211**.

“Guiding Good Choices (Formerly “Preparing for the Drug-Free Years”) Free Leader Training Workshop will prepare workshop leaders to deliver the Guiding Good Choices parent Workshops. Leaders will learn the content of the 5-sessions and will have the opportunity to practice facilitating sessions with other workshop participants. 18.5 CEUs will be offered to social workers. Participants must plan to attend all three days: **December 5, 6, and 7**. For location and other information, please contact Sabrina at **508-828-9112, x545**.



Associates for Human Services Fundraiser “Silent Auction & Wine Tasting”, sponsored by Raynham Wine & Liquors”, will be held **12/8/05**, 5:00-8:00pm, 68 Allison Ave, Taunton. Tickets: \$20/advance and \$25/at the door. Reserve tickets by 11/30/05 at **508-880-0202**. All proceeds benefit the AHS Lifelong Learning Fund.

Donate a Phone Campaign funds raised through the recycling program supports the work of Jane Doe Inc. to end sexual assault and domestic violence. Start your new year by helping others by bringing your old cell phone to the Department of Social Service (DSS) office at 67 Mechanic Street, 2nd floor, in Attleboro. Collection goes through the month of January 2006. For more information, visit www.janedoe.org.

COALITION/COMMITTEE MINUTES & REPORTS



GATHER Domestic Violence, Violence Prevention. 11/17/05, 3:30, Mass Info Tech

Video “*Breaking Peace: Babies Have Their Say About Domestic Violence*” (an unborn child’s perspective) was well received at a recent Community Crisis Intervention Training (CCIT). The committee viewed the research-based tape, and brainstormed ideas for its use as follows:



well received at a recent Community Crisis Intervention Training (CCIT). The committee viewed the research-based tape, and brainstormed ideas for its use as follows:

- New Hope parent groups
- Mom’s clubs
- Use of clips for TV ads

- PTAs
- Batterers groups, men’s groups
- High School health or child development classes (shown separately to males or females)
- Pre-marital training programs and meetings
- Teen parenting
- Teen living program
- Using one-liners with the New Hope number on calendars as “food for

thought”, and pass them out to preschoolers parents.

Suggested Awareness Activities:

- A “Did you know that” with a DV awareness fact, followed by “We’ve got better things to do”, ending with New Hope or GATHER information
- School announcements
- Church bulletins
- Cable TV

- Newspapers
- A theme for the year with ideas for schools, police departments, etc.

Notification of Home Purchases – DV victims may have their deeds stamped “not for publication” at the time of the closing to prevent batterers from finding them.

Grants:

- **Office of Victims of Crime Grant** was submitted for an early intervention workshop. The above mentioned tape could be used.
- **Project Safe** violence prevention federal grant has been used successfully in

New Orleans to send teams into schools to train teachers to deal with violence from hurricanes Rita and Katrina. When using a financial management agency, there must be clarity as to expectations and agency support.

- **501C3 Status** has pros and cons, and requires a board and director. SEMA-VAV could be a 501C3 conduit.

December Meeting Topics:

- The increase in GLBT violence, discrimination, and lack of sensitivity.
- The Stand and Serve Dating, Sexual and Family Violence Resource & Referral Packet.

Next Steps:

- Contact New Hope about returned emails.
- Contact DPH about a new liaison for GATHER
- Call Rich McMahon about the pros and cons of the 501C3 status.

Next Meeting: 12/15/05 (3rd Thursday of the Month), 3:30, Mass Info Tech, 9 rear Taunton Green

Contact Person:

Annemarie Matulis, **508-824-3227 or 508-922-7278 cell**



GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee. 11/16/05, 3:00, Probation



Discussion Highlights:

Location and Date Change - The December meeting will be changed to the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at Community Counseling of Bristol County’s Mill River Place location.

Substance Abuse Round Table XI Update – The report is now available for download at the GATHER website at http://www.geocities.com/gather_coalition/SubstanceAbuseRoundableXIFinalReport.pdf. Team leaders will be receiving their workbooks and reports, along with follow up calls in 3 months. A suggestion for the next SART is for more discussion time. All attendees will receive postcards with the web location for the report.

Attleboro Invitation – An Attleboro group with interest in substance abuse issues was invited to form a larger collaborative group.

Project TEAMS grant ends in December. A free training of “Guiding Good Choices, a science based middle-school curriculum, will prepare attendees to offer the 5 session parent programs. 18.5 CEUs are available. Training will be held December 5, 6, and 7. For information contact Sabrina Strong at **508-828-9112, x545**.

Project YELL – The Substance Abuse Funding Week newsletter reported that “alternative sources for support are being considered for the 63 Drug Free Communities grant-funded coalitions that were de-funded”, which includes GATHER.

Grant Opportunity – A new grant is available for 5 youth to work on a tobacco awareness project, exactly the number of trained and experienced youth make up Project YELL. An

agency and an adult, such as a college intern are needed.

Coalition Building Trainings – A western MA consultant or the Southeast Center for Healthy Communities are possibilities for technical assistance.

Community Crisis Intervention Team - The next training will be held May 9, 10 and 11 of 2006. There may be a day dedicated to youth issues.

Next Steps:

- Work on the “Get the Word Out” mini-grant
- Explore technical assistance

Next Meeting: 12/14/05, 3:30, CCBC Family Conference Room, Mill River Professional Center, 1 Washington St.

Contact Persons:

Arlene Dickinson, **508-223-4691**
Lorraine Rosa, **508-823-4822**.

Discussion Highlights:

Project YELL – Congressman Barney Frank’s office expressed interest in the loss of the SAMHSA grant. Registered letters requesting reasons for defunding were sent to the ONDCP and SAMHSA. Written responses said that scores of unfounded applicants are not releasable. Sabrina will phone them next week to find out the status of the Freedom of Information Act request. Substance Abuse Funding Week front page article said that “alternative sources for support are being considered for the 63 Drug Free Communities grant-funded coalitions that were defunded for FY2006”, according to SAMHSA. CCBC sent a letter to Middleboro Youth Advocates outlining requirements for reimbursements.

Coalition Building – Technical assistance for coalition building was explored. The GTHHSC/GATHER can host a training for a fee to defray expenses, and open it to other organizations and communities. A participants grid was designed by Marcy and will be distributed to the coalition for compilation. Mission and vision statements and goals will be discussed at a future meeting.

Funding - The Make Smoking History grant was deferred to tomorrow’s Substance Abuse Committee. It calls for a group of 5 youth – the exact number employed by Project YELL – as well as an adult leader.

Presentation: **Traci** Wojciechowski, Regional Student Service Coordinator for the Caron Foundation presented information about the addictions treatment facility with services for men, women and youth. Caron has a grant to do adolescent tobacco treatment in schools or youth serving agencies, without cost. Each of the 8 sessions last ¾ - 1 hour. They hope to do a program at Taunton High School, before, during or after school. They also have recovery groups for students. Fee offerings include stress and anger management, lifeskills and specialized treatment for executives and professionals. They have served individuals from 9 countries and 42 states.

Announcements:

- **World AIDS Day** is 12/1/05. An observance will be held outside city hall at 3:30.
- **Silent Auction and Wine Tasting** will be held **12/8/05**, 5:00-8:00pm, at Associates for Human Services, Inc. \$20 advance / \$25 at the door. Benefits the AHS Lifelong Learning Fund.
- **Senator Pacheco’s** office fundraiser proceeds will be donated to the Taunton Emergency Task Force. The event will take place at the VFW, possibly on Nov. 13.
- **Mayor’s Committee for Homelessness** is holding a fundraiser at Benjamin’s

Restaurant on 12/8/05. More information later.

- **“Guiding Good Choices (Formerly “Preparing for the Drug-Free Years”) Free Leader Training Workshop** will prepare workshop leaders to deliver the Guiding Good Choices parent Workshops. Leaders will learn the content of the 5-sessions and will have the opportunity to practice facilitating sessions with other workshop participants. 18.5 CEUs will be offered to social workers. Participants must plan to attend all three days: **December 5, 6, and 7.** For location and other information, contact Sabrina Strong at **508-823-5400.**



Next Steps:

- Contact SAMHSA for the status of the Freedom of Information Act request
- Email and compile results of a membership roster
- Explore technical assistance for GATHER/GTHHSC
- Do the Make Smoking History grant before the 12/2 deadline.
- Work on details for paid Advocate sponsorship
- Create a welcome letter to the GTHHSC to new attendees of the annual meeting

Next Meeting: **12/20/05**, 9:00, A.H.S.

Contact Person: Richard McMahan, **508-979-7160, 3010.**



Discussion Highlights:

Nutrition:

- Federal requirements call for a school wellness program by 2006. There are suggestions, but no mandates.
- The Director of Food Services decides what goes into vending machines.
- www.mypyramid.gov has food diaries and fun activities such as the “Blast Off” nutrition game for young children.
- Friedman Middle School has received Healthy Choices

funding from Blue Cross, Blue Shield.

Focus – The Committee will look for funding to address a childhood safety project. A newsletter could feature articles such as “Top 10 Ways to Save A Child’s Life”, and information about car seats, seat belt tips for adults under 5’, common household dangers, pedestrian safety, household drowning, heavy furniture safety, etc. This could be produced quarterly or bimonthly. Books marks were another excellent medium for

getting the word out on safety tips. They could be distributed in libraries and school stores.

Next Steps:

- Pursue grant funding for a safety campaign
- Price customized bookmarks

Next Meeting: **1/17/05**, 10:15, A.H.S.

Contact Person: Lorraine Rosa, **508-823-4822**.

Taunton Emergency Task Force. 11/1/05, 9:30, TEMA Office, 15 Summer St.

Discussion Highlights:

Needs - There are no shelter beds available, and a significant increase in substance abuse in the population of chronically homeless, with many new faces. Limited free-care beds are available at detox facilities. There are community (residency) restrictions on using local beds in surrounding towns/cities, and they are at capacity (e.g. Steppingstone). The homeless are in need of winter jackets, gloves, mittens. Many homeless individuals would rather not accept services (residential and ½-way houses) due to rules and restrictions.

Samaritan House - Through Senator Pacheco’s efforts, daily rate of reimbursement to Samaritan House has been raised to one that is equivalent to other shelters.

The Clergy Association met. Four churches are actively involved. An ecumenical service

that will focus on the theme of homelessness is being planned.

The GATCH shelter subcommittee requested a meeting with the mayor. The subcommittee meets later today.

Parcel 6A – The group expects to split up and go to different areas. Every time it rains, there is a need for blankets and clothing.

Funding - There is still some money through the federal government’s faith based grants, especially for interfaith efforts, to address homelessness. They do not want shelter to take place at a church, preferring a neutral site. Denise shared other grant (\$10-\$50K) information, to be given to clergy association. The flower shop building that was mentioned by the clergy association as a possible warming site is in disrepair. It is owned by the city and leased to the church.

CFC’s fuel assistance program serves Taunton, Dighton, Berkley, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Lakeville, Assonet and Freetown. SelfHelp covers Raynham: 508 588-5440. Middleboro is served by SouthShore Community Action: 508 746-6707). It is the busiest it has been in the past 5 years at CFC. They can begin authorizing oil deliveries. No appointment necessary. New income guidelines have been received. Residents living in Dewert and Paul Bunker housings are not eligible. Residents in Oak and Highland Courts can qualify. If heat is included in the rent, a tenant may still be eligible. The Housing Authority will pay for primes for those living in public housing. The moratorium includes 11/15/05-3/15/06. No word yet from the United Way Community Impact Committee.

Water shut-offs may be forthcoming from the city due to

over \$1 million owed in delinquent water bills.

Fundraiser - Senator Marc Pacheco's office is working on a fundraiser with a local restaurant and other area businesses. Proceeds would be donated to the task force. The event would take place at the VFW, possibly on Nov. 13.

Family Self-Sufficiency Program Coordinating Committee is re-writing the administrative plan with the Taunton Housing Authority, and will send it to the Massachusetts Housing Program. The initial plan was written 2 years ago. Agency data forms are available and will help in the development of the MOU. Taunton did not get funded for the FSS coordinating grant. However, the Housing Authority has picked up Donna's salary. They are looking into why they were not funded and will apply again next year.

Elections - Nominations for the slate of officers are as follows: Chair: Milly Burrows, Vice-chair: Julia Wood, Treasurer: Charlene Sanger, Secretary: Donna DeFaria.

Thank You - Debbie Araujo was thanked for all her hard work and leadership, noting that ETF received a lot of excellent publicity, and that it is a unique group.

The Transportation Grant proposal was submitted to BCSB on 10/17, seeking funding based on emergency.

Agency Sharing:

- St. Vincent de Paul is planning a new facility
- Citizens for Citizens - Operation Christmas applications are available. Approximately 3,000 kids are expected to be served this year in Taunton, Dighton, Berkley and Raynham. Dec. 7th is cutoff date. Families in Attleboro who received toys last year and who did not attend a minimum of 4 workshops during the year, will receive letters informing them that they will not be eligible for toys this year.
- Church at the Crossroads The list for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets is closed. If the Cohannet Street building sells, the

pantry will move to the Main Street facility.

- Triumph Head Start - The Coyle Food pantry baskets will be on 11/26 and 12/17. The Thanksgiving Day meal will be on 11/24 Toy distribution will be on 12/10 in AM. Students will play with kids while parents choose toys.
- Department of Human Services - Last month's press conferences went well. Cable TV shows are planned with agencies who participated, and the fire department. The best 5 -10 area oil prices will be listed each week. Medicare Part D is coming in January '06. Many solicitation calls are being placed to elderly from private companies. Two part-time elder outreach workers will be hired to assist. The Safe Neighborhood program for neighborhood watch groups is continuing.

Next Meeting: 12/6/05, 9:30, TEMA Office, City Hall

Contact Person: Millie Burrows, 508-880-0202

UPCOMING AREA MEETINGS

Dec. 1, 3:30	World AIDS Day. Flag Ceremony at Robert Treat Paine flag pole across from City Hall. Reception follows at the 1 st Parish Church.
Dec. 6, 9:30	Taunton Emergency Task Force. 3 rd Floor Conference Room, City Hall.
Dec. 14, 9:00	Greater Taunton Mayor's AIDS Consortium. Morton Café Annex. CAB follows.
Dec. 14, 3:30	GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee. CCBC Family Conference Room, Mill River Professional Center, 1 Washington St.
Dec. 15, 3:30	GATHER Domestic Violence Committee. Mass Info Tech, 9 Taunton Green
Dec. 20, 9:00	GTHHSC Networking Meeting. Associates for Human Services, 68 Allison Rd.
Dec. 21, 8:00	Safe Neighborhood Initiative. Fairfax Gardens Community Center.
Jan 17, 9:00	GTHHSC Networking Meeting. Associates for Human Services, 68 Allison Rd.
Jan 17, 10:15	GTHHSC Child & Family Focus Committee. A.H.S., 68 Allison Rd.