



**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*

Steering Meeting: September 22, 2006, 8:00, Family Planning, Howland Place

Attendees: Robin Cleveland, Karin Coppola-Araia, Jean DeCoffe, Katie Dutille, Kelly Mello, Ron O'Connor, Marcia Picard, Lorraine Rosa (via phonline), Tim Velho

Discussion Highlights:

New Chairpersons:

- **GNB C.O.A.S.T.** – Robin and Karin expressed thanks to all for the encouragement received over the last 1 ½ years. Robin's main responsibility has been to run networking and steering committee meetings, with Lorraine doing minutes and tasks. Robin has also been active with strategic planning and the legislative breakfast. Commitment time is about 3-3 ½ hours per month, with support from Lorraine and the Southeast Center for Healthy Communities. Co-chairs may also alternate meetings. New co-chairs Tim Velho and Dan Riding were thanked for stepping up.
- **Health Access Committee** new chairperson is Judith Coykendall, with assistance from Gail Brennan.

Letter of Support – With such risk factors as smoking and poverty, the cancer rate of the Greater New Bedford area is high. The Steering Committee formally passed a resolution for a letter of support to Ms. Georgia of South Coast Hospitals Group radiation therapy. They propose a linear accelerator, currently unavailable in the NB area.

Budget – GNB C.O.A.S.T. currently receives \$55,000 yearly in funding. From this, subcommittees receive \$3,000, with \$7,500 for marketing. Other items include Lorraine's staff time and expenses, and \$2,500 for the Legislative Breakfast speaker. The Advocates for Youth Committee will also need start up money. There has also been some thought of a mini grant RFR process of up to \$5,000. This proposal needs to go before the general membership.

Fiscal Management – With a larger budget come greater responsibility and bookkeeping. Carl has been serving as Treasurer along with other community commitments. Some issues for the next agenda include having a co-signer on the coalition account, hiring a fiscal conduit (perhaps the chairperson's agency) for a percentage or upfront fee, and especially getting suggestions/ideas from Carl. End of year 501C3 taxpayer ID holder reports are also required.

Legislative Breakfast: Building Peaceful Communities

- Invitations and Community Awards Nomination forms are out and posted on www.geocities.com/gnbhsc.
- Reminders continue to be distributed among both Fall River and New Bedford CHNA's and the community.
- Deborah Prothrow-Stith will be keynote speaker
- Community Awards Nominations and RSVPs to the breakfast are needed
- New Bedford selects the 3 Fall River winners; Fall River selects the 3 New Bedford winners. Each chairperson and/or Mayor will present certificates to the winners from his/her CHNA.
- Agenda order will highlight the awardees. Mayors and dignitaries will address the attendees

October General Meeting Agenda will include fiscal agency management of increased coalition funding, a report of the past 2 years of allocations and Mini-grant RFR proposals for area communities, setting an Ad Hoc Committee of 3 or more to review nominations on October 12, time and location to be negotiated.

Marketing – Liz Isherwood email to the committee explained website design, priority planning, inclusion of elements and getting top results from search engines.

Next Steps:

- Call Jocelyn for an Advocates for Youth update for the next meeting (Katie)
- Contact the Legislative Breakfast Committee about recognizing the Community Health Center's 25th anniversary with a certificate or recognition. (Lorraine)
- Contact Carl to be sure to bring a check for \$2500 to the Legislative Breakfast, bring budget report of the past 2 years, and bring a copy of the 501C3 taxpayer ID state designation. (Lorraine)
- An ad hoc committee of 3 or more will meet October 12 to select award winners. Nominations can be faxed to the New Bedford group. City Counsels will be asked to certificates of recognition for them. Jane Gonsalves is the New Bedford contact person. (Ad Hoc Awards Committee)
- Look at the fiscal management issue (Membership)
- Scan and email a copy of the bylaws (Ron)

Next Meetings:

- General Meeting: October 5, 2006, 9:00, Coastline Elderly Services
- Steering Committee: TBA
- Ad Hoc Community Awards Selections Committee: October 12, 2006, time and location TBA.
- Legislative Breakfast Planning Committee: October 12, 2006, 8:30, Family Services, 151 Rock St., Fall River
- Legislative Breakfast: October 27, 2006, 8:00, Whites Restaurant