



**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*

January Steering Committee Meeting

January 19, 2007, 1:00pm, RAPPP Resource Center, 49 State St., Dartmouth, Pequot Bldg, Suite 105.

Attendees: Camille Anderson, Jocelyn Andrade, Pamela Bourgault, Judith Coykendall, Tom Gecewicz, Jacqui Gomes, Kerry Mello, Sarah Manuels, Ron O'Connor, Marcia Picard, Dan Riding, Lorraine Rosa (remote access), Tim Velho, Dr. David Weed

Rotating Meeting Venues – Steering Committee members will rotate the hosting of SC meeting. Meetings during the next four months will be hosted by Jocelyn Andrade at Seven Hills Behavioral Health, 589 South First St., NB.

Announcements:

- **RAPPP** is doing a luncheon for people serving elderly and youth.
- **Kiosk Update:** Southcoast Hospitals lobby is being redesigned. GNB COAST is requesting space to station a kiosk that will fit the decor, and a commitment of three or more years from the hospital. (Tim: May I have a copy of the letter?) GNB COAST will purchase the kiosk. Ideas include starting with a low-tech, stand-alone kiosk with information display cases, then perhaps having space for a laptop, a small screen with a scrolling marquee or slide show, a DVD based display that can be broadcast on monitors. Hospital workers will be able to increase their awareness of available community programs. The kiosk will be a place where a staff member can be available for information, as well as get other work done, and feature a sign referring to the GNB C.O.A.S.T. sponsorship. Expenses may be lowered by requesting a used kiosk from a business expo.
- **Drug Free New Bedford Program** – Coalition members are asked to get the word out about the program among people they work with in their agencies that may have students in New Bedford schools grades 6-12. If any members would like pamphlets for their offices they can contact Dan to bring them by at **508-979-1411**. Program information is available at www.drugfreenb.org.

Moore & Isherwood Update – The beta website should be up and running, and presented at the next general meeting. Liz Isherwood will send us the link after **1/26/07**.

Presentation: Dr. David Weed, Greater Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community – The Fall River CHNA is much like ours, and is a good example of success that NB would like to learn from and utilize. Dr. Weed, the motivator and driving force, was invited as a Coalition advisor. Dr. Weed was involved with the NB CHNA for some years. The two CHNAs work together yearly on the successful Legislative Breakfast. Some of their best practices include the following:

- **An excellent newsletter** (See <http://www.gfrpartners.com/newsletter.html>)
- **Coalition Bylaws** – The original vision accommodates hundreds of members and a Steering Committee. There are presently 3 task forces and a steering committee. Fall River has struggled with merging task forces, reinforcing subgroups of groups to merge, reducing fragmentation. Unity works to an advantage.
- **501C3 Status** – FR CHNA is a non-profit organization. In New Bedford, the Community Foundation will provide fiscal services. Currently, members personally lay out their own funds, and submit reimbursement forms. Having available funds and a paper trail is a benefit of fiscal management agency. Carl has done a great

job, but now with DON funds continuing to increase, a paid, designated agency will manage funding. The Foundation can assist in locating renewable streams to disperse to the community and generate a stronger membership.

- **Staffing** – Fall River has a paid minutes taker, and the task forces have hired coordinators for a few hours per week. Sarah Manuels is the staff point person for maternal depression project, and complements Lorraine Rosa's organizational work.
- **Membership Building** - NB started a membership drive by challenging attendees to bring 2-3 agency representatives to or back to the table. The Steering Committee has become much better attended. Building recommendations include having a large table helps people feel welcome, special events, reasons for people to come, presentations, and being a place where people really want to be. No coalition runs well on just one person, but need lots of working participants, and therefore, energy. A challenge is that many agencies cannot afford to spare a great deal of staff time for meetings. Fall River task forces date back to 1994. Leadership changes, but a lot of work happens. Some 8-10 members connect and work on project in the Healthy Lifestyles Group. This becomes a feeder for people to get more involved. There is also an Access to Health Taskforce (health disparities, insurances, access). It came out of a telephone survey data done by an outside group and hasn't changed in 12 years. The FR Steering Committee is elected every 2 years, and defines the voting membership. Structure is kept in place, motions are made, minutes posted, and good form helps when things get uncomfortable. Good bylaws are kept up. Having a vice chairperson provides for succession and a rotating leadership. The current chairperson is BJ Valente. Anyone who has attended GFR Partners over the past year is eligible to vote for leadership.
- **Collaborative History** – Fall River's biggest change in last 5 years has been its record with the city. Difficulties include keeping all the CHNA talons connected, getting task force members to sit on the Steering Committee and connecting with CHNA towns. Twelve years ago, GFR Partners were connected to agencies, but not city government. In 2003, Fall River's Mayor invited the CHNA in via the Healthy City Project, opening doors and opportunities for visibility through a broad sense of health, including recreation, housing and all the components that support community health. A good base of health care providers and resources are needed to do health promotion. Then interest can grow. New Bedford's interns will connect with health directors in each town to get them involved in GNB COAST. Each surrounding town has unique programs. The New Bedford health department reached out to Acushnet looking at the flu pandemic and best practices that would be beneficial to New Bedford, pulling them in as a good neighbor. GNB COAST needs the outlying areas health departments involved in our regional issues. NB is not the hub, it's just our base. Our newsletter will highlight all CHNA towns beginning with Wareham, because they're very active and have many services. Key Wareham folks will be contacted for information and to receive the issue. The surrounding towns of Acushnet, Dartmouth and Fairhaven worked with the Domestic Violence committee on the Elder Project. A workplace violence project collaborated with NB Chamber of Commerce.

Spring Marketing Event – Sarah has a list of venues and prices to submit to the SC. A Luncheon will highlight the CHNA and make community contacts to launch the website. Access to internet and a large screen would be useful.

Subcommittees:

Advocates for Youth Update – The kick-off meeting of the committee will be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, **2/15**, 3:00, at Seven Hills Behavioral Health, 589 South First St., New Bedford. Jocelyn hopes to inform and include all of the many New Bedford youth services through GNB COAST and perhaps the New Bedford Standard Times. AFY may expand into collaboration with youth activities in Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community and America's Promise by co-hosting a joint activity and connecting throughout the year. AFY can be a place for networking. A project suggested by youth is increasing physical activity and weight loss with interactive Nintendo Wii systems that allows players to be physically interactive and move in order to play the game, which will enhance physical activity and hopefully get parents involved in the fun. This could be accomplished by partnering with Nintendo, the Health Access Committee and a local Boys and Girls Club. Features can include youth and parent presentations on nutrition, juvenile diabetes, childhood obesity, and cardiac prevention in middle schools. A Fall River / New Bedford family physical challenge culminating at a location such as Buttonwood Park can help get the word out for the involved organizations. Donated prizes can be included. The Committee can request GNB COAST funding for staff expenses to organize the equipment, perhaps at playing areas in multiple locations in 3-4 communities to start. Feasibility, support and planning must be on point for implementation.

Youth Summit – The Steering Committee voted unanimously to contribute \$3,000 to this activity.

Domestic Violence – The Committee held a conference on Racism, Sexism and Poverty, and is getting information out to survivors. The Committee targeted two populations for Part II of the Oppression Project being youth/students through local schools and survivors. They decided to focus on survivors and are not proceeding with anything with the schools at this time. The DV Committee would like support for their ongoing series, and will submit a simple proposal with a budget. Money needs to be investigated. Contact Diedre Lopes about funding was advised, also NB ACTS to contact about violence prevention. Bring proposal and try to get folks on board.

Health Access is working on the Maternal and infant mental health project. It is a statewide program developed by the Department of Public Health. The Committee has materials for distribution, and is planning a May 4th providers conference at the Center for Women’s Health.

Next Steps:

- Highlight outlying GNB COAST towns in our newsletter, beginning with Wareham, assuring that town members receive the issue. (Lorraine)
- CHNA General Meeting presentation in February on the requirement for insurance coverage for un/under insured individuals (Kerry Mello)
- Send lists of venues and prices to the Steering Committee membership (Sarah)
- Submit a funding proposal to the Steering Committee for the DV series, contact Diedre Lopes about funding, and NB ACTS about violence prevention. (Jacqui)
- Send Jocelyn contact information on partner agencies working with youth and community demographics (Membership, Lorraine)

Next Meeting: 2/16/07, 1:00, Seven Hills, 589 South First St., New Bedford

Chairpersons:

Tim Velho, **508-994-0548** (medic8401@aol.com)

Dan Riding, **508-994-0885, x3157** (drugfreenb@yahoo.com)