



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, November 2, 2006, 9:00, Coastline Elderly Services

Attendees: Carl Alves, Jocelyn Andrade, Elyse Blake, Gail Brennan, Amy Carafoli, Sharon Costa-Smith, Alicia Davila, Roger Dextrateur, Katie Dutille Dos Santos, Susan Gaudiello, Gladys Medina, Kerry Mello, Jim Merchant, Pauline Macedo, Ron O'Connor, Melissa Owens, Kathy Patistas, Suzanne Raposo, Dan Riding, Lorraine Rosa (via internet), Brad Sell, Tim Velho

Introductions / Program descriptions

- **South Coast Hospitals RAPP program** will have their Second Annual Heart of Father's Day Award Ceremony to honor positive fathers, grandfathers and role models. Teddy Brusci of the New England Patriots will be the honored guest at this year's event which will occur on 11/13/06 at 6 pm at the Hawthorne Country Club tickets are \$75.00. Nominees are chosen based on submitted essays that describe what makes a great Dad. For more information or tickets please contact Tim Velho at **508-994-0548**.
- **Health Care for Southeastern Massachusetts** will hold an evidence-based prevention strategy training on 11/16/06 called *Why Scare Tactics Don't Work*. Katy and Stephanie will conduct. A second meeting of the Southeastern MA Substance Abuse Prevention and Youth Development Network will be held **11/29/06**. The first Communities Mobilizing for Changes on Alcohol Network Meeting will follow. Call Katy, **508-583-2350**.
- **Communities Mobilizing for Changes in Alcohol** works on the accessibility issue of underage drinkers. They are currently working with the licensing board to bring attention to MA Question 1. Jocelyn is also the chairperson of the Advocates for Youth Committee, and is currently compiling a committee list. Anyone interested in the committee should email Lorraine at mcaprosa@yahoo.com, or call Jocelyn at **508-990-8280**.
- **Sunset Senior 8-Week Program** was successful. Another is planned for April. City Hall is working on issues of helping the homeless in the New Bedford Community. For more information, call Pauline at **508-961-3135**.
- **Habit Management Is Now Habit CO-OP, Inc.** - Roger Dextrateur is relocating to Fall River where he will act as the Director. This will be his last meeting due to his relocation.
- **BMC HealthNet Plan** - The MA Healthcare reform plan Connector began enrolling people in the Commonwealth Care Health Insurance Program (Commonwealth Care) on 10/1/06. On November 1, over 15,000 have been determined eligible, and over 3,000 have been enrolled in the health care plan. Call customer service at **877-623-6765**. For more information on BMC HealthNet Plan's Commonwealth Care Product, call Melissa Owens at **508-990-2404**.
- **PACE Child Care Works** provides child care vouchers for low income families. They are currently compiling a list of after school programs for children 13 years of age and older. Educational programs are needed. Contact Alyse Blake, **508-999-9930, x110**.
- **PAACA / Prevention Partnership** is waiting for final confirmation regarding the details of World Aids Day. Citizen School is a program for Middle School Students at Normandin and Keith for youth up to age 13, from 3 – 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. T.L.C. for middle and high school students helps students with coping skills and issues concerning youth. They engage in field trips as well as bring in speakers to address youth participants. For information, call Carl Alves at **508-997-9051**.
- **Girl Scout Council of SE MA** will hold surfing lessons next summer for Girl Scouts. For information, call Suzanne Rapoza, **508-923-0800, x21**.
- **Emergency Preparedness** - DPH is working on a series of pandemic flu table exercises for emergency preparedness with DPH providers. Carl Alves discussed the need to work with secondary responders who have face to face contact with community members on a daily basis. There was a suggestion to invite a disaster response team to a GNB Coast meeting. Tim and Dan will contact Kathy Stephanie from the mayor's office about attending the next meeting. For information, call Ron O'Connor, **1-800-531-6667**.
- **Schwartz Center** serves age birth to 22 years old. They are starting parenting groups in the spring, and are currently in the process of getting settled into the new building on Old Westport Rd. in North Dartmouth. Talented new staff has been hired. For information, contact Sharon Costa-Smith at **508-996-3391**.
- **Kennedy Donovan Center Early Intervention** continues looking for referrals for the early intervention and partnership programs. Contact Kathy Patisteas at **508-997-1570**.

- **KDC Healthy Parents Program** reports DTA has increased attendance requirements to 100%. A doctor's note must be provided to excuse absences. They serve 125 families and mothers under the age of 20. For information, call Gail Brennan, **508-997-1570**.
- **High Point TSS program** – First time meeting attendee Susan Gadielo is learning what other have to offer and how the serves can help the population she works with to see how the High Point TSS Program fits in.
- **Latino Health Institute** is located at 205 Middle Street. *Mi Familia* referrals for DSS involved families provide a parent support worker and an outreach worker. They also have a substance abuse group. For more information call Gladys Medina at **508-941-0005 x 237**.

Legislative Breakfast Update is available at our website at www.geocities.com/gnbhsc. It was a big success. One of the New Bedford area Community Award recipients, Brad Sell, wrote us a touching thank you letter calling us the “hidden industry of serving others”. His letter will be published in the next COAST Connections.

Organizational Structure

- **Chairpersons** - The formal motion was made, seconded and unanimously and officially elect Dan Riding and Tim Velho as co-chairs of GNB COAST. By-laws call for the election in June, but this can be amended to the December meeting. A vacancy can be filled at any time. A solid organizational structure is needed.
- **Clerk** is a paid staff position. By-laws can be amended to state this.
- **Treasurer** – With the large increase in funding, a hired fiscal agency was discussed. They would be required to attend meetings and show us how investments are coming. They also would be a one stop shop to the organization for funding requests.

Subcommittee Reports:

Steering Committee Meeting:

- **Next meeting** is Friday, 11/17/06, 1:00 - BJ Valente and Dr. David Weed from the Greater Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community will attend a steering committee meeting to share ideas regarding implementation, direction and focus of GNB COAST.
- **Fiscal Management** decisions have to be made in light of the large increase in coalition funding.
- **Marketing and Website** – Isherwood and Moore is working on the website and street DVDs. The main focus is to give option for care. The website will include a library, with a listing of providers based on different subject areas. The Coalition needs to become better known by area organizations and legislators through marketing. Ron, Tim and Dan are in touch with Moore and Isherwood.
- **Fund Raising Event** could provide donations to DSS and increase awareness of the Coalition.
- **Information Kiosk** – A part time master program staff person can help get our name out with pamphlets.
- **Subcommittee Revitalization** – Each subcommittee can be highlighted at a general event such as a health fair or luncheon. Two questions need to be answered: What is your idea for revitalization of the coalition? Is there something that has weighed on your heart that you would like to see modified, changed or added on? Send answers to Tim before the next general meeting. Subcommittees would also like input on their events and ideas.

Domestic Violence – No Report.

Health Access – Next meeting is on Nov. 8, 9:15 a.m. focusing on community forum surveys. Working on issues regarding mental health, anxiety, depression and post partum depression.

Advocates for Youth – Jocelyn Andrade has completed the invitation letter for community members to join advocates for youth. Lorraine is assisting Jocelyn in drumming up support and sent out an email to the general membership asking those interested in joining advocates for youth to send an email. Lorraine will provide that list to Jocelyn. The letter will go out next Wednesday, 11/8/06.

Contact Person: Tim Velho, Co-chairperson, **508-994-0548**; Dan Riding, Co-chairperson, **508-994-0885, x3157**

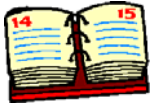
Coalition Member Tasks:

- Send ideas on the following to Tim: What is your idea for revitalization of the coalition?, Is there something that has weighed on your heart that you would like to see changed or modified?
- Contact Kathy Stephanie at the Mayor's Office to attend the December meeting. (Tim and Dan)
- Send announcements to mcaprosa@yahoo.com for inclusion in the new C.O.A.S.T. Connections newsletter.
- Contact Lorraine at mcaprosa@yahoo.com to submit an article for the next C.O.A.S.T. Connections newsletter
- Include a quarterly treasurer's report (General Meeting), and monthly treasurer's report (SC) (Carl)
- Submit DV 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)
- Send mcaprosa@hotmail.com a brief description of yourself/ agency, including website, for posting on www.geocities.com/gnbhsc, and sharing as received, with the Coalition listserve. (Membership)

Send events and meeting information to Lorraine Rosa, mcaproso@hotmail.com, for inclusion in the Calendar section of www.geocities.com/gnbhhsc, and for sharing with the Coalition listserv. (Membership)

Staff Tasks:

- Monthly Newsletter publication – Include Brad Sell’s letter to the Coalition.
- 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



Brief Steering Committee Meeting, 10:15

Attendees: Carl Alves, Ron O’Connor, Dan Riding, Lorraine Rosa (via internet), Tim Velho

Hiring of Possible Fiscal Agencies: Treasurer acts as liaison.

- Community Foundation is well known and a good fit.
- Island Foundation

Purpose – Funding has greatly increased, warranting the hiring of a fiscal agency, as the Fall River CHNA has done. This shows structure, planning and gives us options in funding. Funding is unrestricted.

Audit vs. Compilation – The hired agent will need a compilation of receipts, checks, deposits and disbursements by year, over the last 2 fiscal years, to do a cost-benefit analysis. The agent will send checks from us for fees, payroll, etc, provide annual reports and collect all the information into a portfolio.

Questions:

- What did the FR CHNA do?
- What did the northeast CHNA do?
- What is necessary for us?

Next Steps:

- Weigh the pros and cons of audit vs. compilation and get back to Tim by next week.

Next Meeting: 11/17/06, 1:00, RAPP Resource Center, 49 State St., Dartmouth

GNBHHSC

Calendar of Meetings and Events: November-December

Nov. 13, 6:00pm	2nd Annual Heart of Fatherhood Essay Contest Awards Dinner. \$75 for adults, call for children 12 and under. For more information, call Tim at 508-994-0548.	Hawthorne Country Club.
Nov. 16, 9:00-11:00	5 a Day Statewide Coalition. Email or attendance to Cynthia, Coordinator at Cynthia.Bayerl@state.ma.us or 617-624-5439	Department of Public Health, 250 Washington St., 4th floor., Boston.
Nov. 16, 1:00-4:00	Training: Why Scare Tactics Don't Work: Understanding Evidence-Based Strategies in Addressing Youth Risk Behaviors. \$40 includes materials, CEUs and a light snack. Register by November 9.	Contact Katy Dutille dos Santos, 508-583-2350, x221, or kddossantos@hcsm.org
Nov. 17, 12:30-2:00	GNB C.O.A.S.T. Domestic Violence Committee. This is an important meeting. RSVP by 11/15 to cforney@ncla.net	South Coastal Counties Legal Services, 21 South Sixth St., New Bedford, MA
Nov. 17, 1:00	GNB C.O.A.S.T. Steering Committee.	RAPP Resource Center, 49 State St., Dartmouth, Pequot Bldg, Suite 105
Nov. 23, 11:00	2nd Annual Harvest Home Feast Thanksgiving Day. All are welcome. Admission: 3 canned food items for food drive. RSVP by 11/17/06 to Tim Velho, 508-646-3506, or 774-930-5955.	7th Day Adventist Church, 2695 North Main St., Fall River.
Dec. 7, 9:00	GNB COAST General Meeting	Coastline Elderly Services, 1646 Purchase St., NB