



# GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee 4/19/06, 3:30, CCBC



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Mission: The GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee addresses health and social issues in the Greater Attleboro/Taunton communities resulting from substance abuse.

Vision: This is accomplished by coordinating with existing community resources to heighten public awareness and to develop programs to prevent, reduce and treat substance abuse.

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Attendees: Douglas Barbour (North Cottage), Annie Gallagher (CPI), Chris Hoeth (Superior Court), Kathy Lalor (CPI), Michael Meleedy (CCBC), Lorraine Rosa (Staff), Maggie Pike-Thomson (High Point), Sabrina Strong (CCBC)

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## Discussion Highlights:

**MADD Summit** facilitator training will be held June 16-17, and the summit on June 18-21, Clark University, Worcester. \$100 registration per participant, deadline May 5, 2006. Contact Bonnie Lai at [blai@maddmass.org](mailto:blai@maddmass.org), or 617-227-2701.

## **Area Updates and Trends:**

- **Wareham/Carver Smoke Free Commission** is applying for an EPA Smokefree Homes Campaign grant for a 2-year education program. Wareham has the state's highest rate of lung cancer and pregnancy/smoking rates.
- **New Bedford High School** 10<sup>th</sup> grade health classes will have a presentation in April. Bob Merman, who lost his voice due to cancer, will present.
- **Durfee High School** YRBS data shows an increase in smoking. Student perception is that 80% are smokers, but in reality, only 10% smoke daily. Also, 87% of students want to date a non-smoker. SAC members wondered if the parents are smokers, teacher perceptions, and student perception of how many teachers smoke.
- **Old Rochester High School** had a presentation on Teen Brain Development and the impact of alcohol. The brain is not fully developed until people are in their 20's.
- **Underage Drinking Town Meeting** in New Bedford was well attended by a good cross-section of the community and media. It included group work and a perception activity.

**Committee Budget** – Prom Project costs were \$540. Currently, \$1460 is left in the budget.

**GTHHSC/GATHER Planning Committee Update** – A subgroup is working on building an Attleboro structure similar to the GTHHSC. The committee examined the 3 proposed structure models: 7 preferred that of GATHER being a central group in the hub of a wheel with independent area committees represented as spokes, and one abstained.

**Safe Prom Project a Huge Success** – The channel 5 coverage of GATHER SAC project was shared with attendees. It included interviews with Deb Brown, Arlene Dickinson and a high school student, as well as a local liquor store owner who appreciated getting the heads up on dates and locations of area proms. The video may get parents thinking beyond what their kids are saying about everyone's doing it. They may also wonder what other parents are thinking of their decision to provide high risk environments for after-prom parties for their children. Channels 25 and 4 were also interested in doing a story, and several newspapers have already carried the message.

**Project YELL** – The grant award notice has been received to restore funding the social norms project.

- **Timeline** - Renewal applications deadline was mid March, but SAMHSA will be flexible with the deadline, given the circumstances. The \$100,000 does not carry over, and has to be spent by the end of September, but a no cost extension can be requested.
- **Revision** - The application and budget still need to be revised, completed and submitted.
- **Assistance** - CADCA has offered technical assistance with the process.
- **Staffing** - Funding can be used to do a needs assessment and for planning, but programming is lost for this school year. A grant writer and coordinator with a strong prevention background, experienced with federal grants, a self-starter, who knows the ropes right from the beginning will need to be hired. Sabrina will begin to

work on job descriptions to be sent out to websites and colleges such as Boston University. Details will have to be decided: Who approves the job descriptions? Who does the interviews and hiring? Shall the committee look at applications and select 3 names to go to Phil? Sabrina can be paid for consultation from the grant and send what needs to be done, by when, as well as beginning work on a job description and consultation agreement.

Next Steps:

- ☐ Send thank you letters to Channel 5, local newspapers (Brockton Enterprise, Taunton CALL) and Zips liquor store for their support in getting the word out. (Lorraine, Committee approval)
- ☐ Contact Attleboro Sun about the Prom project press release (Kathy)
- ☐ Contact the Boston Globe about interest in the Prom project press release (Chris)
- ☐ Plan follow up steps after prom season ends after June 4. (Committee)
- ☐ Write RFQs for a grant writer and coordinator for Project YELL, and a consultation agreement by Monday. (Sabrina)
- ☐ Look into CCBC resources for grant writers (Michael)
- ☐ Once applications are received, forward by email to the committee for pre-meeting examination. (Lorraine)

Next Meeting: 5/17/06, 3:30, CCBC Family Conference Room, Mill River Professional Center, 1 Washington St.

Contact Persons: Arlene Dickinson, 508-223-4691, Lorraine Rosa, 508-823-4822



## **GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee AGENDA**



**5/17/06, 3:30, CCBC, 1 Washington St., Mill River Place**

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Attleboro + Taunton Area Updates and Trends

III. GTHHSC/GATHER Structure Meeting Update

**IV. Rolling Up Our Sleeves:** Preparing to receive the 100K Project YELL grant

- RFQs: Grant Writer, Project Coordinator
- Grant Score Information
- Grant Narrative
- Budget

VII. Announcements

VIII. May Agenda (To reflect both Attleboro and Taunton Areas) and Meeting Date/Place