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THE ADVOCATE



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

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What Ever Happened to GATHER?

In 1992, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health established the Community Health Network Area (CHNA) effort. A CHNA is a local coalition of public, non-profit, and private sectors working together to build healthier communities in Massachusetts through community-based prevention planning and health promotion. Today this initiative involves all 351 towns and cities throughout the 27 Community Health Networks.

The Greater Attleboro/Taunton Health & Education Response (GATHER) was established in 1996 as a result of reorganization of the CHNA's, with a merger between Greater Taunton CHNA#24 and Attleboro's CHNA (CASH).

The newly formed GATHER selected unintentional injury prevention, addictions and domestic violence as topics of focus. The Injury Prevention Committee worked on organizing the highly successful and well attended annual Kids Safety Fair at the Emerald Square Mall, as well as initiatives such as carbon monoxide detector give-aways to low-income families. The Addictions Committee shared membership with that of the

Greater Taunton Health & Human Services Coalition's Substance Abuse Committee, so both committees merged into the GTHHSC/GATHER Substance Abuse Committee. This summer, the Domestic Violence Committee was renamed "Southeastern Massachusetts Voices Against Violence". Monthly GATHER networking meetings were discontinued to reduce the number of meetings GATHER members needed to attend, and GATHER membership was fulfilled where the work happened – in the committees.

Reorganizing CHNA#24

Over the past few months, committed individuals from the 12 GATHER communities met to restructure the CHNA. They unanimously agreed that the new CHNA structure is best represented by a wheel with hub (The CHNA) and spokes (Area committees and coalitions).

A "spoke" is a grouping of individuals, agencies and organizations for a purpose. Two representatives of each "spoke" will be selected by his/her committee to attend quarterly networking meetings.

Under this new structure, DPH CHNA attendance requirements may be filled by agency

representation on any "spoke". All area coalitions and committees are invited to become "spokes", and may include Attleboro Community Council, Greater Taunton Health & Human Services Coalition, Substance Abuse Committee, Southeastern MA Voices Against Violence, Taunton Emergency Task Force, Safe Neighborhood Initiative, Greater Attleboro Taunton Coalition on Homelessness, Child and Family Focus Committee, Community Health and Wellness, and Activate Attleboro. The CHNA is open to new groups as well. Free standing agencies, including hospitals, may become part of the CHNA by joining an established committee/coalition.

But you don't have to be a "spoke" to attend the exciting kick-off meeting of CHNA #24 on Tuesday, **11/21/06**. Please save the date for this annual breakfast meeting, sponsored jointly with the Greater Taunton Health and Human Services Coalition (GTHHSC) to find out more about CHNA#24 and area committees. Please bring an information sheet about your committee to share with attendees. If you have any questions, please email Lorraine at mcaprosa@hotmail.com or call Carol, **508-977-8165**. ♥





Did You Know That...?



Events

American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast

Cancer Walk is set for **10/15/06**, 8:00am, along the Charles River esplanade. For information, visit www.cancer.org, email kate.langstome@cancer.org, or call **1-800-ACS-2345**.

Southeast Social Norms Network Meeting will be held **10/20/06**, 9:00-1:00, Southeast Center for Healthy Communities, Plymouth. Call Stephanie at **508-583-2350, x237**

12th Annual Spaghetti Supper and Raffle for Associates for Human Services will be held **10/20/06** at St. Joseph's Church Hall, 499 Spring St., Dighton. Supper is 5:00-6:30; raffle 6:30-7:30. Cost: Adults \$7, Children and Seniors \$5. Limited tickets available at the door. For tickets or more information, contact Zulmira Allcock, **508-880-0202**.

Resources

Your Candidates—Your Health is the first national voter education initiative focused exclusively on Congressional candidates' positions on investment in medical, health and scientific research and other research-related policy issues. For more information contact Stacie at **703-739-2577, x43** or via e-mail at spropst@researchamerica.org, www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org

Substance Abuse

Suicide Tied to Alcohol Intake
The more alcohol an individual drinks, the more the risk of suicide grows, according to a

researcher at Canada's Center for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). The link between drinking and suicide was stronger among women than men. (Jointogether)

'Good' Young Drinkers Bound for Alcohol Problems - Young people who have a low response to alcohol often become alcoholics later in life, researchers say. Those who could drink their peers under the table as youths later became alcoholics because they had to drink more to get intoxicated -- which is why young people drink. (Jointogether)

Surgeon General Report Details Serious Secondhand Smoke Health Hazards
Secondhand smoke, or environmental tobacco smoke, is a combination of the smoke given off by the tobacco product and exhaled smoke. Homes and workplaces are the predominant locations for exposure.

- There is no risk-free level of exposure to 2nd hand smoke.
- 2nd hand smoke causes premature death and disease in children and in adults who do not smoke.
- Children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more severe asthma.
- Smoking by parents causes respiratory illnesses and slows lung growth.
- Exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system. It

increases the risk of coronary heart disease by 25% to 30%.

- Exposure to secondhand smoke is linked to an increased risk for lung cancer among nonsmokers. For example, nonsmokers living with a smoker have a 20% to 30% increase in the risk of lung cancer from secondhand smoke exposure. Eliminating indoor smoking is the only way to fully protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke. See report at www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/cesarf/vol15/15-34.pdf.

(Jointogether)

U.S. Drinkers Report Lower Alcohol Tolerance – There has been "a clear and statistically significant reduction" tied to changing American attitudes about intoxication. In the 1950s, "it wasn't until you couldn't physically control yourself that you were considered drunk." The shift in attitudes relates to the adoption of tougher drunk-driving laws and more educational attainment. Michael Hilton, Associate Director Division of Epidemiology & Prevention Research at the National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism noted that, "If you know how attitudinal changes are linked to actual consumption changes, then you might conceivably be able to target consumption better. It could potentially give you a lever for knowledge useful in prevention." The research was published in the October 2006 issue of the journal Addiction. (Jointogether)

COALITION/COMMITTEE MINUTES & REPORTS



CHNA Planning Meeting. 9/26/06, 2:30, CCBC



Annual Meeting Discussion:

Date and Location

has been changed to November 21, 2006, 8:30-10:15, due to the difficulties in securing a location. The Bristol-Plymouth Silver Platter full breakfast was suggested. (It is not available)

Annual Meeting Agenda

- 8:30 Arrival Sign In
- 8:40 Full Breakfast
- 8:50 Welcome - Richard McMahon
- 9:15 What's in a Name
- 9:30 A Growing Group – Deb and Arlene
- 10:00 Conclusion 5-10 mins
- Wrap Up and Raffle – Doug Barbour, Annemarie Matulis

Health People 2010 Leading Health Indicators are

- Physical Activity
- Overweight and Obesity
- Tobacco Use
- Substance Abuse
- Responsible Sexual Behavior

- Mental Health
- Injury and Violence
- Environmental Quality
- Immunization
- Access to Health Care

Displays – Committees will be asked to provide a one-page overview/description to include name, focus, goals and activities, gaps and needs for its target population, to share with attendees. Groups that provide the information will be entered in a raffle to win a staples or office max gift card.

Logo – CHNA #24 had been using the general CHNA logo that resembles people holding hands in a circle. This may change to a spokes and wheel symbol such as a ship steering wheel or wagon wheel.

Next Steps:

- Contact CCBC to reserve the next meeting date. (LR)
- Send the 2010 healthy indicators to the committee.(LR)

- Work on logo and written history for annual meeting (Ron)
- Prepare oral, recent CHNA history. (Rich)
- Update draft letters to identify and invite all area coalitions and committees and forward for DPH mailing. (LR, Ron)
- Send a “Save the Date” to Advocate list, and forward to Ron to send to coalitions and other key community people. AHS is contact for questions/RSVP. (LR, Ron)
- Make sign-up sheets, sign-in sheet, and frequently asked questions sheet for Annual meeting. (Committee & LR)
- Make a press release and list of media. (Committee & LR)
- October Advocate article on “What happened to GATHER?” (LR)

Next Meeting: 10/31/06, 3:00, CCBC.

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

GTHSC Child & Family Focus Committee Meeting. 9/19/06, 10:15, AHS

Discussion Highlights:

Review – Ronna reviewed previous committee activities and encouraged participation of new members. April will share this information.

CHNA “Spokes” Persons – Ronna and Becky will represent the committee at quarterly CHNA meetings.

Safety Focus - Bookmarks with “10 Ways to Save a Child”, and safety information websites were prepared before summer break. The next step is to submit funding requests. Suggested funding sources include data base grant makers and local businesses. Set up and printing of 1000 bookmarks will cost about \$1250. Bookmarks will be distributed at elementary

schools, libraries, pediatricians and community programs that provide services to children B-8. Pilot distribution will be to Taunton, Raynham and Middleboro, with the possibility of extension into other CHNA#24 communities.

Parenting Focus – The committee adopted a second focus on educating parents on

positive discipline techniques. Ideas include developing an acronym to remember when frustrated or angry about a child's behavior, reminding parents to communicate that the behavior is "bad", not the child, and teaching parents how to help a child's emotional development

Next Steps:

- Find a funding source for the bookmark project. (LR)
- Begin writing a funding request from the Associated Grant Makers template. (LR, Committee)
- Contact local business for possible funding. (LR: Bristol County Savings Bank,

Hannaford Foods, Starbucks. MC: Wal-Mart)
 Email the final draft of the bookmark and websites that will print the bookmarks, to the committee. (RS)

Next Meeting: 10/17/06, 10:15, A.H.S.

Contact Person: Ronna Schaffer, 508-880-0202.

GTHSC Monthly Networking Meeting. 9/19/06, 9:00, AHS

Discussion Highlights:

The Advocate – Because most newsletter recipients have email and internet access, the Advocate will move to a mostly electronic newsletter. Those requiring hard copies will still receive them in the mail. The September newsletter was missing information originally entered in blue type, but can be accessed in complete form at www.geocities.com/advocateneWSletter/AdvoSept06.pdf. A postcard will be sent to recipients in October to let them know of the new arrangement.

Reports Beyond the September Advocate:

- **Emergency Task Force** – The raffle and fundraising event was successful, raising \$1,335 for non-fuel related emergency situations not covered under any other funding source. The Fuel Fund is closed until December 1st, then remains open until 30 days after the LIHEAP program closes.
- **Substance Abuse Round Table XII** – This year's SART will focus on social norms, a proven process for reducing drinking by correcting perceptions. The

first meeting was held last week during which the group began to discuss bringing in a well known speaker. The next meeting will be held **10/11/06**, 3:00, at Project Empower Conference Room at CCBC. (Enter the old Taunton Mall using the door to the registry, turn right. The CCBC office is on the left.)

Presentation: Project YELL (Youth Endorsing Legal Lifestyles): April Cabrera, Youth Coordinator – After a disruption in funding, Project YELL was reinvigorated this summer with the hiring of two new staff members: Carol Annarino, Project Director, and April Cabrera, Youth Coordinator. Both, along with Lorraine and Deb, attended a social norms training in July. Each representative of Project YELL attended one of the four tracks relative to the project. Peer leaders will soon be hired. Social Norms changes perceptions by showing that most high school youth are making healthy decisions, which reinforces the good behavior of the majority. SN began at the college level and was shown to

correct the perception that students drink more than they actually do by using surveys to gather accurate use data. Once collected, short messages are fashioned into posters, billboards, etc. Peer pressure encourages adherence to the norm, which usually shows that students do not drink nearly as much as students thought. Deb, Carol and April will meet with the high school principal to discuss social norms, youth surveys and saturation of Social Norms messages at the school. Once hired, peer leaders will participate in an October 28 MADD Youth in Action Training. Other plans include offering the parent program "Guiding Good Choices" to increase protective factors. April and Carol are located at CCBC, and may be reached at (April) **508-977-8164** or (Carol) **508-977-8165**.

Topics for 3 Meetings:

- Oct: Family Planning
- Nov: Annual Meeting
- Dec: DPH 2010 Indicators

Announcements

- **A.H.S. Fundraiser** to benefit the Children's Lifelong Learning Fund will

be held **10/20/06** in Dighton. Tickets may be purchased at AHS. The raffle will include some 100 prizes. For information call AHS at **508-880-0202**.

- **Visiting Nurses Association** will be doing a free in home accident prevention evaluation for elderly or people with disabilities, to make sure that their homes are safe from the risk of falls and other accidents. Call **800-698-6877**.
- **Agenda Information** includes the segments that make up a mature coalition, according to CADCA (youth, parents, businesses, the media, schools, youth organizations, law enforcement, religious or fraternal organizations, civic groups, health care professionals, state, local or tribal governmental agencies and other organizations.) Also the National Coalitions Institute says coalitions measure success by examining community level indicators, (short-long term),

seek to insure that all causes of identified problems are addressed, and action is diffused and taken by all members. Staff role is coordination and support.

- **Department of Social Services** – DSS is undergoing structural changes. They are hosting a fundraiser at Pizzaria UNO on **10/26/06**. Proceeds will benefit Foster Parents.
- **Marketing Opportunity** – Pathways to Hope” radio show still has some openings for non-profits to get their word out. “Mini-series” are also encouraged that may span over several weeks. Call Dan at **508-823-2470**.

Mission Statement – The GTHHSC unanimously voted to modify the mission statement: The GTHHSC is a community-wide coalition made up of agencies, schools, state-agencies and individuals with a vision of effective and compassionate responses to the diversity of human needs in Greater Taunton. Our mission is to:

- Identify and respond to the needs of individuals living and working in the Greater Taunton area
- Improve visibility, availability and accessibility of services
- Work to better coordinate delivery of health and human services in the Greater Taunton area; and,
- Support the community through public education, participation, advocacy and action.

Next Steps:

Send post cards to entire Advocate mailing list requesting email addresses, and announcing the move to electronic copies beginning in November.

Update dues invoices to offer a choice of receiving the Advocate electronically or by postal mail.

Next Meetings:

October Networking Meeting, **10/17/06**, 9:00, A.H.S.

Contact Person:

Richard McMahan, **508-979-7160, 3010**.



GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee (SAC). 9/20/06, 3:30, CCBC

Discussion Highlights:

Area Updates:

Addiction Program in Attleboro may be used by any community’s 13-17 year olds. Some parents may want to go Taunton from Attleboro and vice versa. There is no program in Taunton yet but it has been presented. The schedule is very lengthy and may not be realistic for a school based program. If this is the SOAP program it is an after-school-based program offered by Community CARES with grant and insurance money

and it is being offered to Taunton schools as well

Project YELL

- Carol met with Florence Canavan at Taunton High School and gave the proposal. She will also present to Mr. Matos on 9/28
- April has advertised for Peer Leaders. Deadline: 9/29
- Carol attended a meeting at Taunton Credit Union for the Health Fair Sat 9/30 She also requested from the Chamber a member roster to

increase membership in Business for the Coalition

- Deb has booklets she would like to send out to parents dealing with Alcohol issues. This awareness/educational tool covers alcohol and other drugs.

Community Outreach Grant -

Deb shared information on a \$10,000 grant concerning tobacco ad placement. Another \$2,000 mini grant is also available for schools. Grants are from DPH. Sophia Kim is the

contact from the Medical Foundation. The large grant focus is on the community and the school grant is focusing on second-hand smoke and tobacco prevention on campus.

Annual Meeting – Due to difficulties in securing a location, the meeting date has been changed to **11/21/06**. Several venue possibilities were suggested. (See CHNA Planning Committee minutes, p. 3)

Unanimous Approval – The SAC voted unanimously to make the tobacco control grant a part of the monthly agenda. Under the new CHNA structure, the SAC is not required to include all 12 CHNA communities in this initiative.

Next Steps:

Contact SNI about membership roster. (Carol)

Next Meetings:

SART Planning: **10/11/06**, 3:00, CCBC Project Empower

Conference Room: Enter the old Taunton Mall using the door to the registry, turn right. The CCBC office is on the left through the glass doors, left, follow the hallway to the conference room.

Substance Abuse Committee – **10/18/06**, 3:30, CCBC Conference Room

Contact Persons: Arlene Dickinson, **508-223-4691**, Lorraine Rosa, mcaproso@hotmail.com

Safe Neighborhood Initiative. 9/20/06, 8:00, Fairfax Gardens Community Center.

Crisis Intervention Team: Steve Turner: 5 police officers will go to Orlando, Florida for a presentation, next training will be held Nov. 14-16 2006, at The Galleria Mall

Treatment and Prevention Committee: April Cabrera, former peer leader at the Boys & Girls Club was introduced as the new Project YELL youth coordinator.

Community Crisis Spiritual Response Team: Rev. Correira discussed a Volunteer Opportunity Fair to be held in

November at the Jewish Community Center on High Street.

Education Committee: Matt Mattos introduced two new members of the Taunton Public Schools: Karen Pappa, Director of Food Services & Manuel Fernandez, Principal of Parker Middle School. Carmen Maldonado asked the group to have families sign up for free and reduced meals. She will e-mail all members the application.

Program Update: Robert Cammarata discussed the role of the Steering Committee and the SNI. He also mentioned that the community input is provided at the Neighborhood Watch Meetings, and brought to the Steering Committee meetings by Lisa.

Next Meeting: **10/18/06**, 8:00 a.m. at the Fairfax Gardens Community Center.

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

Southeastern Massachusetts Voices Against Violence. 9/21/06, 3:30, MassInfotech

Discussion Highlights:

Announcements

- Thanks to Jennifer Tingloff for taking minutes
- Nicole Correia was welcomed as the new liaison member from New Hope.
- Janice Pothier-Pac is the acting Director at New Hope following Dianne DiPippo's move to the United Way.

- The DPH requested that New Hope do a needs assessment survey on the barriers and strengths related to sexual assault training and services for adolescent and Hispanic victims. The committee offered feedback based on experiences: education, education, education.

National Day of Unity (Oct. 2): Members continue to circulate the flyers & encourage people to attend; the press has been notified; Rev. Rachel Tedesco, First Parish Church, will invite local ministers to participate in the bell-ringing following the vigil; volunteers will set up balloons & signs on the Church Green at 7:00 AM, Oct. 2nd, to announce the Clothesline

Project. Volunteers are welcome to help at 2:30 – 6:00 PM at the Church Green and 3:00 – 7:30 PM at the Taunton Green.

Budget - The committee voted to donate \$250 from MRI funding to defray the costs of the Clothesline Project Display. The invoice to be paid from the funds set aside from the MRI funds. Funding could also cover the cost of the Taunton Green. The SEMA-VAV volunteers will absorb the costs for printing, candles, helium, balloons, signage and use of the Church Green, which will total approximately \$350.00.

National Make a Difference Day, October 28th, 2006:

➤ ***Dress to Impress – A Gift of Hope*** - The “official” grand opening ribbon cutting will be part of the National Make a Difference day events. Business attire clothing will be needed year-round. A funding request was submitted to the Bristol County Charitable Fund for *Dress to Impress*. Sept. 28th, Girl Scout Troop 1017 will assist with sorting & sizing. Other organizations have contacted us to also be of

help. The response has been overwhelming. The *Dress to Impress* brochure was circulated & will be emailed to all members.

- **The Garden of Hope** at Triumph Head Start project is ongoing. Donations of spring bulbs and shrubs are sought for planting on **10/28/06**, 8:30 am -2:30.
- **Verizon Wireless New England Hopeline**. SEMA-VAV continues to accept donations of no longer used cell phones for the Hopeline Fund. Buckets will be on site October 2nd & October 28th.

Bristol County Domestic Violence Roundtable. The DV Roundtable will meet quarterly. The next meeting is **12/5/06**, 2:30 PM, Fall River. Discussion focused on services available.

The quiet passing of GATHER: A structural change for GATHER DV & SEMA-VAV - Committee members reviewed their decision from the June meeting to consolidate both groups (GATHER DV & SEMA-VAV) under one blanket. SEMA-VAV has a Board of Directors and has applied for non-profit status.

This was in place before the consolidation. Members stressed the point that SEMA-VAV is not now nor intends to be an “agency.” The services rendered are “public services” via workshops, events, educational materials, etc., not direct care.

Meeting Time Change – Meetings scheduled through the end of 2006 will be held 5:00-6:30pm, 3rd Thursday of the month, at Mass InfoTech, 9 Taunton Green, for more varied participation. The committee also agreed to serve pizza or other food at one of the meetings to encourage youth participation.

Next Steps:

- National Make a Difference Day (committee)
- Review the activities calendar for 2007 (committee)
- Review grant/funding options for 2007 (committee)

Next Meeting: **10/19/06**, 5:00pm, Mass InfoTech

Contact Person: Annemarie Matulis, **508-922-7278**; matulisannie@msn.com

Substance Abuse Round Table (SARTXII) Planning Meeting. 9/13/06, 3:00, CPI

Discussion Highlights:

Service Area – The SARTs have included the 12 towns that make up the CHNA#24 area:

- Attleboro
- Berkley
- Dighton
- Lakeville
- Mansfield
- Middleboro
- North Attleboro
- Norton
- Raynham

- Rehoboth
- Seekonk
- Taunton

Speaker – The committee discussed having a celebrity speaker to which people can relate, to get more people interested in social norms, and the possibility of hiring an ad company, then expanding it into different communities. Also discussed having a social norms

speaker as the keynote possibly someone from EDC, Newton (relatively local) or a presenter from the MADD Youth summit, has her doctorate in social norms

Social Norms 101 - People might not know about social norms. The SARTXI could include a SN lesson plan.

Advertising – The following were suggested:

- Displaying a message on busses.
- Presentation of “Pathways to Hope” radio show
- Radio announcer “Pebbles”

Date – SARTXII is tentatively scheduled for April 12, 2007.

Next Steps:

- Contact Pebbles, the radio announcer (AC)
- Contact Dana Barrows, former Celtics player (AC)
- Look into a social norms speaker (DB)

Next Meeting: 10/11/06, 3:00, at Project Empower Conference Room at CCBC. (Enter the old

Taunton Mall using the door to the registry, turn right. The CCBC office is on the left through the glass doors, left, follow the hallway to the conference room.)

Contact Person: Kathy Lalor, 508-823-9416.

Taunton Emergency Task Force. 9/12/06, 9:30, GATRA

Discussion Highlights:

Special Note: Deb’s mother passed way this summer. Flowers were sent on behalf of the Task Force.

Fund Raisers - \$1335.64 was the total amount raised from all fundraising events (raffle and mailing). A big thank you to all members that sold raffles, especially Jan Bruce. Guidelines for emergency funds need to be amended. Funds will only cover emergency situations not covered by any other funding/resources. TETF was denied funding from Hannaford’s’ Charitable organization but has been collecting money for TETF through the kiosk since July.

Homeless: Over the summer, Heart of Taunton held 2 meetings to address the issue of homeless individuals loitering downtown causing disruption for the businesses in the area. A sub-committees will address this. Homeless advocates stated the homeless are in hiding but that camps continue to grow. People have no places to go with few resources to help.

Fuel Fund / Emergency Services: The Fuel Fund is closed until December 1. The

funds need to be conserved for the winter months.

- Senator Pacheco was sent a letter about the condition of the account.
- United Way funds are available for non-heat related utilities, childcare arrearage, rental only, and long-distance transportation
- There have been requirement changes to CFC fuel assistance program. Bonnie will bring a list of those changes to the next meeting.
- Individuals interested in the RAFT program are required to go to South Shore Housing in Kingston to complete an application. A satellite office has been set up at Citizens for Citizens on Mondays 9 – 12 beginning 9/18/06. For additional info, call **781-422-4216** and leave a message.
- Charlie Harak, Consumer Law Center, is looking for low-income consumers who have inefficient furnaces that cause them to have very high heating bills, but operable and not in violation of Sanitary Code, to share their stories in a press release. Charlie can be reached at **617-542-8010** or charak@nclc.org.

Family Self-Sufficiency Program

- Office hours have been reduced to 3 days a week (Wednesday-Friday, 9-4). There are currently 22 participants.
- In August, a participant closed on a Raynham home. There are currently 5 homeowners within the Taunton Housing Authority Section 8 program.
- The Stabilization Program at Paul Bunker Drive works with families recently leased up from the Transitional Housing Program and families that are currently behind in their rent and facing possible eviction. The goal of the program is to develop a working budget with each family.

Nominating Committee: A notice was sent to each member of the Task Force announcing nomination of officers. The slate of officers to be voted on at the next meeting is Milly, Chairperson; Julia, Co-chair; Donna, Secretary; Charlene, Treasurer. The Executive Board voted that the term for officers remains at 1 year.

Personal Best Karate has been providing Thanksgiving turkey

baskets and dinners to needy families in Attleboro and would like to expand Taunton. They are requesting one contact person to take in all referrals from now to November 1.

Dress to Impress Program provides quality business attire to qualified residents in Greater Taunton and Attleboro who are entering the workforce. There is no cost to the client and is by appointment only. For information contact Annemarie, **508-824-3227**.

CHNA 24 - The former GATHER coalition is being reorganized. Each committee in the CHNA area is represented as a spoke in the CHNA wheel. CHNA meetings will be held quarterly and will provide data sharing, feedback and needs assessment information. Millie will attend as TETF representative.

www.GovBenefits.gov - includes more than 1000 government benefit and assistance programs.

Department of Human Services is out of FEMA rental / mortgage funds. United Way has Community Investment funds for rental only.

Taunton Housing Authority

- Transitional Housing program is moving the 8th family in October.
- Letters were sent to individuals on the Section 8 centralized waiting list. If they do not respond, the name will be removed from the list. Clients should notify the Housing Authority of address changes.

Head Start: income eligible slots are still available for the fall session. Contact Donna for a flyer at **508-822-0051**.

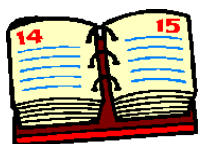
Associates for Human Services is holding its 12th annual Spaghetti Supper and raffle on Friday, **10/20/06**, 5:00 pm at St. Joseph's Church Hall in Dighton. For ticket information call **508-880-0202**. Also, Early Head Start program is accepting applications at this time.

Red Cross is moving its main office from Boston to Cambridge.

Commonwealth Family Childcare: Income eligible and teen parent services has some daycare voucher programs available. Some transportation provided for priority situations only. Call **508-880-3556**.

Next Meeting: **11/14/06**, 9:30, GATRA Conference Room, Bloom Bus Terminal, Oak St.

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



UPCOMING AREA MEETINGS

Oct. 17, 9:00	GTHHSC Monthly Networking Meeting. A.H.S., 68 Allison Rd.
Oct. 17, 10:15	GTHHSC Child & Family Focus Committee. A.H.S., 68 Allison Rd.
Oct. 18, 8:00	Safe Neighborhood Initiative. Fairfax Gardens Community Room.
Oct. 18, 3:00	GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee. CCBC, Mill River Place
Oct. 19, 5:00	SEMA-VAV (Domestic Violence Committee). Mass InfoTech, 9 (rear) Taunton Green
Oct. 31, 2:30	CHNA #24 Planning Meeting. CCBC, 1 Washington St.
Nov. 14, 9:30	Taunton Emergency Task Force. GATRA Administrative Bldg, Conference Room, 10 Oak St.
Dec.5 , 2:30	Domestic Violence Round Table. Fall River. Location TBA.

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 mcaproso@hotmail.com by **10/27/06**. You may also access copies of The Advocate at www.geocities.com/gathercoalition



GTHHSC
P.O. Box 2894
Taunton, MA 02780

October GTHHSC Networking Meeting
Leona Leblanc Corrigan Presents
Focus On Kids – A New Pregnancy Prevention Program
10/17/06, 9:00, Associates for Human Services, 68 Allison Rd.