

Health Access Subcommittee Minutes – 9/11/06

Present:

Robin Cleveland, Gail Brennan, Kathleen Wright, Anne Lynch, Judith Coykendall, Martha Gonzalez, Ron O'Connor

Unavailable:

Jean DeCoffe, Christine Cowen, Anna Silva

Announcements

Robin Cleveland announced that she was stepping down from the Chairperson position due to a change in her job responsibilities at New Bedford Family Planning and Health Care of Southeastern Mass. Inc. Judith Coykendall from Seven Hills Behavioral Health has been asked to step into the position, but is waiting to hear from her Project Manager as to if this is okay. Gail Brennan of Healthy Families offered to assist her if needed.

Healthy Families announced that the Kennedy Donovan Center was having their open house on October 25th from 4-5 pm. Program Directors will be giving information about the programs KDC has to offer. Food will be served. RSVP to Karen Groteau @ 508-997-1570.

It was announced that Jean DeCoffe long time member of the Health Access Committee is now a full-time professor of Curry College. She does still plan to be involved with the committee. Her availability has change to Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. At this time the HA Subcommittee decided to change the meeting date from the Monday following the General Meeting to the Second Wednesday of the Month @ 9:15 am.

Martha Gonzalez announced that the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center is expanding again. They are developing a Women's Health Department. Appears they will be hiring another doctor, along with Dr. Courey and Beth Yuen, ANP to provide services. For those who were not aware the Health Center also has a Dental Clinic and soon will also have and Eye Clinic, these are services that would also be covered under the Free Care Pool. To be able to obtain these services person would need to be an established patient at the Health Center.

Martha also announced that the Health Center is celebrating their 25th Anniversary serving New Bedford and it's surrounding towns. They are holding their celebration dinner on September 30, 2006 at the Abbey Grill. Tickets are \$250. per person. This is also going to be the Annual Doctor's Cook-off.

Martha also advised the subcommittee that she was sponsoring Adults and Children Against Violence Seminar on September 30th and October 7th. The time will be from 10-2, with lunch provided. Interested persons can contact her at 508-992-6553 X 172. And she will also be holding her next Spanish Prenatal Class at the end of October, for further information you can reach her at the same number.

2006-2007 Project Update

At the end of our last meeting we were still working on getting in contact with DPH's Perinatal Connections Project to attend a meeting with us. Health Access had decided that the project we wanted to work on was Post-Partum depression and the Perinatal Connections Project is doing this. We would like to become involved by identifying Providers, working on provider/community education, billboard space and resources. Ron is to contact Melanie LeFav and/or Karen Downs to attend our next meeting.

Gail Brennan from Healthy Families talked about the Edinborough Post Partum Depression Scale. Copies were made and given to members, along with copies of providers of mental health in the Greater Cape Cod area that deal with Post Partum Depression.

The group is anxious to get started on this important topic.

Next meeting:

October 11, 2006 - Greater New Bedford Community Health Center Conference Room.
Use the WIC/Pediatrics Entrance on the corner of Elm St. and Acushnet Ave.