



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

General Meeting, March 2, 2006, 9:00, Coastline Elderly

Attendees: Carl Alves, Jocelyn Andrade, Gail Brennan, Robin Cleveland, Sharon Costa-Smith, Jean DeCoffe, Steve Froias, Joseph Gumlak, Claudia Mills, Catherine O'Leary, Marcia Picard, Suzanne Raposo, Lorraine Rosa, Tim Velho

Discussion Summary:

Announcements:

- **RAPPP Program Family Education Youth Resource Center** has a lending library and education program at 49 State Road, Pequot, Suite 105, Dartmouth, MA. Telephone: 508-994-0548. www.southcoast.org/rapp
- **Request for Proposals** – RAPPP Youth Council and MA Service Alliance will fund various activities or projects to youth in Greater New Bedford, related to environmental, violence prevention and risky behavior. Awards are from \$500-\$1500, totaling \$7,500. Please call Michelle Guilbeault, 508-994-0548.
- **New Bedford Family Planning New Director** is Susan Caspar. There are Portuguese and Spanish speaking counselors. Reproductive health fee for service, sliding scale, for un/underinsured women.
- **High Point Treatment Transitional Support Services (TSS)** keeps clients connected to treatment. They are opening a new 36 bed detox for women (15 for New Bedford women) who are sectioned into treatment by the courts. For some, a mandatory program is the only way they'll get into treatment. They appreciate recovery and want to continue being clean and sober. HP provides continuation of treatment through TSS, while clients wait to go on for further treatment.
- **High Point Outpatient Clinic** works with dual diagnosis clients, and helps people transition into treatment. They have a family, adolescent, and court focus clinic. The Purchase Street location will extend adolescent services.
- **PAACA** has a parenting group that works with parents in getting their children back, provide for supervised visits with children and encourage continued progress.
- **New Bedford ACTS** is hosting a community dialog to discuss a community center, for which block grant funding was received.
- **Gang Violence Grant** – New Bedford Mayor's office is applying for a gang violence grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety (EOPS). Contact Carl Alves for more details.
- **Girl Scouts** provide school programs teachers can use during MCAS. The modules include topics such as stereotyping, leadership, and other skills and values teachers don't usually have the opportunity to do. Personal development activities are provided free, with no training needed for teachers, and service both boys and girls.
- **Communities Mobilizing for Change Task Force Collaborative** will address underage drinking at a town hall meeting on **3/28/06**, 6:00 pm, at the Nativity Prep School. The topic is "Start Talking Before They Start Drinking". Alcohol negatively affects the developing brain. The group wants to reduce youth access to alcohol and is doing one-on-one interviews with community members to develop and enforce policies, as well as using environmental strategies and alcohol messages sent by parents. Community assessments show the problems, and grassroots community members decide what to do. Guiding Good Choices will be offered.
- **Students Assistance Program** is a voluntary random drug testing program. Parent orientations for understanding the benefits and limitations will be held this month. Participants will receive incentives and discounts from businesses, and parents and students will have a go to point for help with substance abuse issues. Parents will also receive information about how to talk to their kids about drugs. If the discrete saliva test is positive, parents are contacted and further follow up is provided. If negative, parents receive a congratulatory call. Students will receive a drug free employment card they can show employers. This first of its kind program in MA is open to the whole student body.
- **3rd Youth Summit** will be held April 11 at White's of Westport. Some 350-400 youth will participate in workshops and enjoy speaker presentations.



- **Schwartz Center for Children** services children under 3 years old, sliding scale or no charge. The 12 month day school program for ages 3-21 supports children with medical issues. Outpatient rehab for therapies is paid by insurance. The 58 year old center has received a donation of 4 acres of land, and will move to Westport Road in Dartmouth next summer.
- **Healthy Families Program** is for 20-year old or younger first time parents of a child under 3 years old. A 10 week parenting group will be held 3/29/06-5/31/06. Transportation, child care and refreshments are provided. Contact Gail at 508-997-1570 for more information.
- **Parenting Teens Program** serves middle to high school students who are 3 months pregnant. Services include continuing education, drop out prevention, MCAS and agency presentations. Every day is a challenge for young parents who work, go to school and take care of babies.
- **Curry College** – Jean has worked with many GNBHHSC members in various programs. Her students have gone into schools to talk to students about sexually transmitted infections (STIs). She is concerned about the effects of youth drinking on developing brains.

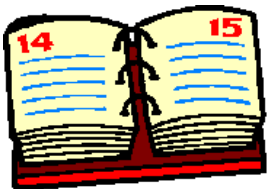
Budget is at approximately \$29,700.

Next Meetings: Steering Committee: **3/17/06**, 12:30 – 2 pm New Bedford Family Planning
 General Meeting, **4/6/06**, 9:00-10:30, Coastline Elderly

Coalition Member and Staff Tasks:

- Check the resource directory at www.geocities.com/gnbhhsc to check for accuracy. Send corrections or updates to mcaprosa@hotmail.com
- 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 listserve.
- 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 listserve.
- Include a quarterly treasurer's report on General Meeting agendas, and monthly treasurer's reports on SC agendas
- 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

**Greater New Bedford Calendar of Meetings and Events:
 March-April 2006**



March 17, 12:30	GNBHHSC Steering Committee Meeting	New Bedford Family Planning, Howland Place
April 6, 9:00	GNBHHSC General Meeting	Coastline Elderly Services 1646 Purchase St., New Bedford
April 7, 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.
April 10, 9:15	GNBHHSC Health Access Committee.	New Bedford Family Planning, Howland Place, 651 Orchard St. Suite 100 New Bedford, MA 02744