

## Inside This Issue:

- Articles, p. 1
- *Did You Know That...*, p. 2

- Meeting Minutes, p. 3-7
- Calendar of Events, p. 7



# THE ADVOCATE



The Newsletter of the Greater Taunton Health & Human Service Coalition (GTHHSC) and Community Health Network Area 24 –  
[www.geocities.com/gathercoalition](http://www.geocities.com/gathercoalition)

Volume XVII, No.1

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## You Are Cordially Invited To....



### ...Keep Taunton Area Citizens Informed About Your Services!

"Pathways To Hope" is a one-hour, call-in talk show that airs live on Tuesdays from 11 AM to noon on WPEP. Each week 1-2 guests from human services, social services, community-building or health agency chats with host Dan LeBrun about helpful services available to greater Taunton area residents. The show is typically taped & rebroadcast over the weekend. If you are interested in some free publicity/visibility for one or more of your service programs, whether you have been on the show previously or not, you are welcome to contact "Pathways to Hope" host Dan LeBrun. You may consider a date shortly ahead of a new program launch, or an upcoming event, or during "an Awareness week/month" campaign. Multiple programs or services may be accommodated by a "multiple month series," with one show per month, each with a different program/project director until the entire services landscape is covered. Interested folks are invited to contact Dan with information about the main service/topic of focus, with 2-3 potential Tuesday dates that might work for you. An e-mail to [d.LeBrun@easternbk.com](mailto:d.LeBrun@easternbk.com) is preferable, but you may also call Dan at **508-923-2470**.



### ..Attend Greater Taunton Health & Human Services Coalition Monthly Networking Meetings in 2007!

The GTHHSC is a grassroots organization that holds monthly networking meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, 9:00 at Associates for Human Services, 68 Allison Ave., Taunton. The Coalition listens and responds to the needs of individuals living and working in the Greater Taunton area, improves visibility, availability and accessibility of services, works to better coordinate delivery of health & human services in the Greater Taunton area, and supports the community through public education, participation, advocacy and action. We welcome youth, parents, businesses, the media, schools, youth organizations, law enforcement, religious organizations, fraternal organizations, civic groups, healthcare professionals, state, local or tribal governmental agencies and other individuals and organizations. For information, contact Lorraine Rosa at [mcaprosa@hotmail.com](mailto:mcaprosa@hotmail.com).



### ...Represent Your Coalition/Committee in CHNA#24

Greater Attleboro/Greater Taunton area coalitions and committees are invited to send 2 representatives to the first quarterly Steering Committee meeting of the newly reorganized CHNA#24 on Tuesday, January 16, 10:30 at Associates for Human Services, 68 Allison Ave., Taunton. Contact Lorraine Rosa at [mcaprosa@hotmail.com](mailto:mcaprosa@hotmail.com) for information.

"Dress to Impress" is accepting donations of business clothing suitable for use at job interviews, for qualified residents who are entering or re-entering the workforce, and volunteers who will donate a couple hours a month. For information, contact Tracey at **508-922-7277**, or by voicemail **508-824-3227**. ***Please do not call MassInfo Tech!***



## Did You Know That...?

### Events

**HIV Collaborative Service** next South Coast working group meetings will be held **1/17/07**, 10:00-11:30, HIV and Hep C Counseling and Testing at Health Care of SE MA in Brockton, and **2/2/07**, 10:00-11:30, Resource Guide at Greater New Bedford Community Health Center. For information contact Marisa at [mhoward-karp@hcsm.org](mailto:mhoward-karp@hcsm.org)

**Morton Hospital and Medical Center** offers *Eating For Energy*, **1/18/07**, 6:30 p.m., FREE, Margaret Stone Conference Room. Discuss factors that decrease your sense of energy and ways to increase and maintain a healthy, energetic lifestyle. Leave with valuable tips and easy-to-follow steps that will lead you to a vital, passionate life. Pre-registration is required. Call **508-828-7777**.

**Partnership for a Heart Healthy Stroke Free MA: A Community Approach to Healthy Living: Focus on Heart Disease and Stroke. First Annual Educational Conference. 1/26/07**, 9:00-3:00, Hoagland Pincus Conference Center, Shrewsbury, MA. \$25, must be mailed or faxed by 1/15/07. For information, call **508-752-7313**,

or email [Laura@adcare-educational.org](mailto:Laura@adcare-educational.org).

### Resources

**Dress to Impress** is accepting donations of clothing suitable for qualified men or women to use on job interviews. For information, contact Tracey at **508-922-7277**, or by voicemail **508-824-3227**. Please do not call MassInfo Tech!

**HIV/AIDS Toll on Women and Minorities in the United States** – Kaiser Family Foundation fact sheets include the latest information on key trends, current cases and population-specific information on HIV transmission patterns and access to care. Available online at [www.kff.org/hivaids/index.cfm](http://www.kff.org/hivaids/index.cfm). Contact Rob at [rgraham@kff.org](mailto:rgraham@kff.org).

**Get the Word Out RFP: Tobacco Use in the Entertainment Industry** For high school age youth groups. Goal is a call-to-action to change the presence of tobacco use in the entertainment industry. See [www.makesmokinghistory.org/mini\\_grants.htm](http://www.makesmokinghistory.org/mini_grants.htm). Download the RFP. Deadline **1/16/07**.

### Substance Abuse

**Donations Needed for Substance Abuse Round Table XII** – Can you donate a prize item for students who participate

at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual SART on Social Norms? You may read about these successful community events at <http://www.geocities.com/gathercoalition/SubstanceAbuseRoundTables.htm>. Contact Kathy at **508-823-9416**.

**Update: Sober Truth on Preventing (STOP) Underage Drinking Act Passed By Congress** - "This is a huge victory for the public health, law enforcement, and not-for-profit organizations that worked tirelessly to win passage of this important measure," said Jim Copple, director of the International Institute for Alcohol Awareness. It will provide an additional \$18 million per year for essential prevention purposes, including the seeds of a national media campaign to reduce underage drinking. Full text is at [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h864eas.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills&docid=f:h864eas.txt.pdf)

**International Institute for Alcohol Awareness State Fact Sheets** contain 2005 data for sharing with stakeholders, policymakers, funders and community organizers working to prevent underage drinking. For information, contact Jim Copple at [jcopple@pire.org](mailto:jcopple@pire.org), or call **301-755-2783**.

This month's Advocate was published by Lorraine Rosa, Coordinator, with funds from Drug Free Communities Grant Funding, GATHER MRI and GTHHSC dues. To submit an article, announcement or other information, email Lorraine at [mcaprosa@hotmail.com](mailto:mcaprosa@hotmail.com) by **2/27/07**. You may also access copies of The Advocate at [www.geocities.com/gathercoalition](http://www.geocities.com/gathercoalition)

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# COALITION/COMMITTEE MINUTES & REPORTS



**GTHHSC Monthly Networking Meeting.** 12/19/06, 9:00am, Associates for Human Services

## Discussion Highlights:

**Advocate Newsletter** – The 160 hard copy mailing list has been cut in half due to broadcasting copies in both Word and Acrobat to members with email addresses.

## **Committee Reports beyond the December Advocate:**

- **Taunton Emergency Task Force** Fund raiser by Senator Pacheco, Representative Fagan, Bella Roma Restaurant and the Taunton Mayors Office has brought in \$7,239 so far with another \$1000 expected. ProHome donated \$1000 and another \$1600 was received anonymously. The TETF is working with the homeless coalition on what happens to homeless individuals when the weather drops to subzero freezing. For complete minutes, see page 7.
- **SARTXII Planning Meeting** – Keynote speaker is Laurie Turkovsky. Tracy Desovich will participate on the adult panel. Carol is contacting area businesses and major corporations with 50 and 100 clubs for youth prize incentives under a “From your Hearts” theme in February. Student breakout groups will do a mini social norms project; adults will have a Social Norms 101.

**GTHHSC Annual Meeting / CHNA Kick Off** – Associates for Human Services is hosting the first of the quarterly CHNA steering committee meetings on January 16, 2007 at 10:30am. Two representatives from each committee or coalition are invited to attend. This will provide a good opportunity to share and receive data to pull in more funding for the good work that area groups. Agenda suggestions include a 2-3 minute overview of each coalition/committee including data, Where do we go from here?, a discussion of the agenda for the next quarterly meeting of the CHNA, a name for the CHNA, and a schedule for future quarterly meetings.

**United Way Focus Groups** – Several Coalition members attended community focus groups. The United Way is planning to host monthly networking meetings of funded organizations at their location, along with new steering committee and subcommittees. It was suggested that our groups collaborate in order to avoid duplication. Ron will contact Diane and Marilyn about the new CHNA structure for further discussions.

## **Announcements:**

**Pathways to Hope Radio Show** – Agencies are invited to get their word and messages out about services through Dan LeBrun’s radio show.

“Pathways” has been moved to a good time slot on Tuesdays from 11:00-Noon. It also is rebroadcast on Sundays. Many seniors listen, and pass the information on to their families. He hopes that by the end of January the show will be booked through June. An invitation was extended to Carol to speak about the upcoming Substance Abuse Round Table.

**A.H.S. Advisory meetings** feature issues effecting families. On March 1 the focus will be on persons other than biological parents raising children. Many of these have trouble accessing services. Suggested groups to invite include Bristol Elder, Legal Services, Adoption Journeys, Intergeneration information from Bristol Community College, facilitators from Councils on Aging, PACE or Commonwealth Childcare, Department of Transitional Assistance, Department of Social Services, Adoption program, Guiding Good Choices, Rhode Island’s grandparent program, elected officials and the Department of Human Services.

**Donation in Memory of Vince Eagles** - Carol will check expenses and intake from the annual meeting to make a donation in memory of Vince Eagles. A motion was followed by the unanimous decision that we donate \$100 from the GTHHSC.

**Substance Abuse Committee** has increased collaboration with several funded projects: entertainment and tobacco funding requests, Getting the Word Out, Project YELL, the Community Care Services Tobacco Grant, etc.

**Internet Safety Trainings** – Young people put too much information on the internet that allows predators to easily contact them. Police and School departments have been trained in internet safety. A program about kids helping kids was held at the Boys and Girls club, and will be held at Taunton middle schools.

Next Steps:

- Make name tents for Judy Elste, Alzheimers association, Michele Quinlin, Volunteers of America, Marie Palumbo-Hayes, Community Care Services. (Lorraine)
- Include in the January Advocate an invitation to donate prizes for the SART, with a link to past roundtable reports (Lorraine)
- Forward information from the annual meeting to Lorraine (Deb, Ron)
- Contact Diane DiPippo and Marilyn Godfrey at the United Way about collaboration (Ron)

Check accounts from the Annual meeting to follow up with a \$100 donation in memory of Vince Eagles (Carol)

Next Meeting: 1/16/07, 9:00, Associates for Human Services. Thank you for hosting our meetings for another year, A.H.S.!

Contact Person: Richard McMahon, 508-979-7160, 3010.



**GTHSC Substance Abuse Committee (SAC). 12/20/06, 3:30, CCBC**

Discussion Highlights:

**Project YELL:**

**The American Drug and Alcohol Survey (ADAS)** was administered at Taunton High School this morning. Thus far, about ¾ of the 1869 surveys were returned. Good feedback was received from the teachers, and although teachers and students were told the survey was voluntary, all but 1 teacher administered the survey, and most students cooperated. It included 10 perception questions for the social norms campaign.

**Carry Over Budget** – Carol has been working on the carry over budget from the \$65,000+ remaining from last year. A letter and budget will be sent to the project officer and financial person in Washington. The letter was read and the budget explained. It will allow Project YELL to complete the goals of grant. Several changes happened during the time of defunding, such as the youth coordinator

position. The budget request for carry over is to increase the youth coordinator's and peer leaders' hours and continue the summer work. Peer leaders will have plenty to do over the summer, such as prevention programs and the Boys and Girls clubs, and 2 youth summits (MADD Power Summit and SADD National Conference). Other uses of the carry over money will allow an increase in the youth coordinator's mileage allowance, a laptop and color printer, T-shirts for youth staff, an increase in office supplies and coalition postage, social norms consultant, graphic designer, web design, Guiding Good Choices expansion, strategic planning, work with MADD, SARTXII, staff shirts, a banner, parent program snacks, etc. All requested monies will be matched from sources such as community donations to the SARTXII, school liaison time, a college intern time, etc. Further suggestions from the committee

included expanding the marketing campaign messages with additional poster printing, send committee members to the social norms conference in Cambridge, etc. as updated on the shared spreadsheet. Once complete, Deb Brown motioned to accept the letter and funding request as revised by the committee, April Cabrera seconded the motion, vote was unanimous in favor.

**Substance Abuse Round Table IX** – A grant was submitted to the United Way for \$2500. They suggested we add the Attleboro and North Attleboro YMCA teen groups in the planning meeting. Kathy will follow up and invite them and gauge interest. The committee is willing to rotate locations to accommodate an expanded membership. Kathy contacted the Chamber of Commerce about doing a presentation for prize donations for youth attending the SARTXII. That not being

customary, she offered to share a letter from the planning group with the chamber and possibly print it in their February newsletter. Also contacted for inkind donations to the SART were businesses on the auto mile and the Bristol-Plymouth High School for printing invitations, agendas and other documents for the April 12<sup>th</sup> event.

**Community Care Services Tobacco Program** – DPH funded Tobacco planning grant starts 1/1/07. The agency has already held a meeting internally. The goal of the 18 month grant is to come up with a community intervention. The ADAS survey from today will provide fresh data that this project will use.

**Get the Word Out Tobacco Grant** – Work has begun on this \$10,000 grant. Peer leaders are doing a report card on tobacco ads in stores, which are not supposed to be near candy or toys, or be self serve. Some store managers are not complying. The report cards will be brought

to the store to show how they did on compliance to the tobacco advertising laws. Youth received information on the dangers of tobacco and how tobacco industry sponsors events for young people and make candy flavor cigarettes. Although the industry claims these are not geared to youth, these flavors have a strong appeal to youth. Peer leaders also did a survey on the frequency of signs of tobacco use between the Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA (Cigarette butts, tobacco logos on shirts, tobacco ads in gas stations.) They also had a presence in the Christmas parade. Before conducting surveys at tobacco selling businesses, the manager will be informed of what the teens are doing. This project addresses how they sell, not to whom they sell.

**Get the Word Out High School Grant** – SADD and other students are collecting data and will utilize teen topics for second hand smoke in smoking

prevention presentations during Freshman Science

**GTHHSC/CHNA Kick Off** – The committee selected 2 SAC representatives to attend the January Steering Committee. Committee members will rotate attendance for fresh ideas and to share the burden. Ken Mayer and Arlene Dickinson will attend the first with Jonathan as alternate.

**United Way Needs Assessment Groups** – Committee members attended the community focus groups to ensure that substance abuse issues were included. There are still surveys available.

Next Steps:

- Set goals for 2007 at the January meeting.
- Complete the budget request carry over before deadline.

Next Meeting: 1/17/07, 3:30, CCBC

Contact Persons: Arlene Dickinson, 508-223-4691, Lorraine Rosa, [mcaprosa@hotmail.com](mailto:mcaprosa@hotmail.com)

**Safe Neighborhood Initiative.** 12/20/06, 8:00, Faifax Gardens Community Center.

Discussion Highlights:

**Criminal Justice Committee** - Fast track has 13 adults, no juveniles. Committee will be working on next year's goals.

**Community Crisis Intervention Team** has scheduled a training for May 2007; 10 have already registered. They are also working on a training for juvenile probation.

**Treatment and Prevention Committee** - Project Yell has been working on tobacco and alcohol prevention trainings and participated in the Christmas

Parade with a 'Blow bubbles not smoke' campaign. Surveys will be distributed to THS students. Substance Abuse Roundtable planning is going well. (See SAC minutes above)

**Community Crisis Spiritual Response Team** - Lisa was thanked for her assistance in accessing new computers to replace those that were stolen.

**Education Committee** - Due to SNI, synergy has developed among the 3 high schools in Taunton. They share crisis plans, safety procedures and

information on student programs. They may be working together on Key Club and National Honor Society members from the 3 schools.

**Neighborhoods**

- There has been a reduction in break-ins
- New detectives will be hired to follow-up on break-ins and larcenies
- A sergeant has been working with the Middle Schools.
- Neighborhood Watch meetings are very informative.
- Graffiti has increased.



**Program Update:**

- The Youth Court Program will be starting soon. It is an alternative to suspension and will hold the youth accountable for their actions.
- The SNI Annual Meeting will be held on February 14.

- The number of participants at Neighborhood Watch meetings has increased.
- DHS, TPD and the Sheriff's Office are working on Project Lifesaver, Citizens Advisory Program and TRIAD.
- The after school transportation program to the

Boy's and Girl's Club will begin in January.

**Next Meeting: 1/24/07, 8:00am, Fairfax Gardens Community Center**

**Contact Person: Robert Cammarata, 508-821-1420**

**Southeastern Massachusetts Voices Against Violence. 12/21/06, 5:00, MassInfotech**

Discussion Highlights:

**2007 National Crime Victims Rights Week** is April 22-28. There will also be a focus on sexual assault awareness in Attleboro and Taunton. No dates for the Clothesline Project are confirmed as yet. New Hope will be cooperatively supported with materials and displays in their library presentations.

**Workshops** - The OBC grant is out, and could provide funds for workshops before April. Ideas of venues include Taunton and Norton Libraries, First Parish Church. This can be enlightening and awareness raising among the general public, letting them know about New Hope.

**Take Back the Night** will be observed at Stonehill College and other area colleges.

**Dress to Impress** continues to grow. Commercial clothes racks were received from Formans. Although there has been lots of clothing donated, they will go fast. Intake of items such as sizes 0-4X, men's clothing of all sizes, boxes of shoes needing polishing, pocketbooks and belts continues. A potluck brunch will be held on 12/30/06, 10:30-1:00, for anyone interested in volunteering their time for being on call a few hours a month, or



helping someone to pick out clothing. A steady supply of volunteers will be needed in January to help sort and size clothing. Also needed are a local cleaner and a laundry brigade to freshen up the clothing. The Bristol County Savings Bank Charitable Foundation funding will cover 7 months rent and \$400 for miscellaneous purchases and repairs.

**Verizon Wireless Hopeline Cell Phones Project** continues to collect donations.

**Through My Eyes: Voices Against Violence** deadline for submissions is **2/28/07**. All ages may submit personal stories, poetry and artwork.

**United Way Needs Assessment** - Committee members attended focus group meetings.

**National Teen Dating Violence Awareness** - The 2006 tool kit has signs, how teachers can include the subject in the curriculum, and is different from the National Crime Victims Rights Week manual. A DVD is also available. Annemarie will approach the press to convince the area's major publications to do a series on teen violence at the end of January, or February 5-9. Annemarie will make an

informational handout for distribution.

**Announcements:**

- New Hope is going an ongoing bullying program at Norton Middle School, using a curriculum they've developed.
- Nicole is researching Sexual Awareness Month.

Next Steps:

- Continue discussions of workshops: where, size, age groups, use of audio visual. (Committee)
- Contact Kim Decosta at Bridgewater State College. (Annemarie)
- Send Lorraine the application for Through My Eyes. (Annemarie)
- Make an informational handout for Teen Dating Violence signs and symptoms and contact area press. (Annemarie)

**Next Meeting: 1/18/07, 5:00pm, First Parish Church, Taunton**

**Contact Person: Annemarie Matulis, 508-824-3227; [matulisannie@msn.com](mailto:matulisannie@msn.com)**

**To Contact "Dress to Impress" call Tracey at 508-922-7277 or voice mail at 508-824-3227. Please no calls to MassInfo Tech!**

**Taunton Emergency Task Force. 1/2/07, 9:30, GATRA**

**Fund Raising**

- **Donation letters** will be set out to all committee members, requesting a \$25.00 donation.
- **Town-Line Redemption** account has been set up. A flyer will be sent out.

**Homelessness** - GATCH meetings will be held at CCBC in Taunton. The meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:30pm. The shelter sub-committee meetings will also be held at CCBC, 1:30 on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Ten year plan to end chronic homelessness will be discussed.

**CFC-Fuel Assistance** - Rental property is now counted as income. You now have to show how you are surviving and paying rent. A letter has to be notarized or come from the appropriate agency. If client is eligible for fuel assistance he can apply for citizens' energy. Letters have been sent out to clients who are already receiving fuel assistance.

**SouthShore Housing Family Self-Sufficiency Program**

- Families have to have a section eight voucher through SouthShore Housing
- Families are linked with services
- Education and training programs

- 5 year contract with HUD
- Once families increase their skills and pay more money in rent, money is put in an account for the families
- 2000 vouchers through SouthShore Housing
- Meetings held in the Taunton area
- SouthShore Housing also develops affordable housing, homeownership center, first-time home ownership, housing rehab, and RAFT.

**TEMA** - There was a fire in a 3 family Bay Street home in Taunton on 12/29/06. Red Cross responded right away. Vouchers were given to the families to stay in hotels. Red Cross will help with the first and last month rent.

**Holiday Donations** - Julia thanked the Taunton community for generous donations during the holiday season. She suggested reexamining the emergency food services in the Taunton area.

**Associates for Human Services** serves families with children up to age 3. Parent support groups are also available. Openings will be coming up.

**Transitional Housing Program** There are currently 6 families in the program, 3 families signed leases with the Taunton Housing Authority during the month of

December and 2 families should be in by the end of the month.

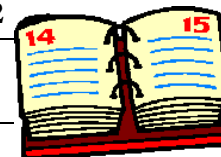
**Department of Mental Health** Emergency services are available 24/7 in the Taunton area.

**Department of Human Services**

- Passes will allow children ages 8-11 from Dewert Ave. to attend the Boys and Girls Club after school. Eventually transportation will be provided from Highland Court and Paul Bunker Drive.
- Working on grants for software to improve case management.
- Neighborhood watch programs address scams.
- Elders program is working on new program with the police and sheriff's departments-fundraisers for specific needs.
- Working with GATRA-safe driving program with elders.
- Applied for a grant working with Community Counseling of Bristol County, Bristol Elder Services, Council on Aging to focus on elders with mental health issues.

Next Meeting: 2/6/07, 9:30, GATRA administrative building

Contact Person: Milly Burrows, 508-880-0202



**UPCOMING AREA MEETINGS/EVENTS**

Jan. 12, 3:30	<b>SART XII Planning Committee.</b> CCBC, Mill River Place.
Jan. 16, 9:00	<b>GTHHSC Networking Meeting.</b> A.H.S., 68 Allison Ave.
Jan. 16, 10:15	<b>CHNA#24 Steering Committee Meeting.</b> A.H.S., 68 Allison Ave.
Jan. 17, 3:30	<b>GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee.</b> CCBC, Mill River Place
Jan 18, 5:00	<b>SEMA-VAV (Domestic Violence Committee).</b> First Parish Church, Church Green, Taunton.
Jan. 24, 8:00	<b>Safe Neighborhood Initiative.</b> Fairfax Gardens Community Room.
Feb. 6, 9:30	<b>Taunton Emergency Task Force.</b> GATRA Administrative Bldg, Conference Room, 10 Oak St.



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**Taunton, MA 02780**