



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, May 4, 2006, 9:00, Coastline Elderly

Attendees: Gail Brennan, Amy Carafoli, Karin Coppola-Araia, Judith Coykendall, Roger Dextradeur, Paula Doherty, Joseph Gumlak, Jim Merchant, Pauline Macedo, Ron O'Connor, Catherine O'Leary, Marcia Picard, Shirley Romen, Lorraine Rosa, Tim Velho, Karen Vernen

Discussion Summary:

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

- **Adult Literacy Group** for Chinese, Portuguese and Spanish speakers is held at 181 Hillman St. Agencies can do presentations, and ACS provides interpreters.
- **Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening, Health Education Curriculum** serves uninsured women through education to them or other providers to bring to the community. The curriculum is being translated into Portuguese and Spanish. The manual also has resources. They hope to offer incentives to educators for training and community presentations. A free service.
- **Men's Health Partnership** - FREE Health Screenings to Men age 18 or older that do not have health insurance or are underinsured The Men's Health Partnership, a program sponsored by Massachusetts Department of Public Health and administered by Visiting Nurse Association of Cape Cod, Inc, program's focus is on screening for heart disease, diabetes and prostate cancer. Services include a physical exam, lab work, counseling and education. After their free health consultation, participants receive a \$25 Gift Certificate to Pub Ninety-Nine compliments of the Men's Health Partnership, at any one of the Pub Ninety-Nine restaurants in New Bedford, Fairhaven, Taunton and Fall River. For information call **1-888-557-9994**
- **Prescription Financial Help** – A bus with resources to find help in paying for prescriptions will be parked at the Seven Hills Behavioral Health, 589 South First St, at 10:00 am on **5/17/06**. Persons who bring a list of their medicines will be able to look up sources of funding and assistance in the data base in the Help Express Bus.
- **RAPPP Program Parents Night** will feature film and interactive questions and answers about the music kids are listening to. The free program will be held **5/9/06**, 7-9pm, at Fairhaven High School auditorium. To register call **508-994-0548**
- **RAP'N Up Violence**, 8th annual male conference, will be held **5/10/06**, 8:00am-1:30pm, at the Taunton Holiday Inn. For information, call **508-994-0548**.
- **HIV Summit** – South Shore and Southeast Regional HIV Service Coordination Collaborative summit will be held **5/10/06**, 9:00am-3:00pm, at the Middleboro Town Hall. Pre-register at **508-583-2250, x251**. Free, breakfast and lunch provided. CEUs available to nurses, social workers and certified drug and alcohol counselors.
- **Who Takes Care of Mom?** – A women's health and prevention workshop will be held **5/21/06**, 9:00am-Noon, at the Fall River Seventh Day Adventist Church, 2695 North Main St., Fall River. Free health screenings, healthy snacks and prizes. For information, call Tim or Barbara at **774-930-5935**.
- **ACT Training Program** – A one-day training for parents, adults and professionals living and working with children birth to 8 years old will be held **6/1/06**, 8:00am-4:00pm, at the Center for Women's Health, 300b Faunce Corner Rd., Dartmouth. Cost \$35 or \$50, some scholarships available. Continental breakfast and lunch included, CEUs pending for nurses and social workers. For information or to register, call **508-994-0548**.
- **2nd Annual RAPPP Heart of Fatherhood Award** – An essay contest is open to children ages 7-18 who would like to acknowledge their fathers' efforts. Deadline for submissions is **6/3/06**. For information, call Cindy or Tim at **508-994-0548**.
- **"Know Your Rights"** is offered to Portuguese speaking elders on aspects of health. Last months presentation was a senior social on second hand smoke. The next will be held **5/25/06**, 9:00-3:00, at Fort Tabors Community Center, and will include Medicare part D. It is open to 200 people, transportation, breakfast and lunch provided. Contact Helena Marques at 508-996-8113.

Puzzles Nightclub Tragedy – The GNBHSC continues to advocate the acceptance of all people.

**Subcommittee Reports:
Steering Committee**

- **Coalition Newsletter** – CHNA#24 (Attleboro/Taunton) newsletters were shared. The Coalition chose the same format with an added calendar of meetings and events. The name will be “C.O.A.S.T. Connections”, and contain an agency of the month feature, general meeting minutes, updates, announcements, contact information, and the calendar. The first issue will be June 2006. Agency of the month will feature the new Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Health Education curriculum.
- **Summer Plans** – General meetings will be suspended for July and August, with the possibility of a special working meeting in August, to be discussed at the next meeting. The June meeting will be on 6/1/06, but the venue has to be changed. Suggestions include the Pequot Building in Dartmouth, Dartmouth Street Stop and Shop community room, libraries, Buttonwood Park, or the UMass Downtown location.
- **Legislative Breakfast 2006** – No information at this time. A member suggested the topic Section 8 housing, education and job opportunities in relationship to a CORI.

Domestic Violence Subcommittee – No Report.

Health Access Subcommittee continues to work on mental health issues and perinatal/postpartum depression. The Committee may use funds to get copies of DPH brochures for distribution.

Next Meetings:

Steering Committee: **5/19/06**, 12:30 – 2 pm New Bedford Family Planning

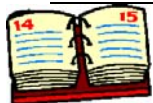
General Meeting, **6/1/06**, 9:00-10:30, The Women’s Center, 405 County St., New Bedford

Coalition Member Tasks:

- 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)
- 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)
- 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.
- Find a venue for the June meeting.
- 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



**GNBHHSC
Calendar of Meetings and Events:
May-June 2006**

May 8, 9:15	GNBHHSC Health Access Committee.	New Bedford Family Planning, Howland Place, 651 Orchard St. Suite 100, New Bedford
May 12, 12:30	GNBHHSC Domestic Violence Committee. Must RSVP (for lunch) to cafricano@ncla.net or call Jacquie Gomes at 508-996-3343	South Coastal Counties Legal Services (formerly SMLAC), 21 S. Sixth St., New Bedford.
May 19, 12:30	GNBHHSC Steering Committee Meeting	New Bedford Family Planning, Howland Place
June 1, 9:00	GNBHHSC General Meeting	Note Location Change: The Women’s Center, 405 County St., NB