

GNB COAST Minutes 2/1/07

Attendees: Carl Alves, Camille Anderson, Karen Araia, Gail Brennan, Sara Charbanneau, Bob Collett, Judith Coykendall, Virginia Senna Davis, Jean DeCoffe, Jeff Dinger, Cindy Francis, Susan Gaudullo, Tom Gecewicz, Kim Jacobson, Judy Kilpatrick, Sara B. Manuels, Guz Martinez, Kerry Mello, Kelly Nevins, Ron O'Connor, Melissa Owens, Tara Pacheco, Kathy Patisteads, Marcia Picard, Rosa Raposa, Suzanne Raposo, Audra Riding, Brad Sell, Tim Velho

Tim Velho, Co-Chair, announced his resignation from RAPP, effective 2/9/07. This will affect his role with COAST, as he will no longer be representing a member organization. The SC will discuss his role within COAST moving forward.

Introductions and announcements were made around the room. Highlights include:

- **Drug Free GNB**- If you know of parents of youth in grades 6-12, we have pamphlets available for them.
- **Free periodic cancer screenings** are being offered by the Mayors Crusade Against Cancer and VNA of Cape Cod. Southcoast is also offering them on Feb. 25 from 1pm-3pm at Toby Hospital. Call 1-800-497-1727 for more info.
- **Girl Scouts** is officially in cookie season. Place your orders, or take advantage of Cookies for a Cause where the cookies you purchase are donated back for use at local nonprofit organizations (such as domestic violence shelters).
- **BMC HealthNet Plan** is offering orientations on the new Commonwealth Care health insurance plan for people who make up to 300% of the federal poverty level, to staff and clients of local nonprofits. Contact Kelly at 617-780-5139.
- **Greater New Bedford Community Health Center** is now open to the public, assisting in finding health benefits.
- **New Bedford Dept. of Public Health** needs help in recruiting 360 volunteers to staff a medical reception center (MRC) for health epidemics like the potential bird flu. An 8 hour training session will be offered, and participants will be put on a list for mobilization if the need arises.

Financials- Because our budget has grown significantly it has become necessary for COAST to streamline its processes for financial tracking and reimbursement. We are exploring the GNB Community Foundation as fiscal agent. Benefits:

- Low administrative costs (2.5% of account)
- Potential collaborative opportunities on events to share/reduce costs
- Ability to set up a fund that people/orgs can contribute to, or that we can offer scholarships from
- Easy informational access to outside funding opportunities, such as grants on maternal health, etc.
- Liability insurance for foundations board eliminates our need for same
- Established relationships with many food & retail vendors, eliminating need for check requests. We can add to this vendor list. If items are ordered via this method, GNB COAST Co-Chairs must sign off on request.

We may not need to continue pursuit of 501c3 status, as the Foundation would represent us this way, eliminating cumbersome paperwork, etc. This idea was deferred to the SC. We would like a representative from the Foundation to attend General and SC meetings. Alternatively, a financial report would be required a week prior to each meeting.

Process for requesting funds would operate as follows:

1. Request made in writing to either committee chair or GNB COAST co-chairs.
2. A vote is required.
3. If approved, GNB COAST co-chairs sign request and deliver to Foundation.
4. Check is sent within two weeks of receipt of signed request.

Website is nearly ready and was previewed. Keywords are used to bring up a list of organizations that address specific issues. The site will link to member organizations and include an area for us to post news and events. Discussion of how to promote website followed. Many users may not know where to find the site. Flyers could be posted on bulletin boards at places like the library and faith based organizations. Perhaps we can get the library to make the website a favorites page or a secondary homepage default. There should be a viral email strategy and 211 should be informed of the service.

April Event- a brunch or luncheon will be held in early April to launch the new website and build interest in the GNB COAST. It will either be on April 5 or 6 at either the Century House or Hawthorne Club. Speakers are still being sought. Recommendations were made for either David Mulligan or Peter Lee to each speak for ½ hour about the importance of community groups working collaboratively and the power of networks.

Steering Committee- the next 4 meetings will be held at 7 Hills Behavioral Health. A membership recruitment letter was reviewed and will be available via email or downloaded from website. Current members are asked to disseminate to potential members. Members are encouraged to read the minutes at www.geocities.com/gnbhsc/.

Newsletters- future newsletters will highlight different communities that are represented by GNB COAST.

Kiosk- a request for space to host an informational kiosk has been made of Southcoast and one will be delivered to GNB Community Health Center as well. The space will include information about COAST organizations. Future plans may include a work station for COAST interns or rotating organization staff to host. We will be responsible for supplying and restocking the information in the kiosk regularly.