

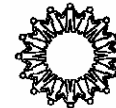
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# THE ADVOCATE



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

Volume XVI, No.5

May 2006

## A SILENT VIGIL



"Matthew Slattery of Taunton holds a sign during the Monday afternoon peace vigil around the Taunton Green that intended to raise awareness of abuse and violence in Taunton and surrounding towns. (Photo by J. Kiely Jr./The Enterprise)" – The Enterprise

During the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006, crime victims and survivors and those who serve them join together across America to promote victims' rights and services, and to educate our communities about the devastating impact of crime on victims, neighborhoods, schools and our nation as a whole. Crime victims and survivors gain strength from the understanding and assistance they receive from family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and employers who offer greatly needed support. Helen Keller expressed that "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much"

On Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, members of Southeastern Massachusetts Voices Against Violence (SEMA-VAV), the Greater Attleboro/Taunton Health & Education Response for Violence Prevention/Domestic Violence (GATHER VP/DV) and New Hope, Inc. held a silent vigil in support of crime victims. Volunteers held violence prevention "campaign" signs saying, for example, "Stop the Violence!," "There's No Excuse for Abuse" and "Violence is Unacceptable."

The entire community was invited to join from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Among participants was City Taunton Councilman David Pottier, Christine and Wayne Deaton and the Neighborhood Watch group, Associates for Human Services Milly Burrows and Ronna Schaffer, New Hope's Jennifer Brown, Mass Infotech students, Annemarie Matulis, George Larkin, Matthew Slattery, Jennifer Tinglof, Tracey Medeiros, and other Voices Against Violence Volunteers.

The primary vigil was held on the sidewalks around the Taunton Green. Community members were encouraged to wear purple, teal or white to specifically honor those who have been domestic violence (purple) or sexual assault (teal) victims. White is dedicated to the loss of a loved one as the tragic result of any crime.

Violence in any form, toward any person, is unacceptable. The Greater Taunton/Attleboro area has many programs and resources to serve victims of crime. Sadly, many people are not aware of who, what and where they are. Resource information was available during the vigil. For the last few years, community members have expressed outrage and concern about violence and crime. The April 24<sup>th</sup> gave everyone an opportunity to take a stand – enough is enough, by joining together and demonstrating *Strength in Unity*.

For more information, please contact Annemarie Matulis at **508-922-7278** or email her at [matulisannie@msn.com](mailto:matulisannie@msn.com).

### GTHHSC May Networking Meeting

***Men's Help Partnership: Helping Folks with No Insurance***

**5/16/06, 9:00**

Associates for Human Services, 68 Allison Rd.



## Did You Know That...?



### **Morton Hospital and Medical Center**



free offerings at the Silver City Galleria Community Room, 8:00am, include “*Understanding Strokes*”, **5/5/06**; *Medication Safety*, **6/2/06**. Free, no registration required. Offerings in the Margaret Stone Conference Room, 6:30 pm are as follows: *Beat the Sugar Blues*, **5/18/06**; *Sleep Well, Feel Better*, **5/24/06**; *Childhood ADHD (Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder)*, **6/8/06**. All free, registration required. Please call **508-828-7777**.



### **Gambling Problems: Community, Clinical and Personal**

*Approaches* will be held **5/5/06**, 9:30-4:30, University of MA Boston Campus. For information or to register, call **617-426-4554** or log on to [www.masscompulsivegambling.org](http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org)

**Mulligan Center** is offering *Supporting Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth*, **May 2, 17 and 31**, all 3 sessions 2:30-4:30, Free. To register, contact Jane Dickey at **508-583-2250, x211**, or register online at [www.hcsm.org](http://www.hcsm.org).

**HIV Service Coordination Collaborative (SCC)** of the South Shore and Southeast Regions, a program of Health Care of Southeastern Mass., is pleased to announce their website at [www.hcsm.org/scc.htm](http://www.hcsm.org/scc.htm). The HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Summit will be held **5/10/06**, 9:00-3:00, at the Middleboro Town Hall. Free,

breakfast and lunch will be provided, and 5 CEUs (Continuing Education Units) will be offered for nurses, social workers and certified drug and alcohol counselors. You may bring information about your agency, program or consumer advisory board and any upcoming events you would like to share. Consumers are encouraged to attend and stipends will be available for participation in the summit. Transportation is also available. Please register online at [www.hcsm.org/scc.htm](http://www.hcsm.org/scc.htm) and click on Regional Summit Register Now! Or call Susana Medeiros, SCC Coordinator, at **508-583-2250 x251**.

**MA Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)** “Give Liberty a Hand” will honor those who fight for immigrant and refugee rights on **5/12/06**, 6:00pm, Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center. For tickets or sponsorship, please call **617-350-5480**, or visit [www.miracoalition.org](http://www.miracoalition.org)

**MA Community Health Workers (MACHW)** statewide training – “Improving Community Health through Advocacy” will be held **5/17/06**, 9:30-Noon, at the Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square. Attendees receive Advocating for Access Advocacy Toolkit. To register, contact Lisa at **508-856-4852**, or email [lrsiciliano@aol.com](mailto:lrsiciliano@aol.com).

**Talking It Ovar** is a free Ovarian Cancer Conference hosted by the Massachusetts

Division of the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition for survivors, women who have been recently diagnosed, caregivers and others concerned about the disease. The goal of the conference is to help you understand the illness and treatment options to make informed health care decisions. It will be held **5/20/06**, 8:30-3:00, at the MA Medical Society Conference Center at Waltham Woods. Pre-registration is required. Please call **781-643-9800** for tickets or more information.

**Center for NonProfit Management** 2006 BreakFACTS Series is offering *Strategic Planning 101*, **5/23/06**, 8:30-11:00am, at Stonehill College. For information or to register, call **508-565-1856**, or [www.stonehill.edu/nonprofit/breakfacts.htm](http://www.stonehill.edu/nonprofit/breakfacts.htm)

**Motivational Interviewing & Health Behavior Change: A Two Day Workshop**, will be held **6/2/06-6/3/06**, at the Newton Holiday Inn. Cost \$350.00. CEUs. Contact Ann Marie at **781-775-8865**, or [amgrd@hotmail.com](mailto:amgrd@hotmail.com)

**Health & Medical Issues in Autism** will be held **6/2/06**, 8:30-4:00, at the Taunton Holiday Inn. Register before 5/26/06. Cost: Parents, Direct Care Workers, Educators, etc., \$40; Nurses, \$70 (Includes CEUs); Social Workers, \$70 (CEUs pending). Please call **978-534-8736**, or **978-424-7961**.

**FREE Health Screenings to Men** age 18 or older that do not

have health insurance or are underinsured The Men's Health Partnership, a program sponsored by Massachusetts Department of Public Health and administered by Visiting Nurse Association of Cape Cod, Inc, program's focus is on screening for heart disease, diabetes and prostate cancer. Services include a physical exam, lab work, counseling and education. After their free health consultation, participants receive a \$25 Gift Certificate to Pub Ninety-Nine compliments of the Men's Health Partnership, at any one of the Pub Ninety-Nine restaurants in New Bedford, Fairhaven, Taunton and Fall River. For information call **1-888-557-9994**



**MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Summit** - Facilitator training will be held June 16-17, and the summit on June 18-21, Clark University, Worcester. For youth delegates and adult advisors. \$100 registration per participant, deadline May 5, 2006. Contact Bonnie at [blai@maddmass.org](mailto:blai@maddmass.org), or call **617-227-2701**.

**More Middle Age Americans Are Dying of Drug Overdose** - Even as federal officials tout progress in cutting teen drug use, more middle-aged Americans are dying of drug overdoses, experts say. The [Psychiatric Times](#) reported in its April 2006 issue that the typical addict is likely to be in their mid-30s to

mid-50s, but that prevention programs often overlook Baby Boomers. The Drug Addiction Help Line reported that the typical overdose victim in 2005 was age 43, compared to 32 in 1985 and 22 in 1970. The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) reported that more than half of overdose deaths in 2003 were among 35-to-54-year-olds. Older drug users also predominate in emergency-rooms. Potent prescription painkillers like the widely abused OxyContin may be contributing to overdose deaths among older Americans. Cocaine and methamphetamines also are factors, although many overdose victims had used more than one substance. Middle-aged Americans also have been involved in more crimes nationally, a trend that may have its roots in drug addiction. ([www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2006/addiction-increasingly-seen.html](http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2006/addiction-increasingly-seen.html))

**1 in 400 Students Lose Aid** due to past drug offenses, according to data from the U.S. Department of Education. That's 189,065 students since the law went into effect during the 2000-01 school year. A majority of students were able to restore their eligibility by completing a drug rehabilitation program, an Education Department spokesperson said. ([www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2006/one-in-400-students-lose-aid.html](http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2006/one-in-400-students-lose-aid.html))

**Dangerous Pesticides Found in Cigarettes** - Scientists identified the chemicals, two of which are classified as human carcinogens. They said the substances could negatively affect early development, reproduction, and hormonal processes. All of the pesticides have been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for use on tobacco. The study found that the chemicals survived the burning of tobacco leaves to retain about 10 percent of their original potency. The research appears online in the journal *Analytical Chemistry*. ([www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2006/dangerous-pesticides-found-in.html](http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2006/dangerous-pesticides-found-in.html))

**Smoking Kills More Asian-Americans Than Thought** - Researchers from the University of California found that Korean, Chinese, Japanese, and Vietnamese American men have three times the cancer death rate of South Asian women -- a disparity almost entirely attributable to smoking. The cancer death rate among Asian women is among the world's lowest, and researchers suggest that Asian men would enjoy similar health if they didn't smoke. The annual cancer mortality among South Asian women living in California is 58 per 100,000 population, compared to a national average of 193.5 per 100,000. Meanwhile, lung-cancer rates doubled among South Asian men between 1998 and 2001. ([www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2006/smoking-kills-more.html](http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2006/smoking-kills-more.html))

This month's Advocate was published by Lorraine Rosa, Coordinator, with funds from GATHER MRI and GTHHSC dues. To submit an article, announcement or other information, email [mcaproso@hotmail.com](mailto:mcaproso@hotmail.com), or call **508-823-4822** by May 30, 2006. You may also access copies of The Advocate at [www.geocities.com/gathercoalition](http://www.geocities.com/gathercoalition).

# COALITION/COMMITTEE MINUTES & REPORTS



## GATHER Domestic Violence, Violence Prevention (DV/VP).

4/20/06, 3:30, New Hope



### Discussion Highlights:

#### Upcoming Events/Projects:

##### ➤ **Triumph Head Start Beautification Project** –



Volunteers are invited to join SEMA - VAV

(Southeastern Massachusetts Voices Against Violence) as they work to complete this landscaping adventure. All activities are weather permitting. Donations of materials are also needed and welcome. Environment makes a difference: 1400 bulbs were planted in the past, but more work needs to be done. For details and calendar, see [www.semavav.org](http://www.semavav.org), contact DV chairperson Annemarie at [matulisannie@msn.com](mailto:matulisannie@msn.com), or call **508-824-3227**.

➤ **National Crime Victims Rights Week** “Victims’ Rights: Strength in Unity” Silent Vigil featuring campaign signs will be held **4/24/06**, 4:30-6:30, throughout Taunton. Meeting place for sign distribution is a MA Infotech, 9 Taunton Green. All are encouraged to wear purple (for DV), teal, (sexual assault), and/or white (representing the victim died). The white poster signs feature 4 different sayings. High school students and others expect to participate throughout the city.

➤ **Take Back the Night** - Signs will be used again at the Stonehill College “Take Back the Night, 4/25/06,

5:30, at the Boland Hill Book Store at Stonehill. Participants will walk to each dorm and perform music or poetry.

➤ **Dress to Impress** – Voices Against Violence has contracted with 1<sup>st</sup> Parish Church to rent space in the basement. Renovation is low cost through volunteers. Free interview attire will be provided to low income women and men who are returning to the workforce and don’t have the appropriate clothing for interviews. An authorized referral will be required on agency or organization letterhead. New interview appropriate clothing will be requested as donations, especially men’s clothing and professional looking shoes for both men and women. The July or August kick off will tie in to National Make a Difference Day. The project will be volunteer run and by appointment.

➤ **Verizon Cell Phones Project** is ongoing. Call Annemarie for pickup.

➤ **Justine Kingsley**, VAV volunteer, advocate and spokesperson whose brother and girl friend were carjacked and executed in Rhode Island, will receive an award. The Rhode Island Victims’ Advocacy and Support Center (RIVASC) is hosting the 2006 RIVASC Victims’ Rights and Service Awards Luncheon on

**4/28/06**. The group honors individuals and agencies who have significantly improved the rights and services of Rhode Island crime victims.

#### Past Events: National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

➤ **Yellow Dress** play was provided to about 250 Taunton



High School juniors, seniors, and teachers, on 3/24/06. It began with an MVP (Mentors in Violence Prevention) demonstration of a dating violence / bystander involvement incident. The Yellow Dress is about a high school senior that engages with the audience by sharing her dating relationship and how it deteriorates and the violence escalates. The play was powerful, unsettling and the audience felt the reactions. After a panel discussion with Jennifer T, Annemarie, the actress and MVP students, about a dozen students stopped to thank representatives for bring the play to the school. Later, a parent shopping with her daughter at a local supermarket thanked Annemarie for bringing the Yellow Dress to the school.

➤ **Sexual Assault Forum** – The attendance was small, indicating the need for personal invitation at the high school, college level, or for service providers. Rape is a fast growing violent

crime in America. The press attended the event and did an article in the Attleboro Sun Chronicle.

- **Dancing for Our Stars** was a successful fundraiser. The ballroom and sets were beautiful. Included were presentations by 2 DV survivors, live and silent auction, and martini and wine tasting.
- **GTHHSC/GATHER Planning Meeting Update** (See page 7) – There has been an increase in activities in both the DV and SAC (Substance Abuse Committee). Two agencies provide financial management. Changes in federal laws make this more difficult. The DV committee projects often extend beyond DV and into other areas of violence prevention. Funding has to be sought to

meet those needs, beyond the DON (Determination of Need) money. Currently, a 501c3 has to sign off on all committee grants. The committee examined the 3 proposed structure models, and in an opinion of 6 to 1, the majority chose the first: That of GATHER being a central group in the hub of a wheel with independent area committees as spokes.

#### **Announcements:**

- **Jane Doe Spirit Award Winner** - Janice Pothier Pac, Operations Director at New Hope received the 2006 Spirit Award at the “Voices for Change” Gala to benefit Jane Doe Inc. This year’s theme “Voices for Change” emphasized the voices of survivors and the many more voices needed to speak out against violence.

- **Registered Sex Offenders** – Information identifying individuals, their locations, and offenses is available at [www.familywatchdog.us](http://www.familywatchdog.us).
- **Summer Meeting Schedule** – There will be no DV meetings in July and August. The June meeting will be held as scheduled, location to be announced.

#### Next Steps:

Get press articles that highlight committee work in April events

#### Next Meeting:

GATHER DV/VP: **5/18/06**, 3:30, (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month), New Hope, 39 Taunton Green

Contact Person: Annemarie Matulis, **508-922-7278** cell, [amatulis@tmlp.com](mailto:amatulis@tmlp.com) or [matulisannie@msn.com](mailto:matulisannie@msn.com)



## **GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee (SAC). 4/20/06, 3:30, CCBC**



#### Discussion Highlights:

**MADD Summit** facilitator training will be held June 16-17, and the summit on June 18-21, Clark University, Worcester. \$100 registration per participant, deadline May 5, 2006. Contact Bonnie at [blai@maddmass.org](mailto:blai@maddmass.org), or call **617-227-2701**.

#### **Area Updates and Trends:**

- **Durfee High School YRBS** (Youth Risk Behavior Survey) data shows an increase in smoking. Student perception is that 80% are smokers, but in reality, only 10% smoke daily. Also, 87% of students want to date a non-smoker. SAC members wondered if the parents are smokers, teacher perceptions, and student

perception of how many teachers smoke.

- **Wareham/Carver Smoke Free Commission** is applying for an EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Smokefree Homes Campaign grant for a 2-year education program. Wareham has the state’s highest rate of lung cancer and pregnancy/smoking rates.
- **New Bedford High School** 10<sup>th</sup> grade health classes will have a presentation in April by Bob Merman, who lost his voice due to cancer.
- **Old Rochester High School** had a presentation on Teen Brain Development and the impact of alcohol. The brain

is not fully developed until people are in their 20’s.

- **Underage Drinking Town Meeting** in New Bedford was well attended by a good cross-section of the community and media. It included group work and a perception activity.

**Committee Budget** – Prom Project costs were \$540. Currently, \$1460 is left.

**GTHHSC/GATHER Planning Committee Update** – A subgroup is working on building an Attleboro structure similar to the GTHHSC. The committee examined the 3 proposed structure models: 7 preferred that of GATHER being a central group in the hub of a wheel with

independent area committees as spokes, and one abstained.

**Safe Prom Project a Huge Success** – The Channel 5 coverage of GATHER SAC project was shared with attendees. It included interviews with Deb Brown, Arlene Dickinson and a high school student, as well as a local liquor store owner who appreciated getting the heads up on dates and locations of area proms. The video may get parents thinking beyond what their kids are saying about everyone’s doing it. They may also wonder what other parents are thinking of their decision to provide high risk environments for after-prom parties for their children. Channels 25 and 4 were also interested in doing a story, and several newspapers have already carried the message.

**Project YELL (Youth Endorsing Legal Lifestyles)** – The grant award notice has been received to restore funding the social norms project.

➤ **Timeline** - Renewal applications deadline was mid March, but SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) will be flexible with the deadline,

given the circumstances. The \$100,000 has to be spent by the end of September, but a no cost extension can be requested.

- **Revision** - The application and budget need to be revised and submitted.
- **Assistance** - CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) has offered technical assistance with the process.
- **Staffing** - Funding can be used to do a needs assessment and for planning, but programming is lost for this school year. A grant writer and coordinator with a strong prevention background, experienced with federal grants, a self-starter, who knows the ropes right from the beginning will need to be hired. Sabrina will begin to work on job descriptions to be sent out to websites and colleges such as Boston University. Details will have to be decided: Who approves the job descriptions? Who does the interviews and hiring? Shall the committee look at applications and select 3 names to go to Phil? Sabrina can be paid for consultation from the grant and send what

needs to be done, by when, as well as beginning work on a job description and consultation agreement.

**Next Steps:**

- Send thank you letters to Channel 5, local newspapers (Brockton Enterprise, Taunton CALL) and Zips liquor store for their support in getting the word out.
- Contact Attleboro Sun about the Prom project press release
- Contact the Boston Globe about interest in the Prom project press release
- Plan follow up steps after prom season ends after June 4.
- Write RFQs (Request for Quotes) for a grant writer and coordinator for Project YELL, and a consultation agreement by Monday.
- Look into CCBC resources for grant writers
- Once applications are received, forward by email to the committee for pre-meeting examination.

**Next Meeting: 5/17/06, 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**



**GTHHSC/GATHER Planning Meeting. 4/4/06, 3:30, Arbour-Fuller Hospital**

**Discussion Highlights:**

**Purpose of Today’s Organizational Structure Discussion:**

- How to better work together
- Continuation of recent discussions
- To do what makes sense
- Effective leverage of resources (funding, technical assistance, other grants)

- For a simple structure that functions well (coordinating council?)
- For looking at area needs, year long strategic planning and evaluation

**Summary of Last Meeting**

- Attleboro, North Attleboro, Mansfield and Norton are not at the table (the old Attleboro CHNA

(Community Health Network Area))

- Great projects are happening, mostly in Taunton
- Looking for links through a coordinating council
- There are 27 CHNAS – GATHER is #24. We have 2 big cities. How do we problem solve so

programming can happen in the whole area.

- DPH (Department of Public Health) wants to make sure we're reaching out to the Attleboro area

### What is the CHNA?

- Does GATHER exist or need to exist?
- Coordinating Committee? An umbrella to bring people together into a Greater Attleboro/Taunton Health and Human Services Coalition for agencies to work together?
- DPH requests CHNAs receive community benefits packages.
- DPH vendors are required to attend CHNAs – some don't attend
- DPH reviews RFRs to see their participation
- DPH wants lots of activity and a way that it gets shared and communicated
- Attleboro CHNA used to do unintentional injury: child safety fairs, care seat deliveries. One member commented he greatly enjoyed this, but never would have had the opportunity without the mandate.
- GTHHSC works well. Create something for Attleboro. A coordinating committee could link both
- People need an issue they feel strongly about to get them to the table

### Comments:

- GTHHSC works well
- What about other independent committees that are related: SNI (Safe Neighborhood Initiative), GATCH (Greater Attleboro/Taunton

Committee on Homelessness), AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome) Consortium, Emergency Task Force?

- Attleboro Area Council meets every other month for networking
- Call the GATHER coordinating committee the CHNA
- GATHER, a central group, can meet quarterly for networking, looking at needs and gaps, and what's being done separately or together. The Greater Attleboro / Taunton networking committee does long term planning, strategic planning, and direction, based on data. GATHER invites representation from all the groups in the GATHER area.

### 3 Possible Organizational Structure under the CHNA infrastructure: Coordinating Committee

- **GATHER as Hub** – Independent committees of Greater Attleboro and Greater Taunton are spokes.
- **Overlapping Ovals**, one with an Attleboro focus (GATHER or other name), and one with Taunton focus (GTHHSC). Central area is the Greater Attleboro/Taunton Networking Committee (CHNA). Each oval has subcommittees.
- **Boxed Flow Chart** – A coordinating committee links the Attleboro (Attleboro, Mansfield, N. Attleboro, Norton) focused GATHER or Greater Attleboro Health & Human Services Coalition and the Greater Taunton Health &

Human Services Coalition (Berkley, Dighton, Lakeville, Middleboro, Raynham, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Taunton)

### Reflexions from DV Chair, unable to attend:

- Become a stand alone, community coalition in the true sense of that definition
- Reorganization of a "parent" – either GATHER or GTHHSC
- Board of Directors (already in place via each committee's chairperson. A chair and facilitator needed)
- Leave both entities as subsidiaries of a parent group which then creates the board
- Incorporate and apply for 501c3 status. Expenses are minimal and it doesn't all have to happen today.
- There are great needs within the collective areas not being met. We take the next step forward in growth to continue to offer hope to those served
- SEMA-VAV volunteers will support the work that is generated

### Next Steps:

- Do Attleboro outreach
- Committee to work on structure (Marty, Barbara, Maria, Arlene, Deb, Jennifer, Lynda, Pam, Tracy, Ron, Lorraine)

### Next Meetings:

**Structure Committee, 5/3/06, 3:30, Arbour-Fuller Hospital, Attleboro, MA**

**May Networking Meeting, 5/16/06, 9:00, A.H.S.**

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

Discussion Highlights:

**Bylaws** were approved.

**Homeless** - Katherine McHugh has agreed to consult on 10-year plan. There has been discussion on how to distribute funds raised by GATCH (not a 501c3). Any suggestions contact Milly.

**Fuel Fund/Emergency Services** - More funds have been released for fuel assistance.

**Family Self Sufficiency Program** is working on the Coordinator's grant due in May. Also, FSS participants will be required to attend monthly meetings. Donna is looking for speakers to present at those meetings. Anyone with information or is interested in presenting call **508-822-0051**.

**Fund-raising Committee** met in March. Several grant opportunities are available: The United Way grant is complete and has been sent in. Hannaford funds are available through their charitable foundation. The group has decided to request for funds for transportation which will include bus passes and car repairs. The request for fuel and furnace repairs will be made through the Bay State Gas grant, NiSource. Donation letters will be sent out to businesses. Raffle tickets to be sent to all members of the Task Force to sell. The committee is presently looking into cost of printing and permit to sell. The next meeting will be April 11 at 9:00 am at Donna DeFaria's office on Olney St.

**Transportation Update:** apply for 20-pass/per month. Employed individuals may apply

for full month pass. Disabled individuals may apply for ½ fare passes.

**Agency Sharing:**  
**Bristol Elder Services (BES):** Crisis Department investigates allegations of abuse to elders (age 60 and over), including physical, sexual, verbal, and financial. The Home Care Program provides services such as house keeping, laundry, etc. Program covers 22 cities/towns.

**Our Daily Bread** provides about 180 meals per day. They are seeing many new faces, especially young males. Program does see some families but children are usually fed through school programs. Children will be seen during school vacation. Some individuals travel from Providence and Attleboro for a meal. Increase may be due to temporary court next door.

**GATRA** (Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority) is applying for MedWheel grant to provide elderly individuals with out of town medical transportation. Last year program only services Attleboro area but this year's includes the Taunton area. GATRA Consumer Advisory Board is looking for new members. Committee meets monthly.

**ST. Vincent DePaul** is rehabbing the new building and moving. Numbers are also increasing. Individuals are required to register to receive their card. Last week 17 new families registered. Program is preparing for TMLP (Taunton

Municipal Lighting Plant) shut-offs that are expected to happen next week.

**Department of Human Services** FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) rental funds are available. Individuals must have a documented emergency and be only 1 month behind.

**Lord Cares Food Pantry** is seeing more numbers. The Postal worker drive is May 13.

**Taunton Housing Authority Transitional Housing Program** serves 9 families. One family recently leased up. Referrals are being received through out the state.

**Community Counseling of Bristol County (CCBC)** provides the community with services from crisis intervention to general support. Most are Department of Mental Health eligible. They are seeing a lot of new faces, especially young males coming out from Taunton State Hospital.

**CCBC Bridge House** provides services to homeless individuals. They have increased beds to 10 for males and fewer for females. Presently male beds are full with one open female bed. Individuals in the program receive supportive services and can stay for a period of 2 years.

**Board of Health** is still working with 50 Washington Street residents. All residents must be out by Friday, April 7.

**SouthShore Housing** is an umbrella agency. Home modification program is



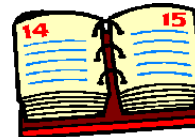
available to homeowners. Also some Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) funds are still available. Call for an application. The agency plans to apply for more funds

and begin program again in October, 2006. For guidelines to either program contact Donna at **508-822-0051**.

Next Meeting: **5/2/06**, 9:30, Bloom Bus Terminal, Oak St.

Contact Person:  
Milly Burrows, **508-880-0202**

## UPCOMING AREA MEETINGS



May 2, 9:30	<b>Taunton Emergency Task Force.</b> GATRA Administrative Bldg, Conference Room, 10 Oak St.
May 3, 3:30	<b>CHNA #24 Structure Planning Meeting.</b> Arbour-Fuller Hospital.
TBA	<b>Greater Taunton Mayor's AIDS Consortium.</b> No regular meetings until further notice.
May 16, 9:00	<b>GTHHSC Networking Meeting.</b> Associates for Human Services, 68 Allison Rd.
May 16, 10:15	<b>GTHHSC Child &amp; Family Focus Committee.</b> A.H.S., 68 Allison Rd.
May 17, 3:30	<b>GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee.</b> CCBC, Mill River Place
May 18, 3:30	<b>GATHER Domestic Violence Committee.</b> New Hope Taunton Office. 39 Taunton Green.
May 24, 8:00	<b>Safe Neighborhood Initiative Annual Meeting.</b> Fairfax Gardens Community Room.



**GTHHSC/GATHER**  
**P.O. Box 2894**  
**Taunton, MA 02780**

