



CHNA#24/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee 11/15/06, 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: Carol Annarino, Deb Brown, April Cabrera, Valerie Calais, Bianca Calderon, Tyshrah DeBarros, Meredith Denno, Arlene Dickinson, Kevin Goncalves, Michael Meleedy, Raquel Melo, Lorraine Rosa, Julianne Seekell, Janina Smith, Jimmy Vibert,

Discussion Highlights:

Caritas in RI offers residential (for RI residents) and outpatient substance abuse treatment, including adolescent treatment for ages 13-17, covering several cities. Some are court ordered, some not. Referrals come from schools, hospitals and other agencies. Parents are always involved in the 12 week program curriculum. The focus is mostly on adolescent substance abuse, and covers Massachusetts youth as well. Although basically a substance abuse facility, Caritas deals with other issues and diagnoses. They take private insurance. The CHNA24 area lacks a residential program for adolescents. This need can be brought up at the United Way needs assessment focus groups. Committee members will attend the forums.

Project YELL:

- **More Peer Leaders** were hired with the Tobacco grant. Planned trainings include tobacco and teen topics, Youth in Action compliance checks, shoulder taps and sticker shock. They will hand out goodies in the Christmas parade. Peers did a survey at the mall health fair. They also did Red Ribbon Week activities in the 4 T.P.S. middle schools.
- **The Youth Summit** is in June. THS kids came back

from the recent summit with plans to increase compliance. Small grants may allow peer leaders to go to the MADD youth summit in June, where Project YELL can be showcased.

- **COMET** - The federally required April-September 2006 COMET report was completed before deadline, and includes project information for the entire fiscal year. The next report will begin shortly.

Substance Abuse Round Table (SART) XII

- **Donations** - A letter to solicit community financial support with an introduction to the proven success record of social norms on substance abuse was discussed.
- **Format** of the social norms 101 focus day includes keynote speaker, adult group and youth working groups (HS and middle), that will leave the event with a mini plan for their school system. Last years Taunton High School mini tobacco campaign will be featured. Attendee packets will include articles about social norms, challenges and what attendees can do to take back to their community. A panel presentation / audience question portion of social

norms is possible. SARTXII is scheduled for **4/12/07**.

Annual Meeting – The SAC will provide 50 copies of the committee's information sheet according to the format, for distribution. Lorraine will prepare the document with committee input, and April will make and bring the copies.

Community Care Services received the Comprehensive Community Project \$5,000 DPH grant to design preventative tobacco control activities to reduce tobacco use. The proposal was supported by the Committee, the Mayor and the schools. The SAC will initially serve as the planning group for the 18 month planning period. Schools provide referrals and space for the free program, but can't mandate attendance as could the courts and DYS if they made it a probation stipulation. Contact person is Brian Foss.

Next Steps:

☐ Prepare SAC information sheet for Annual Meeting

Next Meeting: **12/20/06**, 3:30, CCBC

Contact Persons: Arlene Dickinson, **508-223-4691**, Lorraine Rosa, mcaprosa@hotmail.com

