



GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee 12/14/05, 3:30, CCBC



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.

Attendees: Douglas Barbour, Deborah Brown, Arlene Dickinson, Brian M. Foss, Kelley Mann, Michael Meleedy, Maggie Pike-Thomson

Discussion Highlights:

Coalition Building - New members Kelly Mann and Brian Foss were welcomed to the committee. Membership forms were distributed for addition to the GATHER database. Attleboro/Taunton community connections were discussed as well as extending invitations to “The Road Back” and the Attleboro Area Teen Center. The history of CHNA redistricting and how Attleboro and Taunton were brought together as one committee by a combination of the GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee and the GATHER Addictions Committee were explained. Factors that encourage independent, separate identities include geographical locations. The committee considered what could be improved by acting as a Coalition, since both communities have services/entities of their own. (DSS not withstanding in Taunton)

Committee Successes:

- **Guiding Good Choices**, formerly “Preparing for the Drug Free Years” is a successful vehicle for training parents of children 4th grade and over. The 2.5 hour, 5 sessions are offered free of charge due to sponsorship. Trainees agreed to become trainers. A list of those already trained will be brought to the next meeting for agencies or groups who may wish to offer the training.
- **Networking** – Trends are identified and expressed at monthly meetings. An example of networking was a case in which a youngster got into treatment. The Committee will “keep at it” with continued networking. Members will do outreach to widen the network.

Mini-Grant – A \$1,400 mini-grant was submitted using the Taunton SADD chapter as the youth group component. Elements include a social norms approach, poster messages, focus groups for feedback, and a stipend oversight position.

Technical Assistance – The western Massachusetts consultant will be contacted to discuss technical assistance to GATHER.

Pathways to Hope Radio Show – Information will be gathered to consider how a radio show could be of use.

Drug Policy – There has been a resurfacing of a school drug policy to include a breathalyzer policy, at a local school.

Next Steps:

- ☐ Extend invitations to the Director of the Road Back (Brian) and the Attleboro Area Teen Center (Kelly)
- ☐ Bring a list of trainees of “Guiding Good Choices” to the next meeting (Deb)
- ☐ Create a list of names for member outreach. (Deb, TPD and Pam Proulx; Brian, Attleboro Probation)
- ☐ Thank Attleboro DSS representative Pam for volunteering to help out with the grant. (Deb)
- ☐ Contact the consultant about technical assistance (Deb)

Next Meeting: 1/11/05, 3:30, CCBC Family Conference Room, Mill River Professional Center, 1 Washington St.

Contact Persons:

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



**GATHER/GTHHSC
Substance Abuse Committee
AGENDA**



1/11/05, 3:30, CCBC, 1 Washington St., Mill River Place

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Community Partnerships, Inc. (SART, CDE, CCIT)

III. Attleboro + Taunton Area Updates (Update on School Drug Policy) and Trends

IV. Guiding Good Choices – A List of New Trainees

V. Project YELL and Mini-grant

VI. Coalition Building:

- What Could Be Improved by Acting as a Coalition?
- Creation of an Outreach List
- Results of Outreach to The Road Back and the Attleboro Area Teen Center

VII. Training and Technical Assistance – The Western Massachusetts Consultant

VIII. Pathways to Hope radio show – Committee Utilization

VIII. February Agenda (To reflect both Attleboro and Taunton Areas) and Meeting Date/Place

Notes:
