



# GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee 5/17/06, 3:30, CCBC



The GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee addresses health and social issues in the Greater Attleboro/Taunton communities resulting from substance abuse. This is accomplished by coordinating with existing community resources to heighten public awareness and to develop programs to prevent, reduce and treat substance abuse.

**Attendees:** Douglas Barbour (North Cottage), Deb Brown (TPS), Kathy Lalor (CPI), Kelley Mann (CCBC), Jonathan Marcus (CCBC), Michael Meleedy (CCBC), Lorraine Rosa (Staff), Maggie Pike-Thomson (High Point), Sabrina Strong (CCBC)

## Discussion Highlights:

**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's 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.

**Safe Prom Project** – Thank you letters were sent to newspapers and Fox 25 for covering the awareness campaign.

**Project YELL (Youth Endorsing Legal Lifestyles)** – The grant award notice has been received to restore funding the social norms project. The continuation application is brief and non competitive.

➤ **Preparation** – Sabrina continues to work on

preliminary steps. In addition to writing the job postings, she wrote and shared a Candidate Scoring Sheet and Revised Program Objectives.

- **Program Director** – The posting for program director was widely distributed, with a June 5 deadline. Grant writing is included in the requirements. Sabrina will conduct a preliminary telephone screening.
- **Interview Committee**, consists of Deb Brown, Lorraine Rosa, Jonathan Marcus, and a Peer Leader.
- **Telephone Interview Screenings** will be followed by interviews by a subcommittee of individuals.
- **Grant Writer** – After a discussion of applicants, the committee motioned and unanimously voted to hire Anne Kotch as grant writer, based on knowledge and past experience.
- **Expenses** – The Committee unanimously decided to front \$1,000, to be matched by the GTHHSC, to hire the grant writer.
- **Program Steering Committee** – The Substance Abuse Committee will take on the roll as Project YELL Steering Committee.
- **Revised Objectives** – The program director will meet with the T.P.S. Safe and Drug Free Schools

Coordinator to become familiarized with the “Get the Word Out” social norms marketing campaign from this spring. The poster campaign distribution will continue. Project YELL peer leaders will be recruited and trained in the MADD Youth In Action program. The science-based parent education program “Guiding Good Choices” will continue in Taunton, and include participant recruitment, location of series, identification of facilitators and a “booster” training. Coalition collaborations will be strengthened. A strategic plan/needs assessment may be included. A program timeline ranging from May-September was included.

## Next Steps:

☐ Interview candidates for Project YELL program director (Jonathan, Deb, Lorraine Sabrina, Peer leader)

☐ Contact Steering Committee members for input on recommendation to hire grant writer. (Lorraine)

**Next Meeting:** 6/21/06, 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



VIII. “To Meet or Not to Meet – That is the Question” – A discussion of summer schedule and how it relates to the work of Project YELL.

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