

**Health Access Committee Minutes
Greater New Bedford COAST
Wednesday, January 2, 2007 - 9:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Greater New Bedford Community Health Center
WIC Entrance (lower level)**

Attendance: Ron O'Connor, Kerry Mello, Martha Gonzalez, Gail Brennan, Ana Silva, Anne Lynch, Sarah Manuels, Judith Coykendall

Welcome Sarah Manuels: Ron announced that Sarah will be the new intern for GNB COAST. She will be receiving her MPH after her internship. She will work approximately 25 hours per week. About half of those hours will be spent coordinating our efforts on the **Maternal and Infant Mental Health Project a.k.a. Perinatal Connections Project**.

Perinatal Connections Project: This project will have two main goals –

1. Outreach and Education – We can order free materials and they can be obtained very quickly so we can start distribution to providers in Greater New Bedford.
2. Training-we are planning to sponsor and coordinate a half day conference.
 - We will sponsor a half day Maternal and Infant Mental Health Conference. We envision bringing dynamic speakers such as Libby Zimmerman, Dr. Driscoll, or Emily Fineberg. Our target date would be the middle of May. We could model our conference on the Cape Cod conference that took place last year at CCCC. The Center for Women's Health in Dartmouth could be a possible site for a 3 hour conference from 9-12. The agenda could begin with one or more women who have experienced postpartum depression telling their personal stories. Then a Keynote speaker followed by a panel discussion with a DPH representative such as Karen Downs, a social workers such as Sue Bliss from the community health center; and a community based organization, (for example)
 - Kerry will check the schedule of the Medical Ed program at Southcoast Hospitals Group which meets once a month at each hospital site. It does not attract a huge number of physicians. Kerry will check on the schedules so we can conduct a presentation at all three sites. We may be able to get onto the agenda for 20 minutes.
 - Kerry will check on the schedules for the Perinatology Committee at Southcoast Hospitals Group which includes all pediatricians; ob/gyns; Physicians Assistants; Nurse Practitioners, and Nurse Midwives. Ron could present the latest DPH Infant Mortality Data (scheduled to be released 1/23/2007) in the presentation in addition to the Perinatal Connections Project.

Networking Opportunities:

- Partners for a Healthier Community (Health City/Fall River) meets in the Jackson Room at Charlton Hospital on Friday, January 12th. Sarah will attend with Judith and possibly Ron.
- The Cape & Islands Maternal Child Health Committee meets on Tuesday, January 16th at the VNA Conference Room in agenda. They are planning an outreach forum for March. Mary Wilson is the Chair of the Cape Cod Neighborhood Support Coalition through Community Connections in Falmouth. Sarah and Ron will attend.
- The Wareham Social Service Collaborative meeting is held on the 4th Wednesday each month. Sarah will attend with Gail Brennan on January 24th at the Wareham Multi-Service Center. Susan Pizzolato is the Chair.
- Gail has the list of the Perinatal Providers Group in New Bedford. They are meeting on January 25 at the DTA. Sarah will attend.

Other Details:

Kerry Mello will check with Ellen Banach, Vice President of Strategic Services to see if Southcoast would like to co-sponsor the Perinatal Conference (in name only) since we do have the funds to conduct the conference. Since we will be conducting trainings at all three sites, it may make sense for Southcoast to attach their name to the project.

Next Meeting:

We have changed the time for our monthly meetings from 9:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 14th at **8:30 a.m.** at the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center lower level (WIC entrance)