



## **GATHER Domestic Violence/Violence Prevention Committee**

### **5/18/06, 3:30, New Hope, 39 Taunton Green**

**Attendees:** Jennifer Brown (New Hope), Rosalie Kern (DSS), Megan Pritchard (BES), Loran Roderigues, Lorraine Rosa (GATHER/GTHHSC), Jennifer Tinglof (SEMA-VAV).

#### **Discussion Highlights:**

#### **Past Events:**

- **GTHHSC/GATHER Planning Committee Update** – Work continues on defining the Community Health Network Area #24 structure that includes representatives of area committees, hospitals, and funders in the greater Attleboro/Taunton area. It a place for people to gather, share, network, look at evidence-based data, decide on funding distribution, lining up activities with needs, evaluation, impact, successes, indicators, issues and identifying gaps. A loose affiliation, or forum, perhaps with a newsletter, may make sense in our area. A new name for the CHNA will be selected. A rotating chairmanship that cycles through all Attleboro and Taunton area committees and coalitions was suggested for quarterly working meetings, avoid the appearance that this group of leadership or direction. (See June 2006 Advocate for complete minutes)
- **National Crime Victims Rights Week** – Copies of the Enterprise and Taunton Daily Gazette articles on “Victims’ Rights: Strength in Unity” Silent Vigil were distributed to attendees. Committee thank you letters were sent to both newspapers and WPRI Channel 12 for their excellent coverage of the event. An Attleboro Sun article featured the New Hope presentation at the Attleboro Public Library of “Sexual Assault – A Broad Perspective”.
- **Take Back the Night** - Signs from the Silent Vigil were used at the Stonehill College “Take Back the Night” observance. Slogans are “Stop the Violence”, “Break the Silence”, “Violence is Unacceptable”, and “Safe Homes Safe from Abuse”. DV Chairperson Annemarie and other SEMA-VAV Volunteers attended.

#### **Continuing Events/Projects:**



- **Triumph Head Start Beautification Project** – Volunteers worked on the “Garden of Hope” project on the weekend of April 29-30. The community is welcome to volunteer to take part in this landscaping adventure. All activities are on weekends, weather permitting. For details and calendar, contact DV chairperson Annemarie of SEMA-VAV at [matulisannie@msn.com](mailto:matulisannie@msn.com), or call **508-824-3227**.
- **Verizon Cell Phones Project** is ongoing. Funding goes to the Shelter Alliance and clients are able to use the 911 feature of the phones. The drive is part of a grant requirement. Call Annemarie for pickup.

#### **Announcements:**

- **Dress to Impress (a cooperative community service sponsored by SEMA-VAV, GATHER DV and First Parish Church)** – A press conference to launch and announce the project will be held on Wednesday, June 14 at 5:30-6:30 at First Parish Church, Taunton. It will tie into the 2006 “Make a Difference Day”. Dress to Impress will provide free interview attire to low income women and men who are returning to the workforce and don’t have the appropriate clothing for interviews. An authorized referral will be required on agency or organization letterhead. The project will be volunteer run and by appointment.
- **2006 Through My Eyes: Voices Against Violence, Voices of Hope** 2006 edition submissions are requested.
- **October 2006** is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. October 2<sup>nd</sup> is Dress the Silver City in Purple!, National Day of Unity Candle Light Vigil and Clothesline Project display. A Gift of Hope is a National Make a Difference Day project. Invitations will go out to local officials, agencies and businesses to attend. Press releases will encourage the community to bring cell phones and business attire.
- **Bristol County Domestic Violence Roundtable** will be held May 24, 2006, 2:30, at the District Attorney’s Office in New Bedford. Received this month and shared with the Committee were the following court cases: Commonwealth v. Howard (4/18/06) in which a DSS investigator, who during the course of a 51B investigation questioned a defendant about the crime for which he was already charged without his attorney present, was acting as a government official and was therefore conducting the equivalent of direct police interrogation in violation of the defendant’s 6<sup>th</sup> amendment right to assistance of counsel. Commonwealth v. Tang (4/11/06) illustrates where a 5 year old child’s spontaneous utterances to a police officer were not testimonial, and were admissible.
- **Registered Sex Offenders** – Information identifying individuals, their locations, and offenses is available at [www.familywatchdog.us](http://www.familywatchdog.us) and [www.sexoffenders.com](http://www.sexoffenders.com). Recent televised 20/20 sting operations were discussed.
- **Summer Meeting Schedule** – There will be no DV meetings in July and August.

**Meeting Structure** – A suggestion was made that starting in September, meeting expand beyond networking, to a more hands on working meetings, with stronger networking between meetings. It was also suggested that more events be brought to Attleboro.

Next Meeting:  
GATHER DV/VP: **6/15/06**, 3:30, (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month), Mass InfoTech, 9 Taunton Green, Rear

Contact Person: Annemarie Matulis, **508-922-7278** cell, or [matulisannie@msn.com](mailto:matulisannie@msn.com)

AGENDA – 6/15/06

I. Announcements, Introductions

II. Events & Updates

- May DV Roundtable
- Dress to Impress Project
- Verizon Wireless Hopeline Cell Phones Project
- Garden of Hope – Triumph Head Start
- Through My Eyes 2006 Edition
- October National Domestic Violence Awareness Month Events: National Day of Unity, National Make a Difference Day

III. Goals and Grants

IV. Other

V. Next Meeting: September 21, 3:30, New Hope, Taunton

Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---