



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
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General Meeting, January 4, 2006, 9:00, Coastline Elderly Services

Attendees: Carl Alves, Maria F. Alves, Jocelyn Andrade, Pamela Bourgault, Judith Coykenall, Paula Doherty, Maria Evora-Rosa, Tom Gecewich, Pauline Macedo, Sarah B. Manuels, Jim Merchant, Kelly Nevins Ron O'Connor, Kathryn Patisteas, Marcia Picard, Suzanne Raposo, Dan Riding, Lorraine Rosa (via internet), Tim Velho, Karen Vernon-Thompson

Announcements:

New Cable Access Show - Dan will spotlight a different youth program in the city each month, and is looking for people who may want to promote their youth programs. Drug Free NB will have a Martin Luther King Jr. event for families and community members at the YMCA Teen Center on 1/14/07, 5:30-8:30pm with local activists and possibility the Mayor and Governor speaking. There will be performances by 3rd eye, MIC and other entertainers.

Tom Gecewich was welcomed as a new CHNA member. He would like to meet with each attendee to get a feeling for what they're doing. The NB Health Department would like to partner with the members for a better city and region.

Karen Vernen-Thompson – on journey to recovery. Finding



High Point Treatment, a private non-profit has a continuum of care half-way houses is difficult, and they are limited as to whom they can take.

Marcia Picard, Suzanne Raposo – The Girl Scout cookie sale is in full swing at this time. For more information, see www.gscsm.org. People are encouraged to support troop booth sales that are happening throughout greater NB. If you're not a cookie eater, or are already well stocked, you are encouraged to participate in "Cookies for a Cause" by purchasing cookies which the troop donates to one or several deserving agencies in the GNB area, like food pantries, women's and homeless shelters.

Pauline Macedo – The Department of Human Services helps with food stamps, housing for elderly and assists Portuguese speakers fill out forms. They are planning a 13 week senior social at Grace Church for 35 individuals. 13 weeks at Grace church with socialization, entertainment, speakers, and a nutritious meal. The new series starts **4/7/07**.

Tim Velho – RAPPP's Faces of Teen Pregnancy Project will be released this summer. The awareness raising program interviewed teen parents from different age groups. The exhibit and stories will be open to the public. The Youth Council received a demonstration grant specific to area teens that must be completed by June or July. Agencies dealing with elderly or youth services are asked to contact him about crossing the generation barrier and raise awareness for youth and elders.

New Website Update – The beta site will be ready by the third week in January, and contain a user friendly directory.

Finances – Subcommittees would like more latitude to do more. The Community Foundation will manage our funding and will provide a spending card to subcommittees for expenses from their allotted yearly funding. They will also have the opportunity to receive extra money for a special project, seek out funding, and give feedback on minigrants. Expected Coalition budget includes \$9,000 SEMRI, \$12,700 coming and \$35,000 due from Shields MRI, over next 2-3 months. Also pending is Southcoast DON for \$18,000 yearly for the next 3 years. A linear accelerator application has also come in, which would bring in



substantial DON funding, if approved. The Coalition also has \$18,000 in the bank. Many thanks were extended to Carl Alves for his work as treasurer and fiscal management, and being an unsung hero over the years.

Minigrant Process - Events funded by GNB COAST will increase coalition visibility. Other suggestions include:

- RFRs should be open to the whole GNB area, and be evaluated, prioritized and decided by the Steering Committee. Projects must have a time frame and provide an evaluation at the end for the CHNA.
- Minigrant recipients need to participate at CHNA subcommittee meetings. Subcommittees will seek out these people, or may request committee programs. Groups currently not at the table work with groups who are.
- Recipients will send a representative to the general meeting for 12 months (2 hours monthly) Membership in GNB COAST is a benefit to their organization.
- Grantees must show sustainability, do-ability, and feasibility of any initiative. Involvement of chairpersons brings it up a notch as recipients research programs that use some of the resources we have.
- A grant may range from \$500-\$5,000, and does not have to be an event.
- GNB COAST subcommittees can be active on more than one issue at a time, and receive funding assistance.

Membership Building:

- Attendees were asked to bring representatives from 3 uninvolved agencies to the table next month, so the Coalition can know their activities, sustainability, programs and needs.
- GNB COAST is pursuing a centrally located Kiosk to get the word out on GNB agencies.
- GNB COAST has P.O. Box 7567 in the downtown post office, and Lorraine has a large email list and temporary website for keeping in touch with the community. Members also have their own listserves with whom they share Coalition information.
- Coalition members want the betterment of the community, participating through subcommittee work. They may work with us as part of their job.
- A Spring Luncheon will be held in April in downtown New Bedford for about 250 people. Coast can be covered with about \$5,000. This can bring in CEOs and let them know who we are and where we are going. This can showcase subcommittees, strategic plans, our collective vision, what we do, programs, an overview of the grant process, funding requirements, minigrants awarded (if applicable) and how the community is assisted. It will give an opportunity to see what we do with our funding, and can plant seeds that will grow. Invitees can include Representative Frank and other area politicians, Wareham health & human services providers, the Wareham/Carver smoke free coalition and all towns in the CHNA area.

Next Steps:

- Invite and bring 3 new people to the next meeting
- Plan for the spring luncheon with everything completed by the first week of March.
- Email suggestions for luncheon venues to Lorraine
- Invite the Community Foundation to attend meetings

Next Meeting: 2/1/07, 9:00, Coastline Elderly Services

Contact Persons: Dan Riding, 508-994-0885, x3157, Tim Velho, 508-994-0548