

**Greater New Bedford Health & Human Services Coalition (COAST)**  
**Health Access Subcommittee Minutes**  
**Wednesday, October 11, 2006**  
**9:15 a.m.**

**Greater New Bedford Community Health Center Conference Room**

**Present:**

Martha Gonzalez, Alice Melo, Ana Silva, Christine Cowen, Jean DeCoffe, Anne Lynch, Judith Coykendall

**Unavailable:**

Ron O'Connor, Robin Cleveland, Gail Brennan

**Announcements:**

Judith has accepted the role of chair of this committee. At the last meeting, Gail Brennan offered to help co-chair when needed. Ron O'Connor called Martha earlier to say he would not be able to attend this meeting because of illness.

Alice Melo has rejoined the committee because she has a new position at New Bedford Rehab Hospital as "Director of Community Relations", so she will be able to become involved in outreach activities again. She informed the group that Dr. Ricardo Barrera, PhD is the Director of the Neuro Behavior Services Dept. at New Bedford Rehab. His specialty is depression and anxiety, and he is fluent in Spanish. She suggested that we may be able to ask him to advocate for us in Greater New Bedford to either promote the DPH Perinatal Connections Project or some other provider/community education project that addresses the perinatal/post-partum depression issue.

We know that Ron has been trying to invite Melanie LeFav and/or Karen Downs to attend our next meeting. We hope we will be seeing them at our November meeting.

The group also discussed the work of the Southcoast Mental Health Providers group. Judith will call Donna Theodore at Southcoast to see if she can attend their next meeting to update them on our focus and our intentions to educate appropriate providers such as primary care physicians; ob/gyn's; and pediatricians about the importance of screening for perinatal and post-partum depression by utilizing instruments such as the Edinburgh Post Partum Depression Scale with their patients. We also discussed the idea of possibly providing a grand rounds presentation on the subject through Southcoast Hospitals Group. Another idea discussed was the Michigan postpartum depression project. If we are not selected as a site for the DPH Perinatal Connections project perhaps we could use the Michigan model for a local provider education project.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. in the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center Conference Room. Please use the WIC/Pediatrics Entrance on the corner of Elm Street and Acushnet Ave. You are welcome to use the new Health Center Parking Garage or the visitor parking lot at the Regency Building at the end of Acushnet Avenue.