



GNBHSC

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**Greater New Bedford  
Health & Human Services Coalition  
P.O. Box 7567, New Bedford, MA 02742-7567**

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

The Mission of the GNBHSC 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

<b>GNB COAST General Meeting. 12/7/06, 9:00, Coastline Elderly Services</b>
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Attendees: Kelly Adams, Maria Alves, Camille Anderson, Jocelyn Andrade, Judith Coykendall, Alicia Davila, Jean DeCoffe, Katie Dutille Dos Santos, Joe Gumlak, Pauline Macedo, Sarah B. Manuels, Jim Merchant, Kelly Nevins, Ron O'Connor, Melissa Owens, Marcia Picard, Dan Riding, Lorraine Rosa (via internet), Brad Sell, Tim Velho, Karen Vernen

Discussion Highlights:

**Quarterly In-Depth Networking Meetings** are held today, March, June, and September. Members may display brochures and information on the resource table in the Saxon Hall, as well as give brief presentations about their agencies and/or programs:

- **Home of Hope for Women** is gearing up to financially assist adopting area families. Call Maria, **508-996-0546**
- **Girl Scouts** has programs for teen girls and at UMass. Call Marcia, **800-242-0925, x41**
- **Department of Human Services** is outreaching to the elderly and persons with disabilities with one time aid up to \$500 for specific circumstances, such as utility shut off, through the Council on Aging. Upcoming events for seniors include Christmas Dinner and information on transportation, scams, the flu pandemic and the exercise bureau. Pauline translates form for Portuguese speaking elders. Contact Pauline at **508-961-3135**.
- **Southeast Center for Healthy Communities** consists of 6 DPH funded centers. Focus includes substance abuse prevention and youth development with coalitions in SE MA. They are working to reach all 69 towns. Their Substance Abuse Prevention and Youth Development Network last met on 11/19/06, sharing evidence based prevention and best practices, and will continue to meet in 2007. There will be a follow up on Social Norms and the Law. Call Katy at **508-583-2250**.
- **Communities Mobilizing for Changes on Alcohol (Seven Hills)** focuses community wide on the issue of underage drinking. They had a 2-day Substance Abuse Task Force training on strategies to reduce underage drinking. The multi-agency group discusses underage drinking, tobacco and other drugs. Their next meeting is **1/3/07** at the New Bedford Police Station. Jocelyn also communicates with neighborhood associations, PTOs and the police about the underage drinking problem. A campaign is in progress with messages for adults and youth to change their behavior. This month they will do "sticker shock", and the consequences of drinking around the holidays, with adult modeling of good behavior. Call Jocelyn, **508-990-8280**.
- **RAPPP** received a MA Service Alliance Grant, are increasing their community service projects, and connect teens with community grants. The Heart of Fatherhood Award program honored all fathers from the area through children's essays. Some 328 people attended. December plans include children caroling at nursing homes and bringing cheer this holiday season. Call Tim at **508-994-0548**.
- **Department of Public Health** – Governor elect Deval Patrick and Liet. Governor elect Tim Murray have upcoming events and forums hosted at [www.patrickmurraytransition.org](http://www.patrickmurraytransition.org). It's a good opportunity to tell Coalition concerns, get our message out and look for strategies. Volunteers are sought from GNB C.O.A.S.T. to attend an upcoming forum.
- **Shannon Anti-Gang Grant** – The New Bedford YMCA is working with Treatment on Demand to implement a street out reach worker program to foster healthy relationships with youth and provide them with positive alternatives to gang life. GNB C.O.A.S.T. may want to have Paul Lopes of the YMCA at the table to tell us what they're doing, acknowledge the work and have representation at our group.
- **Healthnet Plan** – Kelly Nevins spoke about Commonwealth Care. As manager of community relations, she is looking to build relationships and partnerships in the non-profit community. They have small pockets of

funding for sponsoring events. She will be setting up meetings with non-profits to find out more about each organization

- **Men's Health Partnership** is doing early detection messages and screenings to prevent prostate cancer. (See announcement of upcoming screenings in "Did you Know That...?" in this issue.) Contact Jim Merchant, **888-557-9994**.
- **New Bedford Mayor's Crusade Against Cancer** brings messages of early detection of cancer, preventive screenings and referrals for immediate follow up procedures to the citizens of GNB. "Protecting Those Who Protect Us" Program brings life saving messages on early detection of many cancers to area police and fire departments, emergency medical technicians - all those who protect the lives and welfare of the citizens in our surrounding towns. Nearly 100 came to the screenings at the October kick-off for police and the public. The Program is expanding geographically, and will go to churches, as well.

**Website/Resource Directory** will soon be available, and have listings of issues, contact information, etc., with space to add information or to put updates. The website version will allow users to click on an issue to see which organizations address each. It will have cross references. Organizations will have passwords to go online and post their news, so the community can be kept up to date. Videos may be posted on U2 sites and linked to the Coalition website, to keep our band width low. There will also be a link to 211. Lorraine is going through the 2003 version and updating. It will need to be constantly updated and increasing, which can be a responsibility for the new people working for the coalition. A press conference can be held once the website is ready for release.

**Infrastructure** – New staff will need to have a location. Community donated space such as a kiosk at St. Luke's hospital was suggested, where pamphlets can be kept, and workings having a limited knowledge can man the kiosk. They can receive training from each organization. The Coalition will make a detailed job description for a smart, professional, diligent contracted undergraduate freshman or sophomore to grow with us and work through their college career. When they get a job upon graduation, they may become Coalition members. A masters level intern could supervise. There is plenty of money for a youth summit, mini grants, interns, events, etc.

**Financial Management** changes move ahead. The Community Foundation can look at our increased funding and migrant program. The use of a debit card for Coalition expenses was also discussed. Carl is getting the financial information ready for the changes in management with the goal of the end of January. A subcommittee will be needed to facilitate activities. The new fiscal agency will monitor the accounts and maintain accountability. The Coalition is asked to forward ideas of services that should be provided by the agent.

**Revitalization Process** – Questions need to be answered by the membership: What is your idea for revitalization of the coalition? Is there something that has weighed on your heart that you would like to see modified, changed or added on? Subcommittee: What are you doing, what are your plans, and how can GNB COAST help? Send answers to Lorraine at [mcaprosa@yahoo.com](mailto:mcaprosa@yahoo.com). Subcommittees would also like input on their events and ideas.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

#### **Health Access:**

- **Maternal and Infant Mental Health Project** - New Bedford has the highest rate of smoking among pregnant women. The Health Access Committee is working on perinatal and postpartum depression using a DPH campaign called the Maternal and Infant Mental Health Project.
- **Demonstration Grant** - Partners for Clean Air received a demonstration grant from the Mass Tobacco Control Program, and will begin planning from January-June 2007. Katy will facilitate and evaluation is onboard for the entire grant period. The Health Access Committee is working on perinatal and postpartum depression, using a DPH campaign. By June they will have an evidence based ecological model of environmental strategies, and will develop four projects. Information and planning will take place at meetings will be held monthly, February through May, through coalition input, by email or phone.
- **A 6 month educational piece** will also be done to neighborhood groups and PTOs to educate parents about the connection between tobacco use and all other drugs, according to YRBS local data. An emphasis will be placed on the use of blunt wraps to smoke marijuana and the sale of cheap single sale cigars to our youth. The topic of banning "blunt wraps" was brought up as a possible topic, once critical mass is built. The topic of banning

“blunt wraps” was brought up as a possible topic, once critical mass is built. They are doing a smoke free multi housing guide also.

- **The UMass Dartmouth American Cancer Society** has expressed a problem of kids smoking right outside the dorm. They would like to make every entrance smoke free, based on surveys of what students have said about needing a buffer zone. Other suggestions may be emailed to [mcaprosa@yahoo.com](mailto:mcaprosa@yahoo.com), to post on the website. Contact Judith at **508-995-3026, x231**.

**Advocates for Youth** – Chairperson Jocelyn Andrade has sent a letter to the prospective membership and is awaiting their input on their best times and days for meetings. She will select the best date and time by January 1.

**Co-chair Persons:** Dan Riding, **508-994-0885, x3157**

Tim Velho, **508-994-0548**

**Next Meeting:** 1/4/07, 9:00, Coastline Elderly Services.

**Staff Tasks:**

- Update the current Resource Directory
- 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](http://www.geocities.com/gnbhsc)

**Coalition Member Tasks:**

- Send your ideas to Tim: What is your idea for revitalization of the coalition?, Is there something that has weighted on your heart that you would like to see changed or modified?
- Contact Kathy Stephanie at the Mayor’s Office to attend next meeting. (Tim and Dan)
- Contact Lorraine at [mcaprosa@yahoo.com](mailto:mcaprosa@yahoo.com) to submit an article or announcements for the next C.O.A.S.T. Connections newsletter
- Submit DV Committee summaries and Health Access Committee minutes to Lorraine (Jacqui, Judith)
- Check the resource directory at [www.geocities.com/gnbhsc](http://www.geocities.com/gnbhsc) for accuracy. Send corrections or updates to Lorraine.
- Send Lorraine a brief description of yourself/ agency, including website, for posting on [www.geocities.com/gnbhsc](http://www.geocities.com/gnbhsc), and sharing as received, with the Coalition listserve.
- Send events and meeting information to Lorraine for inclusion in the Calendar section of [www.geocities.com/gnbhsc](http://www.geocities.com/gnbhsc), and for sharing with the Coalition.

