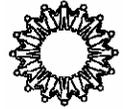


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THE ADVOCATE



The Newsletter of the Greater Taunton Health & Human Service Coalition (GTHHSC) and the Greater Attleboro Taunton Health & Education Response (GATHER)

Volume XV, No.11

November 2005



Great American Smoke Out Set for 11/17/05

(American Cancer Society)

On the 3rd Thursday in November, millions of smokers will take part in the American Cancer Society's 29th annual Great American Smokeout. Smokers nationwide will unite and kick the deadly habit of smoking. About 1 in four adults and 1 in 5 teenagers in the United States are current smokers – 45.5 million Americans. Unless efforts to help them beat their addiction are substantially increased, 10 to 20 million current smokers will die from tobacco-related diseases.

There are enormous advantages to quitting smoking:

- People who quit, regardless of age, live longer than people who continue to smoke.
- Quitting smoking decreases the risk of lung cancer, other cancers, heart attack, stroke, and chronic lung disease.
- Women who stop smoking before pregnancy or during

the first 3-4 months of pregnancy reduce their risk of having a low-birth-weight baby to that of a woman who never smoked.

Of course, quitting isn't easy. Tobacco dependence is comparable in severity to dependence caused by opiates. Fortunately, smokers now have a variety of medications and treatments they can use to help them stop smoking. These medications include the nicotine replacement products such as the gum and patch and the antidepressant bupropion (Zyban, Wellbutrin). Smokers can also combine their use of medication by seeking counseling from their physician, pharmacist, or a telephone quitline- clinically proven, free, telephone-based counseling. For a quitline near you call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345.

Research shows that smokers are most successful in kicking the habit when they have some

means of support such as nicotine replacement therapy, prescription medication and counseling but, despite this data, only 22% of current smokers report using any of the recommended therapies in their last quit attempt, pointing to the need and potential for increased use of support.

The American Cancer Society, through its advocacy and public awareness efforts, is leading the charge to pass smoke-free legislation at the community and state levels so that all Americans have the right to work or dine where they choose without compromising their health and quality of life.

For more information on the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout, smoking information or smoke-free legislation please contact the American Cancer Society at **1-800-ACS-2345** or visit www.cancer.org. ♥

GTHHSC Networking Meeting:

11/15/05, 9:00, Associates for Human Services, 68 Allison Rd.

Traci Wojciechowski, Regional Student Service Coordinator for the Caron Foundation will talk about addiction treatment services, including student assistance and tobacco cessation

(See article on next page)

Caron Foundation Representative to Speak at GTHHSC November Meeting

On Tuesday, **11/15/05**, Traci Wojciechowski, Regional Student Service Coordinator for the Caron Foundation will speak at the GTHHSC November networking meeting.

The Caron Foundation is a private, not-for-profit organization whose missions is to provide an enlightened and caring treatment community where all those effected by the disease of addiction may begin a new life. Now in its 5th decade of providing quality services, Caron offers a full spectrum of gender specific chemical dependency treatment programs to meet the

needs of everyone – from adolescents to seniors. Services include early intervention, medical evaluation, psychological testing, residential adolescent primary rehab, adolescent extended care, continuing care planning, and family education and treatment programs.

Caron is one of the few treatment centers that is able to successfully collaborate with schools to approach issues that may be a barrier to student learning and success. Some of the Student Assistance Services offered include support groups,

prevention programs, faculty in-services and tobacco cessation. They have been providing student assistance programs and services to schools since 1990 and utilize best practices in the field of prevention and intervention.

The presentation will include an overview of the Caron Foundation's treatment services and will highlight the Student Assistance Programs that are available to schools and community organizations in Massachusetts. Do not miss this special presentation. ♣

Arbour-Fuller Hospital

(From Arbour-Fuller Hospital)

Features of the Dual Diagnosis Track in the Adolescent Unit at Arbour-Fuller Hospital are as follows:

- Attending psychiatrist on the Adolescent Unit is a board-certified child psychiatrist.
- The Unit has a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor who facilitates specific substance abuse groups in conjunction with the hospital Director of Group Therapy.
- On an individualized basis, medication management may be implemented for substance abuse treatment.
- The substance abuse treatment model in the psychiatric adolescent unit offers an alternative to correctional facilities or disciplinary methods.
- There are three substance abuse groups per week:
 - 1. Motivation to Quit** (helps patients identify why

substance abuse is negatively impacting on the adolescents' life. This group empowers patients to make choices based on safety and sobriety)

2. Step Group (from AA focuses on education about AA in general and psychoeducation about the substances and the negative physical affects of abuse)

3. Relapse Prevention Group (focuses on identifying ways to become clean and sober)

- DBT groups are offered twice per week. These groups are useful in addressing substance abuse treatment by teaching patients to reframe their thoughts in order to improve behavioral outcomes.
- Activity based groups offered daily encourage participants to utilize

recreation and leisure in a healthy way rather than resorting to drugs and alcohol.

- Affiliation with local residential treatment center for substance abusive adolescents allows for inpatients to engage in dialogues with adolescents who are in recovery in a residential setting.
- A multidisciplinary team approach for treatment includes psychiatrist, nurse, case manager, Director of Group Therapy and a milieu supervisor. This ensures appropriate discharge planning to meet specialized needs of the patients.

Arbour-Fuller Hospital is located at 200 May St., South Attleboro, MA 02703-5515. Telephone is **508-761-8500**. ♠

Sustaining Your Coalition

(From CADCA's Sue Stine)

When it comes to keeping the lights on and the computers running, money matters, but as most coalition leaders have discovered, funding isn't all that sustains a coalition.

CADCA, its National Coalition Institute and broadcast partners the Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training Program and St. Petersburg College hosted a satellite broadcast/webcast to give coalitions valuable insight into the importance of sustainability.

An important thing to remember is that sustaining the coalition is about sustaining the mission, said Kareemah Hafiz Abdullah, Deputy Director, Training and Technical Assistance for CADCA's National Coalition Institute.

The broadcast featured success stories from CADCA members Watson Haynes, President and CEO, Coalition for a Safe and Drug Free St. Petersburg; Penny Jenkins, Executive Director, Santa Barbara Fighting Back; and Judy Cushing, CEO and Executive Director of the Oregon Partnership.

Coalitions play a variety of important roles in the community: bringing in resources into the community; acting as an expert advisor, serving as a neutral convener,

and providing a catalyst for new and improved services, said Jane Callahan, Director of the National Coalition Institute. The mission of any successful coalition is to ensure that there are resources available to reduce substance abuse problems in its community.

"Coalitions should develop a sustainability plan from the beginning," added Eduardo Hernández-Alarcón, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Dissemination and Coalition Relations for CADCA's National Coalition Institute. "Groups should be thinking about sustaining the mission before they start thinking about grants and other funding sources."

Additionally, when it comes time to look for money, it's important for the coalition to have community support and a diverse funding base. Coalitions should be thinking about local resources, such as a church that might be willing to donate office space or a local company that might offer incentives for employees who volunteer. "The community and its resources should not be an afterthought. If you have buy-in from the community, the resources will come," stated Dr. Hernández-Alarcón.

"Emerging research indicates what helps to make a coalition

sustainable. There's a certain type of leadership, not just one or two people holding the organization together, but literally hundreds of people playing important roles. There is significant involvement from community leadership and a diversified funding base from the beginning, meaning that the group will not be overly dependent on any one source," noted Ms. Callahan.

It also is important for coalitions to plan for and learn how to access training to develop all aspects of the coalition, added Ms. Abdullah. In fact, coalitions that seek technical assistance appear to be more likely to sustain themselves. And that's where CADCA's National Coalition Institute can help. The Institute offers a variety of training and technical assistance opportunities for new and established coalitions. Information on the Institute's training opportunities is available online at www.coalitioninstitute.org or by sending an e-mail message to training@cadca.org.

The webcast is available at www.ncadi.samhsa.gov. To stay informed about CADCA's upcoming satellite broadcasts, visit CADCA's Web site at www.cadca.org. ♦

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 mcaprosa@hotmail.com, or call **508-823-4822** by November 15, 2005. You may also access copies of The Advocate at www.geocities.com/gathercoalition. 🎵

Did You Know That...?



Events

Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder workshops will be held **November 8, 9, 15 and 16**, 2:00-4:00, at the J.F.

Kennedy Federal Building, Room 2050, Boston, MA., for those who will be providing counseling or enrollment assistance. Their computer learning center has 12 computers, and the room can accommodate 24 people; 2 to a computer. Register with Theresa.Yuen@cms.hhs.gov. For information please call Theresa at **617-565-1213**.

Youth-Adult Collaboration: Integrating Youth Development Into Your Work is a MassCall training to be held **11/15/05**, 9-4, at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel, 1657 Worcester Road. \$20. Scholarships available. To register, call Minu at **617-423-4337, x500**.

The Mulligan Center for Health Promotion is offering the following trainings: *Expanding Contraception Options: What's New and What's Coming?* **11/17/05**, 1-4 pm, \$35; *Powerful Presentations: Introductory Training and Presentation Skill*, **11/29, 11/30**, 9-Noon. \$80; *The Unintended Consequences of Abstinence-Only Sex Education: How Race, Sex and Class Matter*, **12/6/05**, 2-4pm. Free. 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**. Location TBA in the Taunton area. For information, please contact Sabrina Strong at **508-823-5400**.

2006 National Conference, "Building on Success: Providing Today's Youth With Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (Federal Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, with the support of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention will be held on **January 9-13, 2006**, at the Hilton Washington Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Washington DC. If you have questions, e-mail them to nationalconference@jjrc.org.

Substance Abuse

National Social Norms Research Center's Social Norms Review is a quarterly publication intended to provide a forum for the in-depth examination of topics and issues of relevance to the social norms approach. See www.socialnorms.org

15 Minute Film Looks At Youth Access to Alcohol - FACE, Inc., a national nonprofit organization that supports sensible alcohol policies and practices, has just released a new film titled "This Place." It looks at where kids get alcohol, how they drink it, and what the outcomes are when they drink too much, too young. It also looks at environmental factors. For more information and to view a trailer of the film, see www.faceproject.org.

Young Children Emulate Parents' Smoking, Drinking Habits Researchers studied the behavior of 120 children ages 2-6 who were told to choose from 133 items to get a Barbie doll ready for a night on the town. The study demonstrated that

preschoolers whose parents smoked were more likely to choose cigarettes as part of the ensemble, while those whose parents drank were more likely to choose wine or beer. Moreover, children who watched R or PG-13 movies at home were five times more likely to choose alcohol. Overall, 28% of the children chose cigarettes, and 61% chose alcohol. Those whose parents smoked were about 4x more likely to pick out cigarettes, while those whose parents drank monthly or more frequently were 3x more likely to choose alcohol. Parents who watched the study through a two-way mirror were often shocked at their children's actions. "It's a very humbling experience to be a parent and see your children mimic your behaviors," she said. From September 2005 Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine.

SAMHSA: Youth Drug Use Continues to Decline Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt announced a 9 percent decline in illicit drug use among American youth between the ages of 12 and 17 from 2002 to 2004. Marijuana use also declined by 7 percent among young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 during this same period. Marijuana continues to be the most commonly used illicit drug, with a rate of 6.1 percent (14.6 million current users) for the U.S. population 12 and older. (From the 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) An area of concern is the increasing non-medical use of prescription medications among young adults. The 2004 survey shows about 6 percent of young adults used medications non-medically in the past month. From 2002 to 2004 there was an increase in lifetime prevalence of non-medical use of narcotic pain relievers in the 18-25 age group, from 22 percent to 24 percent.

Screening for Alcohol Use with 1-2 Questions - A new study suggests that asking only one straightforward question can identify unhealthy alcohol use. Researchers asked "When was the last time you had more than X drinks in 1 day?" with X being 5 for men and 4 for women; a question about average consumption per occasion; and a standard question about drinking frequency. Diagnostic interviews determined the presence of an alcohol use disorder and validated calendar methods determined drinking amounts. The question about consumption in a day, when answered "in the past 3 months," performed the best. Its respective sensitivities and specificities were 85 percent and 70 percent in men and 82 percent and 77 percent in women. Findings were similar when screening was conducted in person or by telephone. See www.jointogether.org/y/0,2521,577711,00.html?U=163901

Physical Activity/Nutrition

"Healthy School Food Policies: A Checklist" has been updated and released by the Center for Food and Justice, a division of the Urban and Environmental Policy Institute. You can download a copy at: http://departments.oxy.edu/uepi/cfj/resources/healthy_school_food_policies_05.pdf It contains 65 policy ideas for improving school food, with legislative language for each idea drawn from policies that have been enacted or proposed at the state or school district levels. This updated version contains dozens of new policies drawn from a much wider range of sources than the original 2002 release. If you are aware of a policy or proposal that is not referenced in the checklist, please send it to mvalli@oxy.edu

Outdoor Industry Foundation Launches Database of Outdoor Activities - Getting Americans Active, is a database of outreach programs and initiatives designed to promote increased youth participation in outdoor recreation. Search national, regional, and local outreach programs, and ways for outdoor businesses and individuals to work with community organizations. Log on to www.outdoorindustry.org/programs_earch.php.

National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute Diseases and Conditions Index (DCI) gives you a quick and easy way to get complete and dependable information about heart, lung, and blood diseases and sleep disorders. New topics will be added regularly. Print or download a copy of the topics that interest you for personal or educational use at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/dci/>

Violence Prevention

New National Support Program For Abused Elders and Adults with Disabilities - The American Society of Adult Abuse Professionals and Survivors (ASAAPS) has launched a new, free, public email listserve to provide support to victims and their family members and friends. To sign up, see www.asaaps.org/aboutus/listserves_sub.php, or send an email saying you want to sign up for the Survivors listserve to listserves@ASAAPS.org

New Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Resource lists legislation that has been introduced and summarizes bills that were passed by states in 2005 to address obesity, nutrition and physical

activity. It includes legislation that addresses physical education, school foods, food marketing, menu labeling, BMI reporting in schools, access to walking and biking, industry liability, health education, and other issues. See <http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/July%202005%20-%20Report.pdf>

The Women's Sports Foundation's GoGirlGo! Program is dedicated to the development and funding of girls' sports/physical activity program that combine athletic instruction and programming with the delivery of educational information aimed at reducing risk behaviors that threaten the health and social advancement of girls in the third to eighth grade. www.womenssportsfoundation.org/cgibin/iowa/funding/featured.html?record=30

Grants/resources

The Maternal and Child Health Library online catalog, MCHLine[®], includes materials for consumers and professionals in numerous languages other than English, and the Organizations Database identifies additional sources for these materials. All eighty-two languages are available at website: www.mchlibrary.info/nonenglish.html

Elected Officials Names and Contact Information is available at www.wheredoivotema.com

CVS Pharmacy grants are available for programs that provide healthcare for uninsured people. See www.grantrequest.com/SID_500/?SA=SNA&FID=35004

Obituary Notice: Sister Peggy Ouellete, former chairperson of the Greater Taunton Mayor's AIDS Consortium, passed away Sunday, 11/27/05.

COALITION/COMMITTEE MINUTES & REPORTS



GATHER Domestic Violence, Violence Prevention. 10/20/05, 3:30 A.H.S.

Video “*Breaking Peace: Babies Have Their Say About Domestic Violence*” (an



unborn child’s perspective) is a

training tool for professionals, but not for the general public. It is appropriate for a workshop with a forewarning of the context. The Community Crisis Intervention Team might find it a good resource.

October 2005 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities:

- **10/3/05 Day of Unity Update** – Approximately 30 people, including students, families and adults, participated in this year’s observance. Senator Pacheco spoke about moving forward and supporting resources.

- **Make a Difference Day** – Due to the state of emergency in Taunton, the Head Start beautification project and cell phone collection was changed to the following Saturday, October 29, 2005. Cell phones may also be dropped off at the



Post Office, Mass Info Tech or at Associates for Human Services.

- **Mentors in Violence Prevention** – Eleven students expressed interest in the awareness project. Ten are experienced participants from last year. Suggestions for this year include an MVP web page, a hotline on the website, and a cable show or tape for February, Valentine’s month.

December: The Holidays are No Excuse for Violence – Violence spikes during the holidays. The “No Excuse” topic would be a good topic for schools during December.

Loss of Key Members – Dan LeBrun, New Hope and co-chairperson, and Donald Silva, DPH liaison, changed careers.

Grants and Funding – Lorraine will use more time to seek and screen funding opportunities. Grant Review will be a regular part of the agenda.

Professional Training Conference On Abuse &

Disabilities – “Basics on Abuse and Disability: The Law, Victim’s Rights and Service Delivery” examined the unique challenges faced by persons with disabilities and the people who serve them. A summary of the information is available below the October minutes at www.geocities.com/gathercoalition/DVOctober2005.htm

Next Steps:

- Contact the CCIT about the “Breaking Peace” video.
- Contact CCIT about “Basics on Abuse and Disability: The Law, Victim’s Rights and Service Delivery”
- Video on November agenda
- Put “Grant Review” regularly on monthly agendas
- Contact DPH about a new liaison for GATHER

Next Meeting:

GATHER DV/VP: **11/17/05** (3rd Thursday of the Month), 3:30, New Hope, 39 Taunton Green

Contact Person:

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



GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee. 10/12/05, 3:00, Probation



Discussion Highlights:

Mission/Vision Statement:

- **Mission:** The GATHER / GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee addresses health and social issues in the Greater Attleboro/Taunton

communities resulting from substance abuse.

- **Vision:** This is accomplished by coordinating with existing community resources to heighten public awareness and to develop

programs to prevent, reduce and treat substance abuse.

Substance Abuse Round Table XI – So far 166 signed up. Funding covers 125. Expected attendees include assistant commissioners, school systems representatives from Taunton,

Raynham, Attleboro, Norton, Dighton, Berkley, Seekonk, Somerset, Bridgewater and Middleboro, Taunton and Attleboro court and police. Also expected are DYS, Morton Hospital and DPH. Each of 21 tables does one evaluation.

Project TEAMS training will be rescheduled. 18.5 CUs available.

Project YELL - SAMHSA continuation funding and a bid for technical assistance from SE Center for Healthy Communities was not granted. CADCA has begun a campaign about the grant process in which 10% (63) of continuation funding coalitions were not funded. 88 Coalitions were given a 30 day probation. The grading system changed under the new funder.

Reapplication can be made in 2006 with a more broad-based coalition that shows participation by businesses and parents. Feedback has not yet been received. Approximately \$20-25,000 is needed to continue the youth component

Technical Assistance is needed to do community and coalition building.

Community Crisis Intervention Team training will be held from 8-4 on November 1, 2 and 3. Police from Attleboro (6), Brockton (3) and 15 other individuals (DMR, Taunton public schools nurses, Attleboro court, Brockton crisis, Southbay and other providers) will attend.

Red Ribbon Week – T.H.S. students decided to heighten drug awareness by addressing one substance per day and would like to use Project YELL data, focusing on positive slogans. Students are aware of Project YELL and primed for more activities. Short-term funding is needed to keep the momentum of the youth component.

Next Steps:

Contact SAMHSA funded communities for technical assistance

Next Meeting: 11/16/05, 3:30, 18 Broadway.

Contact Persons:

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

GTHHSC Monthly Networking Meeting. 10/18/05, 9:00, Associates for Human Services (AHS)

Discussion Highlights:

Project YELL – The discontinued SAMHSA grant funded 30 hours per month of coordination, coalition telephone bills, supplies and printing. Sabrina, who managed the responsibilities of the grant well, a Middleboro staff person and the peer leaders lost their jobs. Details are being addressed between CCBC and Middleboro Youth Advocates. Letters have been sent to SAMHSA, ONDCP and Congressmen to address what CADCA has called a flawed process. The grant report allowed submission of only 2 sets of minutes, which did not reflect the representation of the 3 coalitions. SAMHSA requires representation from the following 12 sectors: Youth, parents, businesses, media, schools, youth organizations, law enforcement, religious or

fraternal organizations, civic groups, health care professionals, state, local or tribal governmental agencies and other organizations. The Coalition(s) would need to apply as a new grantee in future cycles. Both Taunton and Middleboro have baseline data, and Middleboro is already working on campaign messages. Peer leaders were trained in 2 science based curricula.

Community Health & Wellness Committee was reestablished under GTHHSC and GATHER. They met 10/26.

Obesity Prevention / Children's Safety - \$1000 of DON funding has been set aside to pursue grants in this topic.

Annual Meeting Follow-up – 41 attended the annual meeting. Cost was \$455 (\$250 for

speaker, \$205 for food). \$360 was received in payments. 6 attendees have not paid yet.

Next Meeting Topics suggested were the Caron Foundation (see page 2) for November, the flu pandemic (Dori) and Disaster planning (Emergency Management)

Next Steps:

- Use more of coordinator time to pursue grants
- Set up a subcommittee to work out possibility of reimbursement and maintain a relationship with Middleboro
- Prepare documentation of SCHC participation at GATHER meetings
- Contact a consultant and funded area coalitions for technical assistance in coalition building
- Pursue nonpays from annual breakfast

- Send a welcome letter to the GTHHSC to new attendees of the annual meeting
- Create a participation grid

Next Meeting: 11/15/05, 9:00, A.H.S.

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

GTHHSC Child & Family Focus Committee. 10/18/05, 10:30, AHS

Discussion Highlights:

Work Plan – The Committee will focus on the following topics:

- Window safety guards
- Quarterly “Salute to Health” newsletter funding
- Afterschool programs
- Students’ nutrition

Taunton Public Schools Successes – Students are pleased with enforced security. Cell phones must be put away and no hats are worn in school. They may be buying/drinking less

soda because they can’t take it out of the cafeteria. A Native American high school in New Mexico administered a Department of Agriculture program during which snacks were provided to students and staff twice daily as they changed classes, to increase consumption of fruit and vegetables. In TPS classrooms, only healthy snacks are allowed.

Next Steps:

- Send a letter of invitation to Dr. Stellar, Taunton

Superintendent of Schools, and the school committee, with recommendations to promote healthy snacks

- Find out school lunch program new mandates or recommendations, approval of vending machine contents

Next Meeting: 11/15/05, 10:15, A.H.S.

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

Greater Taunton Mayor’s AIDS Consortium. 10/12/05, 9:00, Morton Hospital

Taunton High School will not have a Health Fair this year.

Fuel assistance is available 11/1

Continuing Education groups - Attendance at CCBC has been poor. This month’s discussion is on Nutrition and Exercise. There will be a class in Brockton that clients can attend at BAMSI. Contact person is Linda LeBreux at 508-828-6733.



2nd Annual Night of Illusion held October 22, 2005, was again successful.

HIV/AIDS Service Coordination Collaborative meeting held in September, at the Health Care of Southeastern Mass, had a turnout of 30 people, including 25% consumers. The SCC will be addressing the following gaps:

- Emergency Assistance: Rent, Utilities Etc.
- Housing Issues.
- Access to Hepatitis C and HIV Rapid Testing and Hepatitis C Prevention and Education.

CCBC Healthy Relationships curriculum training was held in October.

YMCA Passes - CCBC now has 2 YMCA passes available for the consumers.

World AIDS Day is Thursday, December 1, 2005. A World AIDS Day Committee may meet twice before the event, beginning with 11/7/05, 3:00pm at the THS library.

Next Meetings: 11/9/05, 12/14/05, 9:00, Morton Hospital Café Annex.

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

Safe Neighborhood Initiative. 10/26/05, 8:00, Fairfax Gardens Community Center

Criminal Justice Committee: Fast Track has 14 Adults.

Crisis Intervention Team: Next local training will be 11/1 –

11/3/05. Team asked to speak at EOPS annual meeting in Boston. **Treatment and Prevention Committee:**

- Mission and vision statement developed.

- SART went well; middle & high school students attended.
- Project Team to be rescheduled. Project Yell seeking technical assistance.

- Red Ribbon Week this week.

Community Crisis Spiritual Response Team: Team members were present at police station and shelter site during State of Emergency.

Education Committee: THS working on revising Crisis Protocol. Trying to develop a respectful atmosphere at the High School. Has been positive. Working on truancy issue; document regarding sex offenders distributed to staff and bus drivers.

Program Update:

- Mayor, Chief O’Berg and Chief Rose were recognized

for their outstanding leadership during the State of Emergency.

- Currently 4 Youth Workers in Jobs for Youth Program.
- DHS following up on elders who experienced stress during State of Emergency.
- Flu Shots for elders will be distributed on 11/15 and 16.

Other:

- Taunton welcomed evacuees from Camp Edwards. Taunton took the most evacuees in the state.
- THA and TPD working cooperatively on drug issues.
- Union St. issues have improved dramatically.

- Chief stated the importance of the relationships with members of SNI.
- Concerns about a local business selling realistic looking toy guns. Police will follow-up with store owner.

Next Step:

All committees will work on needs to address safety concerns in target neighborhood

Next Meeting: 11/23/05, 8:00am, Fairfax Gardens.

Contact Person: Robert Cammarata, 508-821-1420

Taunton Emergency Task Force. 10/4/05, 9:30, TEMA Office, 15 Summer St.

Discussion Highlights:

Homeless – People are still living on parcel 6A, waiting for construction to begin before they move. One individual died. Individuals and families are staying at Massasoit Campground. Discussions have taken place about the possibility of a floating shelter. The clergy association will put together goals. Insurance information is still pending. Shelters remained fuller during the summer. Many referrals have been made to ProHome due to foreclosures. There is a need for increased coordination of groups.

Fuel Fund/Emergency Services

The United Way will send a letter to the ETF on behalf of the Community Impact Committee about the consensus that the ETF should set the guidelines on use of funds. A press conference will be held at DHS, and will be aired on cable TV.

Good Neighbor Energy Fund is designed to pick up where public systems leave off. This year they served over 300 families. Bay State and Keyspan participate in collecting funds by sending out envelopes. A “Walk for Warmth” is being considered by the Salvation Army as a way to raise additional money.

Family Self-Sufficiency Program

– Newsletters were distributed. Two individuals in the Section 8 Home Ownership program have purchased homes. Fair Market Rent changes will reduce Section 8 subsidies.

Nominations were made for chair (Milly Burrows), vice-chair (Julia Woods), Treasurer (Charlene Sanger) and Secretary (Donna DeFaria). Nominations remain open until November.

Agency Sharing:

- Our Daily Bread Boy Scout Drive is 11/12/05. New faces

and numbers being served have increased.

- Citizens for Citizens – Operation Xmas applications will be available 11/1/05. Distribution is 12/17/05. Applications must be signed by a social service agency representative. New fuel assistance applications are now being accepted.
- United Way is running Christmas for Kids in Attleboro. Recipients must commit to attend 4 of 16 workshops throughout the year.
- Church at the Crossroads are seeing new people at the food pantry. Preparations are beginning for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets.
- MLC Counseling and Learning Center, Inc. has openings for school and/or home based counseling. MLC can bill through MassHealth.

- Tri-City Mental Health has been busy with homeless in 3 cities. A part time outreach position was added in the Brockton area.
- Early Head Start/Associates for Human Services Several openings are expected during November. Referrals

are being accepted.

- Triumph Head Start has income eligible openings. Refer interested families.
- Department of Human Services – Rental assistance money is available. DHS has been inundated with requests for assistance with utility

shut-offs. The Jobs for Youth program is running.

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

Contact Person: Millie Burrows, 508-880-0202



UPCOMING AREA MEETINGS

Nov. 9, 9:00	Greater Taunton Mayor's AIDS Consortium. Morton Café Annex. CAB follows.
Nov 15, 9:00	GTHHSC Networking Meeting. Associates for Human Services, 68 Allison Rd.
Nov. 15, 10:15	GTHHSC Child & Family Focus Committee. A.H.S., 68 Allison Rd.
Nov 16, 3:30	GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee. 18 Broadway, 2nd Floor.
Nov. 17, 1:00	GATRA Consumer Advisory Council. Attleboro Senior Center, 25 South Main St.
Nov. 17, 3:30	GATHER Domestic Violence Committee. New Hope Office, 39 Taunton Green
Nov. 18, 7:00pm	New Hope Gourmet Guys Fundraiser. Attleboro Elks Lodge, Route 152 in Attleboro.
Nov. 23, 8:00	Safe Neighborhood Initiative. Fairfax Gardens Community Center.
Dec. 1	World AIDS Day
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.



GTHHSC/GATHER
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