



GNBHSC

Greater New Bedford Health & Human Services Coalition

P.O. Box 7567, New Bedford, MA 02742-7567

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
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General Meeting, April 6, 2006, 9:00, Coastline Elderly

Attendees: Carl Alves, Jocelyn Andrade, Pamela Bouregault, Gail Brennan, Amy Carafoli, Robin Cleveland, Judith Coykendall, Jean DeCoffe, Roger Dextradeur, Katy Dutille, Maria Evora-Rosa, Joseph Gumlak, Pauline Macedo, Claudia Mills, Marcia Picard, Suzanne Raposo, Lorraine Rosa, Karen Vernen

Discussion Summary:

March Minutes:

- **Susan Kaspar** is the new director for New Bedford Family Planning
- **Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol and the Substance Abuse Taskforce** sponsored a Town Meeting on 3/28/06.

Meeting Structure – In depth networking and program information sharing will take place quarterly in March, June, September and December.

Announcements:

- **Sunset Supper and Social** – A 20-week senior program will be held Wednesdays, 5:00, from April 5 – June 21, at “Cobblestones”. Various topics will be presented each week. For information, call Pauline Macedo at **508-961-3135**.
- **Puzzles Nightclub Tragedy** – About 200 attended a round table to discuss how people have been affected by the recent hate crime incident, in order to take an active role in prevention. The GNBHSC would like to address the issue through a letter to the Standard Times.
- **Wareham/Carver Smoke Free Commission** is applying for an EPA Smokefree Homes Campaign grant for a 2-year education program. Wareham has the state’s highest rate of lung cancer and pregnancy/smoking rates.
- **New Bedford High School** 10th grade health classes will have a presentation on April. Bob Merman, who lost his voice due to cancer, will present.
- **Durfee High School** – YRBS data shows an increase in smoking. Students perception is that 80% are smokers, but in reality, only 10% smoke daily. Also, 87% of students want to date a non-smoker.
- **Old Rochester High School** had a presentation on Teen Brain Development and the impact of alcohol. The brain is not fully developed until people are in their 20’s.
- **Underage Drinking Town Meeting** in New Bedford was well attended by a good cross-section of the community and the media. It included group work and a perception activity.

Subcommittee Reports:

Steering Committee

- **Update on RFQs** - Isherwood and Moore have been hired as the Website and Marketing consultant. This professional organization is best able to provide for Coalition needs. They will come to a working meeting on how we want to promote ourselves and the new website. A second SC meeting was held to discuss Strategic Planning/Youth Development RFQ applications. It was decided that the RFQ needs to be more specific, but first youth serving agencies need to be mobilized, brought to the table, and gaps addressed. The hiring has been tabled, and a number of applications will be kept on file. Jocelyn Andrade will serve as chairperson of the Advocates for Youth subcommittee.
- **Coalition Newsletter** – Sample newsletters were shared. A possible title could be The C.O.A.S.T. Connection, and contents may include a feature article, agency of the month, minutes, calendar of events as well as other information.

Domestic Violence Subcommittee will meet tomorrow at the South Coast Center for Legal Services (formerly SMLAC), 21 Sixth St. The Hallmark Program on racism and oppression will be held at the YWCA.

Health Access Subcommittee continues to address gaps in un-under insured, and is working on a mental health providers meeting. Providers agree there is a lack of mental health services. The Committee is working on provider surveys to get New Bedford designated as an underserved area in mental health. New Bedford has a health center, but it doesn't provide outpatient mental health services.

Next Meetings:

Steering Committee: **4/28/06**, 12:30 – 2 pm New Bedford Family Planning

General Meeting, **5/4/06**, 9:00-10:30, Coastline Elderly

Coalition Member Tasks:

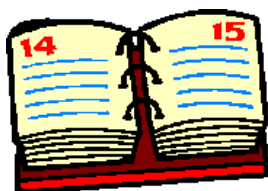
- Include a quarterly treasurer's report on General Meeting agendas, and monthly treasurer's reports on SC agendas (Carl)
- Contact Liz DiCarlo about the recent roundtable about the nightclub tragedy (Robin)
- Forward the Brockton application for outpatient mental health services to New Bedford (Maria Evora-Rosa)
- Submit Domestic Violence Committee and Health Access Committee minutes to Lorraine (Jaqui, Robin)
- Compose a letter to the Standard Times editor concerning dealing with violence and hate incidents. (Steering Committee)
- Brainstorm features of a GNBHHSC newsletter (Membership)
- Check the resource directory at www.geocities.com/gnbhhsc to check for accuracy. Send corrections or updates to mcaprosa@hotmail.com (Membership)
- Write and forward to mcaprosa@hotmail.com, a brief description of yourself/your agency and what it does, including website information, for posting on www.geocities.com/gnbhhsc, and sharing as received, with the Coalition listserv. (Membership)
- Send events and meeting information to Lorraine Rosa, mcaprosa@hotmail.com, for inclusion in the 6 month Calendar section of www.geocities.com/gnbhhsc, and for sharing with the Coalition listserv. (Membership)

Staff Tasks:

- Correct March Minutes and Directory re: Susan Kaspar
- 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/gnbhhsc

GNBHHSC

Calendar of Meetings and Events: April-May 2006



April 28, 12:30	GNBHHSC Steering Committee Meeting	New Bedford Family Planning, Howland Place
May 4, 9:00	GNBHHSC General Meeting	Coastline Elderly Services 1646 Purchase St., New Bedford
May 5, 12:30	GNBHHSC Domestic Violence Committee. Must RSVP (for lunch) to cafricano@ncla.net or call Jacquie at 508-996-3343, x26	South Coastal Counties Legal Services (formerly SMLAC) 21 S. Sixth St., New Bedford.
May 8, 9:15	GNBHHSC Health Access Committee.	New Bedford Family Planning, Howland Place, 651 Orchard St. Suite 100 New Bedford, MA 02744