



C.O.A.S.T.* Connections

The Newsletter of Greater New Bedford C.O.A.S.T. (AKA The Greater New Bedford Health & Human Service Coalition)

www.geocities.com/gnbhsc

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Volume I, No.5

October 2006



Greater Fall River/Greater New Bedford

7th Annual Legislative Breakfast



GNB COAST

“Building Peaceful Communities”

October 27, 2006

8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

White’s Restaurant, Westport



Keynote speaker is **Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith**
Nationally Recognized Public Health Leader and
Author of Violence Prevention Publications

Agenda to include Community Awards and brief statements by local elected officials

Space is limited. The cost is \$15.00. Please remit no later than **10/13/06** to address below.

I would also like to reserve resource display space for an additional \$10.00

Name _____

Agency _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Comments _____

Please make check payable to “Partners for a Healthier Community.” Please mail, along with registration, to Karen Statser, Bristol Elder Services, 182 North Main St., Fall River, MA 02720

For more information, please call Karen at **508-675-2105, x312**, or email karen312@bristolelder.org

Sponsored by

The Greater Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community

Greater New Bedford C.O.A.S.T. (aka The Greater New Bedford Health & Human Services Coalition)

COALITION/COMMITTEE MINUTES & REPORTS



GNB COAST General Meeting. 9/7/06, 9:00, Coastline Elderly Services

Attendees: Gail Brennan, Robin Cleveland, Karin Coppola-Araia, Judith Coykendall, Jean DeCoffe, Roger Dextrateur, Pauline Macedo, Jim Merchant, Kathy Patistas, Dan Riding, Tim Velho

Discussion Summary:

Announcements: Events, flyers and other information are always welcome at our information table at meetings.

- **This Could Never Happen to Me**, the many faces of HIV/AIDS, the 3rd Annual Women's Conference, will be held Thursday, **10/19/06**, 9:00-1:00, at 800 Purchase St. UMass Dartmouth Conference Room. RSVP by September 29, to Debbie Gilbert, **508-992-6553, x173**
- **2nd Annual Heart of Fatherhood Essay Contest Awards Dinner** will be held **11/13/06**, 6:00pm, at the Hawthorne Country Club, to honor and recognize fathers who go above and beyond every day in Southcoast communities, and allow children an opportunity to acknowledge their fathers' efforts. Awardees will receive dinner and their awards and have their photos taken with the kids who nominated them at this event. Excerpts from the original winning essays will be read. New England Patriots Tedy Bruschi is one of this year's winners. \$50 for adults, \$35 for children 12 and under. Call Tim at **508-994-0548**.
- **Maxfield City Garden** will be the site of the ceremony for burying away all the negative issues affecting the

youth in our community, on 9/21/06, 3:00-5:00pm. The purpose is to make a statement and beautify the area. RAPP Youth Council members will be presenting to the community. Call Tim at **508-994-0548**.

- **Proud Dads Initiative: All Fathers Welcome** - Southeast Hospitals Group, St. Luke's Hospital, RAPP Program Family Center Unit, "Welcomes Our Proud Dads", every Tuesday and Friday, 4:00-5:00pm at the Conference Room across from the 3rd Floor visitors' elevators. It is a basic training for new dads and father's recognition and support initiative. New Father's Rounds held Tuesday 4:00-6:00pm and Friday 3:00-5:00pm involves contact with both parents and an invitation to dad to have some light refreshments, video learning and fellowship in the waiting area across from the 3rd floor elevators. A "Dad's Survival Pack" includes information pamphlets, gift items, and resources in the community specifically for new fathers including Tim's business card and follow up support for the new father. Contact person is Tim Velho, **508-994-0548**.
- **Global Charter School** - "Making Proud Choices" is

working with grades 9-11, with focus on pregnancy, STD, STI prevention and education, contraception, and Get Real About Violence

- **Making Seniors Social** grant from community development provides speakers, a hot meal and socializing at no charge, at Grace Episcopal church, Thursdays 5-7pm during Sept & October and from April-June. There are currently 35 participants with 8 on waiting list. Volunteers appreciated. Contact Pauline at **508-961-3135**
- **Buprenorphine Program** - The outpatient program has anti-abuse build in so individuals will not continue to use opiates along with suboxin. For information, contact Roger at **508-295-7990**.
- **Drug Free New Bedford** - High Point incentive program offers at-risk youth a discount card for staying drug free. The kick off press conference will be held 9/29/06 at noon, at city hall. Mayor Lang and Lt. Gov Kerry Healy will be among those in attendance. Light lunch is provided. A student will be randomly selected to receive a Host and Drug Free Party DJ with donated food and a private screening

of a movie, through PAACA. Open to any student in NB school system grades 6-12. Participating businesses receive free advertising. Oral swabbing is used to random test for drug use. If a student tests positive, parent notified and referred. Testing can be done with frequency if requested. Confidentiality will be maintained.

- **A Prostate Screening** will be held 10/3/06 at Truesdale Medical Clinic from 9:00-11:30, then from 1-3pm at the family medical clinic. Participants receive a \$25 gift certificate to Pub 99. 18 and older can get. Persons with family history should be tested at age 35. Contact Jim at **508-472-6566**.
- **Southeast Center for Healthy Community** - A Southeast Substance Abuse Prevention and Youth Development Network Luncheon will be held **10/4/06**, 9:00-11:00, at SCHC. Southeast Social Norms Network Meeting will be held **10/20/06**, 9:00-1:00. Call Stephanie at **508-583-2350, x237**.
- **Fore the Children 18th Annual Golf Tournament** to benefit the Schwartz Center for Children will be held **9/25/06**, 11:30. Dinner 5:00 at the Allendale Country Club, Dartmouth. Call **508-996-3391**.
- **New Bedford Rehabilitation Hospital Health Expo 2006** will be held 9/21/06, Noon-4:00, at the hospital. For information, call Alice at **508-995-6900**.
- **Kennedy Donovan Center** - Early Intervention has a

waiting list. Needed are OT, nurses and licensed speech therapists. Open House will be held **10/25/06**, 4:00-5:00pm, at 19 Hawthorn St., New Bedford. RSVP by October 18th to Karen Croteau, **508-997-1570**.

- **MassHealth Tobacco Cessation Benefit** serves MassHealth members through a new grant. For information, contact Judith at **508-995-3026, x231**.
- **Call for Flags** – Mayor Lang has for a display of American flags to demonstrate solidarity of 9/11/06.
- **Resignations** – Both Robin Cleveland and Karin Coppola-Araia announced they would be unable to continue as co-chairpersons. Many thanks for all their tireless work over the past two years.

7th Annual Legislative Breakfast Update – Coalition members are encouraged to fill in nominations forms for the New Bedford area. Three individuals will be selected from each of the two CHNAs to be recognized at the Breakfast. Forms may be found at www.geocities.com/gnbhpsc/FRNB2006CommunityAwardsnomination.doc. Registration forms are also posted on our website at <http://www.geocities.com/gnbhpsc/FRNB2006lbinvite.pdf>. Representation from the Greater New Bedford C.O.A.S.T. is needed at the planning meetings. Please contact Lorraine at mcaprosa@yahoo.com if you are interested in attending.

A Day Away III: A Day at the Zoo – The full report from the summer strategic planning day is

found at <http://www.geocities.com/gnbhpsc/DayAwayIIIReport.doc>. Isherwood and Moore now represent COAST to put together the website. Dan will join the Media Ad Hoc Committee.

Steering Committee Meeting will follow this meeting to discuss costs associated with the Legislative Breakfast speaker and a thank you recognition to Coastline Elderly Services for their hosting regular monthly meetings. The regular Steering Committee Meeting will be held 9/22/06, 2:00, at Family Planning.

Next Meetings:
General Meeting: 10/5/06, 9:00, Coastline Elderly Services
Steering Committee Meeting:
 Date, time, location TBA

Contact Person: Tim Velho, Co-chairperson, **508-994-0548**.

Coalition Member Tasks:
 Send announcements to mcaprosa@yahoo.com for inclusion in the new C.O.A.S.T. Connections newsletter.
 Contact Lorraine at mcaprosa@yahoo.com to submit an article for the next C.O.A.S.T. Connections newsletter
 Include a quarterly treasurer's report (General Meeting), and monthly treasurer's report
 Submit DV Committee summaries and Health Access Committee minutes to Lorraine
 Check the resource directory at www.geocities.com/gnbhpsc to check for accuracy. Send corrections or updates to mcaprosa@hotmail.com
 Send mcaprosa@hotmail.com a brief description of yourself/agency, including website, for posting on www.geocities.com/gnbhpsc.

and sharing as received, with the Coalition listserv.

Send events and meeting information to Lorraine Rosa, mcaprosa@hotmail.com, for inclusion in the Calendar section of www.geocities.com/gnbhsc, and for sharing with the Coalition listserv.

Staff Tasks:

- Monthly Newsletter publication.
- Update mail list and list serve with new members; remove any who have missed 4 meetings.
- Upload minutes and meeting dates on website, send email and

hard copies, new web features, and tasks to membership, with a reminder on the weekend before the next Coalition meeting.

Continue to update resource directory at www.geocities.com/gnbhsc

GNB COAST Steering Committee Meeting. 9/22/06, 2:00, NB Family Planning.

Attendees: Robin Cleveland, Karin Coppola-Araia, Jean DeCoffe, Katie Dutille, Kelly Mello, Ron O'Connor, Marcia Picard, Lorraine Rosa (via phonline), Tim Velho

Discussion Highlights:

New Chairpersons:

- **GNB C.O.A.S.T.** – Robin and Karin expressed thanks to all for the encouragement received over the last 1 ½ years. Robin's main responsibility has been to run networking and steering committee meetings, with Lorraine doing minutes and tasks. Robin has also been active with strategic planning and the legislative breakfast. Commitment time is about 3-3 ½ hours per month, with support from Lorraine and the Southeast Center for Healthy Communities. Co-chairs may also alternate meetings. New co-chairs Tim Velho and Dan Riding were thanked for stepping up.
- **Health Access Committee** new chairperson is Judith Coykendall, with assistance from Gail Brennan.

Letter of Support – With such risk factors as smoking and poverty, the cancer rate of the Greater New Bedford area is high. The Steering Committee formally passed a resolution for a letter of support to Ms. Georgia of South Coast Hospitals Group radiation therapy. They propose a linear

accelerator, currently unavailable in the NB area.

Budget – GNB C.O.A.S.T. currently receives \$55,000 yearly in funding. From this, subcommittees receive \$3,000, with \$7,500 for marketing. Other items include Lorraine's staff time and expenses, and \$2,500 for the Legislative Breakfast speaker. The Advocates for Youth Committee will also need start up money. There has also been some thought of a mini grant RFR process of up to \$5,000. This proposal needs to go before the general membership.

Fiscal Management – With a larger budget come greater responsibility and bookkeeping. Carl has been serving as Treasurer along with other community commitments. Some issues for the next agenda include having a co-signer on the coalition account, hiring a fiscal conduit (perhaps the chairperson's agency) for a percentage or upfront fee, and especially getting suggestions/ideas from Carl. End of year 501C3 taxpayer ID holder reports are also required.

Legislative Breakfast: Building Peaceful Communities

- Invitations and Community Awards Nomination forms are out and posted on www.geocities.com/gnbhsc
- Reminders continue to be distributed among both Fall River and New Bedford CHNA's and the community.
- Deborah Prothrow-Stith will be keynote speaker
- Community Awards Nominations and RSVPs to the breakfast are needed
- New Bedford selects the 3 Fall River winners; Fall River selects the 3 New Bedford winners. Each chairperson and/or Mayor will present certificates to the winners from his/her CHNA.
- Agenda order will highlight the awardees. Mayors and dignitaries will address the attendees

October General Meeting Agenda will include fiscal agency management of increased coalition funding, a report of the past 2 years of allocations and Mini-grant RFR proposals for area communities, setting an Ad Hoc Committee of 3 or more to review nominations on October 12, time and location to be negotiated.

Marketing – Liz Isherwood email to the committee explained website design, priority planning, inclusion of elements and getting top results from search engines.

Next Steps:

- Call Jocelyn for an Advocates for Youth update for the next meeting
- Contact the Legislative Breakfast Committee about recognizing the Community Health Center's 25th anniversary with a certificate or recognition.
- Contact Carl to be sure to bring a check for \$2500 to the

Legislative Breakfast, bring budget report of the past 2 years, and bring a copy of the 501C3 taxpayer ID state designation.

- An ad hoc committee of 3 or more will meet October 12 to select award winners. Nominations can be faxed to the New Bedford group. City Counsels will be asked to certificates of recognition for them. Jane Gonsalves is the New Bedford contact person.
- Look at the fiscal management issue
- Scan and email a copy of the bylaws

Next Meetings:

- General Meeting: October 5, 2006, 9:00, Coastline Elderly Services
- Steering Committee: TBA
- Ad Hoc Community Awards Selections Committee: October 12, 2006, time and location TBA.
- Legislative Breakfast Planning Committee: October 12, 2006, 8:30, Family Services, 151 Rock St., Fall River
- Legislative Breakfast: October 27, 2006, 8:00, Whites Restaurant



MassHealth Tobacco Cessation Benefit Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

(MassHealth Office of Clinical Affairs)

Question: *What is the MassHealth tobacco cessation benefit?*

Answer: The recently passed Health Care Reform law included a two year pilot for MassHealth to provide tobacco cessation counseling and pharmacotherapy services to its members. Members may use up to 16 counseling sessions in any combination of group or individual “face-to-face” sessions per 12-month cycle, including two intake/assessment sessions. Prior authorization is required for counseling sessions beyond this limit. The pharmacotherapy benefit allows a 90-day supply of medication for Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) per cessation attempt, with a maximum of two 90-day treatment regimens per year. Additional NRT requires prior authorization. The pharmacotherapy benefit also covers other medically necessary

drugs for tobacco cessation such as bupropion (the generic form of Zyban). See www.mass.gov/masshealth/proposedregs.

Question: *When does the MassHealth tobacco cessation benefit go into effect?*

Answer: The benefit will be effective and available 7/1/06

Question: *What MassHealth coverage types are eligible for the benefit?*

Answer: Those members eligible to receive physician services, community health center services, outpatient hospital services, and pharmacy services are covered for tobacco cessation services, based on their MassHealth coverage type as stated in the MassHealth All Provider regulation 130 CMR 450.105. Members covered by MassHealth Limited are only covered for emergency services

and therefore are not eligible for tobacco cessation services.

Question: *How do members access tobacco cessation counseling services?*

Answer: Members can access counseling from their primary care clinician or a member of the clinical team in their community health center, physician's office, or outpatient hospital department. Members may be referred to a MassHealth qualified provider of tobacco cessation counseling at the facility, or to another facility where the member's desired counseling option (group or individual counseling) is available.

Question: *Who can bill MassHealth for providing tobacco cessation counseling?*

Answer: Community health centers, Physicians, and Outpatient hospital departments

can bill MassHealth for providing tobacco cessation counseling services to members who are covered for the benefit. The specific clinical providers eligible to provide the counseling service are Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives, Registered Nurses, Physicians' Assistants, and qualified Tobacco Cessation Counselors. All non-physician providers must be under the supervision of a physician, except independent nurse practitioners and nurse midwives providing the tobacco cessation counseling services directly.

Question: *How do members access medications for tobacco cessation?*

Answer: Members may request tobacco cessation medications for nicotine replacement therapy, such as the patch, gum or lozenges, from their primary care clinician (the PCC). Even though these medications are over-the-counter medications MassHealth members must obtain a prescription in order for the cost of the medications to be covered by MassHealth. Bupropion may also be prescribed by the PCC. Please see the MassHealth Drug List for further details regarding the pharmacotherapy benefit for tobacco cessation. The MassHealth Drug List can be found at www.mass.gov/druglist. It can also be accessed from the MassHealth Pharmacy home page at

<http://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pharmacy>.

Question: *How do providers obtain tobacco cessation educational materials?*

Answer: MassHealth is currently in the process of developing printed materials for members and providers. There are a number of free member and provider resources available online. Some resources for providers are www.quitworks.com, University of Massachusetts Medical School, TobaccoCME.com, and The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Members may access educational materials at www.trytostop.org and through the Department of Public Health.

? Did You Know That...?



A Day Away III: A Day at the Zoo strategic plan report is now available online at www.geocities.com/gnbhsc/DayAwayIIIReport.doc.

The Roots of Domestic/Sexual Violence are Sexism, Racism, Classism, etc. Oppression draft report of the GNB Domestic Violence Committee is available online at <http://www.geocities.com/gnbhsc/DVoppressionReport2006.pdf>

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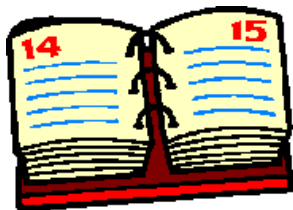
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2nd Annual Heart of Fatherhood Essay Contest

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acknowledge their fathers' efforts. Awardees will receive dinner and their awards and have their photos taken with the kids who nominated them at this event. Excerpts from the original winning essays will be read.

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GNB C.O.A.S.T. October-November 2006 Calendar of Events

Oct. 5, 9:00	GNB COAST General Meeting	Coastline Elderly Services, 1646 Purchase St., NB
Oct. 6, 12:30-2:00	Domestic Violence Committee Meeting. To register, contact cforney@ncla.org	South Coastal Counties Legal Services (Formerly SMLAC), 21 South Sixth St.
Oct. 6, 5:00	Deadline to submit Community Awards Nomination Form for Legislative Breakfast.	Nominations accepted beginning August 2006. Click link to the left to download.
Oct. 11, 9:15	Health Access Committee. Contact Judith at 508-995-3026, x231	Greater New Bedford Community Health Center 874 Purchase St., NB
TBA	GNB COAST Steering Committee	TBA
Oct. 27, 8:00	7th Annual Legislative Breakfast.	Whites of Westport. Registration Form at www.geocities.com/gnbhsc

The Vision: A healthy environment where everyone experiences community, opportunity, access, safety and trust (COAST)*

The Mission of the GNBHHSC is to channel our community into action to achieve a better quality of life for everyone. We

1. Provide information about resources and services in order to promote coordination and to encourage their use by the public
2. Address needs and build on community assets
3. Celebrate and reward community successes

To submit an article, announcement or other information to C.O.A.S.T. Connections, please email Lorraine Rosa at mcaprosa@yahoo.com or Skype mrosanet by **10/23/06**. You may also access copies of this newsletter at www.geocities.com/gnbhsc.



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