



GNBHHC

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 GNBHHC 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

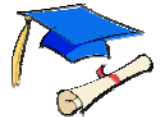
General Meeting, June 1, 2006, 9:00, The Women's Center

Attendees: Gail Brennan, Judith Coykendall, Jean DeCoffe, Paula Doherty, Deb Golen, Jacquie Gomes, Jim Merchant, Pauline Macedo, Catherine O'Leary, Rick Oliveira, Kathy Patisteas, Marcia Picard, Lorraine Rosa, Karen Vernen-Thompson

Discussion Summary:

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

- **Maternal Opioid Treatment Human Experimental Research (MOTHER) Project** – Providence Women and Infants has received a grant to study neonatal effects of methadone and buprenorphine to identify which makes withdrawal easier for the baby. It is open to pregnant drug-addicted woman from 13-30 weeks gestation, ages 18-36 who are hospitalized, in a double-blind study at St. Lukes health center for women. Once the woman keeps all doctor's appointments and is clean from alcohol and illegal drugs, she may earn gift certificates. Recruitment is scheduled to begin on August 1, 2006. For more details see <http://www.womenandinfants.com/body.cfm?id=452#section5>
- **VNA of Cape Cod** is administering the Men's Health Initiative. See cover article, page 1.
- **Girl Scouts** is a prevention group that does far more than crafts and cookies. They develop life skills and participate in community services. They do extension programs and school life skills programs for 5,000 boys and girls. A leading women event was held in which MaryLou, the coffee entrepreneur received recognition and found that 1/3 of her workers in managerial positions were Girl Scouts. Girl Scouts are currently doing a "Spring for Fall" membership recruitment, putting troops and leadership teams together. They serve 70 cities in southeastern MA. For more information, see <http://www.gscsm.org/>
- **Welcome to Rick Oliveira** of North Dartmouth.
- **New Bedford Parenting Teens** project is winding down. A celebration will honor 40 individuals who earned GED/Alternate diplomas. Nineteen out of 26 graduates passed MCAS. This group served 110 students with 50 babies in day care. They work with other organizations to remove barriers by doing the education piece. They submitted an adolescent grant through the Department of Health & Human Services. There has been a slight increase in teen pregnancies according to 2004 data. Probably 90-95% were abused, and they want to work to break the cycle of abuse.
- **Kennedy-Donovan Center Early Intervention** serves children with disabilities, delays or risk factors ages 0-3. The multidisciplinary team includes family centered home visits. The Early Intervention partnership program is for pregnant women who meet eligibility to enhance birth outcomes.
- **Kennedy-Donovan Center Healthy Families** multilingual staff serves first time mothers and/or fathers of children up to age 3. KDC offers parent education groups. A family fun day will be held in August to recognize program graduates or other accomplishments. An open house will be held in the Fall at KDC. Catchment area goes from Dartmouth to Wareham. Current enrollment is at 140.
- **Partners for Clean Air** provides prevention, education and treatment referral for tobacco. Funding was cut by 95%. Partners did a collaborative "Smoke Free Home" program to change norms in homes with children age 5 and under in Wareham. They also did the "Ready, Set, Quit" cessation project in March 2005. The new Health Reform Law will make all MassHealth members eligible for tobacco treatment. Hotline is **1-800-TRYTOSTOP**.
- **Domestic Violence Subcommittee Forum** will be held **6/21/06**, 9:00-12:30 at the Buttonwood Park Zoo Wildlife Education Center. Social justice issues such as domestic/sexual violence, sexism, racism, classism, etc. that impact every aspect of lives are rooted in oppression. Purpose is to build local level collaboration on oppression. A conference may be held in 2007. To register call Lorraine Rosa at **508-823-4822** or mcaprosa@yahoo.com
- **Recent New Bedford Mother Murdered** – The GNBHHC mission is one of safety and trust. How can the Coalition help these situations with service outreach? A discussion of hate crimes and a "no snitching" reluctance to report crimes was discussed. It was suggested that elected officials also be informed of incidents such as a recent beating at a New Bedford school and the selling of drug paraphernalia at a local gas station. The police anonymous tip line is **508-961-4584**.



- **Department of Human Services Announcements:** 1.) **Know Your Rights** conference was held May 25, at Fort Taber Community Center for 185 Portuguese speaking seniors living in the New Bedford area. Various agencies were represented and many topics pertaining to the elderly were covered including information about Medicare Part "D". 2.) **The Sunset Senior Social Program** held for 35 elderly / disabled seniors Wednesday evenings at Cobblestone Restaurant from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. will end on June 21st. 3.) **Food Drive** - Human Services will hold a Food Drive in conjunction with the Cove St. Neighborhood Association Fun Day on June 17th, at the Mott St. The playground will benefit elderly/disabled residents. 4.) **Clear Paths-Lawn Mowing Program** (for seniors and persons with disabilities) is presently filled.
- **Wareham/Carver Smoke Free Coalition** – Coalition letters of endorsement were sent to support grant funding to increase educational awareness of the importance of the elimination of both primary and second hand smoking. Wareham is number one in Massachusetts for the incidence of lung cancer. This is an essential intervention to eradicate smoking
- **Women's Health Network** has health education curriculum kits in several languages, stress balls, at-a-glance newsletters, table stand ups and poster tear offs to promote their program. To arrange for a presentation to your group, call Paula at **781-774-6624**.

Summer Plans – General meetings will be suspended for July and August, with the possibility of a special working meeting in August.

Next Meetings:

Steering Committee: **6/16/06**, 12:30 – 2 pm New Bedford Family Planning
 No Monthly General Meetings in July and August.

Contact Person: Robin Cleveland, Co-chairperson, **508-984-5333**.

Coalition Member Tasks:

- Look at how the GNBHHC can help the community in response to recent murder and gang activity.
- Organizing a special summer meeting for planning and meeting with new consultants.
- Send announcements to mcaprosa@yahoo.com for inclusion in the new C.O.A.S.T. Connections newsletter, especially during the summer months during which there are no meetings.
- Include a quarterly treasurer's report (General Meeting), and monthly treasurer's report (SC) (Carl)
- Submit Domestic Violence Committee summaries and Health Access Committee minutes to Lorraine (Jaqui, Robin)
- Check the resource directory at www.geocities.com/gnbhsc 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/gnbhsc, and sharing as received, with the Coalition listserv. (Membership)
- 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. (Membership)

Staff Tasks:

- Monthly Newsletter publication. September cover article = Girl Scouts.
- 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



**GNBHHC
 Calendar of Meetings and Events: Remainder of June 2006**

June 16, 12:30	GNBHHC Steering Committee Meeting	New Bedford Family Planning, Howland Place
June 21, 9:00-12:30	Domestic Violence Committee Panel Presentation. To register, call Lorraine Rosa at 508-823-4822 or mcaprosa@yahoo.com .	
September 7, 9:00	GNBHHC General Meeting	Have a great summer, and watch for our special planning day invitation!