

**Greater New Bedford COAST
Health Access Subcommittee
Minutes 2/14/2007 – 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

Attendance by Phone Conference: Ron O'Connor, Kerry Mello, Amanda Stone, Anne Lynch, Kelly Nevins, Martha Gonzalez, Tom Gecewicz, Judith Coykendall
(Sarah Manuels attended via internet since her new cell phone was not working)

Maternal Infant Mental Health Forum: We have decided to call this event a “forum” rather than a “conference” because it is more than just an educational experience. It will be held Friday, May 11, 2007 at the Southcoast Center for Women’s Health. We have reserved the center for a whole day.

Sarah has arranged for our Keynote speaker to be Dr. Deborah Issokson. Dr. Issokson will be the Keynote speaker at a similar event on the Cape the end of March. Her speakers fee could be \$1200 if she would be there for the entire day or maybe less for a presentation of approximately 1-1.5 hours. We think the shorter presentation would be preferred.

Sarah is also recruiting 2 to 3 moms with a postpartum experience to share. Sarah has a contact on the Cape for the “Mom Recruitment”. We would provide about an hour for the Mom’s presentations. We discussed folks who could help us recruit moms and Lori, a Nurse Educator from St. Lukes Hospital (SLH) Maternal Child Health Dept, was mentioned. Amanda Stone will also ask some of the moms she works with if they would be interested in telling their stories.

Lori will also help with the necessary process to apply for CEU’s for the day. Southcoast will provide the site, a breakfast and a lunch. Kerry and Sarah will check on the room set up to see if we can accommodate more than 50-60 people if we move around some tables. We discussed the possibility of Southcoast Hospitals Group being a co-sponsor and we agreed it would be appropriate since they are providing the venue, breakfast, and lunch. In addition, if Southcoast is listed as a co-sponsor, more providers will be more apt to register. It lends credibility to the forum. Ron will follow-up on this with Kerry and/or Ellen Banach on this.

The day would begin at 9:15 a.m. with the moms presentation followed by Dr. Issokson. Then lunch will be served and Sarah might present Dr. Ed Tronik’s “Still Face Paradigm” with a video and a presentation to follow. After Sarah’s presentation we could move into discussion groups and [possibly a panel of local “experts” as described below. Doing so might extend the forum until 4:00]. -[added by Ron after the meeting]

We decided we should have some local “experts” present in the afternoon. Some suggestions were Dr. Stephen Mendes from Wareham Pediatrics; Dr. Jason Reynolds (same practice); and Louise (last name?), a local midwife from Wareham; Martha Coyle for SLH Neonatal Dept; Sarah (RN) from the Women and Infants “Mom to Mom” training; Amanda Stone from the Tri-town Infant Social Support and Discussion Program

that offers newborn care, support and welcome packages to residents of Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester. Sarah will follow up with Amanda to get ideas about the existing resources in our area. Amanda's phone number is 508-989-3585.

We also discussed possible invitees such as new moms who are coming into the next support group with Amanda; and Jane Taylor who is the Early Childhood Coordinator in Marion.

We thought about a more interesting name for the forum other than Maternal and Infant Mental Health. Here is one idea "Moms and Infants; a Mental Health Priority" or Moms and Infants; a Psychosocial Priority". We are more interested in stressing the mother/infant dyad.

Sarah will email the group the new logo which is a photo of mom and baby in black and white. Sarah wants to put together a packet to engage key stakeholders about the project. In the packet there might be a description of the forum, a bio of speakers, a list of committee members with our names and agencies, order form for DPH materials, forum agenda, etc.

Kelly Nevins offered some goodies from BMCHealthNet and possibly a car seat and breast pump for a raffle for the consumer attendees. We discussed the possibility of BMC HealthNet being a co-sponsor. We will discuss this at our next meeting. But the general consensus is that if each of the committee members and the agencies they represent is printed on the invitations and other materials that would be enough.

Tom Gecewicz suggested that we film the conference (or at least the morning speakers) on cable. He will arrange it with the city cable station. We will need a release from the speakers to film it. Tom's phone number is 203-218-7754 (cell).

We have scheduled a meeting in two weeks to keep the momentum going. It will be held on Thursday, March 1st at 10:30 a.m. following the GNB COAST meeting at Coastline Elderly. Ron will verify the availability of the room.

Our next monthly meeting will be Wednesday, March 14th at 8:30 a.m. at the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center lower level (WIC entrance) conference room right off the waiting room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judith Coykendall