



GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee 10/18/06, 3:00, 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: Jonathan Marcus, April Cabrera, Carol Annarino, Jimmy Vibert, Doug Barbour, Kathy Lalor, Arlene Dickinson, Maggie Pike, Tyshra Sheely-Debarros, Annie, Deb, Lorraine Rosa over phonline

Discussion Highlights:

Project YELL

- **Peer Leaders** – Peer leaders have been hired, and received orientation. April will meet with parents to sign permission forms. They will also participate in an all day training with MADD.
- **School Survey** – Project YELL staff will meet with T.H.S. faculty to introduce Project YELL. The ADAS is scheduled for November.
- **COMET Report** – The Project YELL quarterly report is about half finished. It is due November 10.
- **Social Norms Conference** – April and Carol attended a social norms and law enforcement presentation.

\$10,000 Tobacco Grant Received – T.H.S. submitted both a \$2,000 school grant and \$10,000 community DPH mini grant. They are still waiting on the school grant, which is for second hand smoke and to stop smoking in school. Three more peer leaders and a coordinator can be hired with the \$10,000 grant, bringing the number of peer leaders to 8.

School Tobacco Cessation Program – There are currently no referrals, but students continue to hide before school to smoke.

Community Care Services SOAP – The structured outpatient addiction program meets 5 days per week for 6 weeks, 2:00-4:30, after school. T.H.S. will give referrals.

November Ballot Question 1: Wine Sales in Food Stores – The advertisement that indicated MADD support for the bill has been pulled. Access and enforcement are issues for this bill because it increases the number of liquor establishments, making it harder to police. The law will also make it more difficult for youth who are under age 21 working in smaller, understaffed stores.

Red Ribbon Week – Donated student prizes given during activities at Parker and Friedman Middle school include:

- \$100 - Taunton Federal Credit Union
- \$30 – Six \$5 gift certificates for Pepperoni's Pizza.
- 10 Free Admission passes to Silver City Skateland.

SARTXII – The committee is composing a letter to funders, stating what social norms is, how it will affect the community, expected impact, what we expect to get out of it, and what attendees can take away and use. Social Norms shows that most youth make healthy decisions, so the positive message has public interest built in. Negative

messages are an easy sell to funders because people want to fix a problem and make it better. Social norms is prevention rather than treatment, and gives a “bigger bang for the buck” in that it has a strong influence on behavior with a relatively low cost. It sends the message that kids that make healthy choices are not strange. A letter to potential funders should motivate support for positive behaviors instead of having to deal with negative consequences in the future. Social norms messages are about life above the influence. We are seeking funding to support an established, funded, science-based program. The SARTXII is an opportunity to spread the word about the effectiveness of social norms and let communities know that there is much funding support available. A registration fee was also discussed and would require a different agency take the lead in collection and accounting.

Next Steps:

☐ Compose a letter to help potential funders buy-in.

Next Meeting: 11/21/06, 3:30, CCBC Conference Room

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



GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee AGENDA



11/15/06, 3:30, CCBC, 1 Washington St., Mill River Place

Pre-meeting Computer/Phone Line set up – Please be seated close to speaker phone

I. Assignment of Note taker

II. Welcome and Introductions: Be sure to fill in your email addresses in the sign in sheet!

III. Updates

- Project YELL
- Substance Abuse Round Table IX
- Community Care Services Tobacco Program
- T.H.S. Gets the Word Out \$10,000 continuation grant

IV. GTHHSC/CHNA Annual Meeting – One-sheet committee description attached

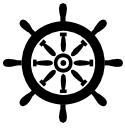
V. United Way Needs Assessment Focus Groups – Ensuring that SAC issues are represented requires attendance commitments from committee members. All though none of the 3 focus groups are specifically about substance abuse issues, the topic can be woven into any and all of the meetings. The more coalition/committee participation, the more relevant and useful the final needs assessment will be. Let's not reinvent the wheel and support the United Way's Needs Assessment Focus Groups effort. RSVP attendance to Marilyn Godfrey at **508-431-0106**, or marilyn@uwgat.org.

- **Today, 11/15/06, 6:30pm – Basic Human Needs:** Housing, food/nutrition, utility assistance, rent/mortgage assistance, budgeting, homelessness, prescription assistance, etc.
- **11/30/06, 9:00am or 6:30pm – Healthy Communities:** Elderly services, cultural offerings, volunteerism, transportation, health insurance, dental needs, recreation and leisure, mental health
- **12/7/06, 9:00am or 6:30pm – Children, youth and family:** Child care, juvenile justice, parenting education, literacy, child abuse prevention, domestic violence, children's programs, etc.

VI. DSS Policy Change – Early Head Start Social Service Advisory Committee would like our committee to look at a 7/1/06 change. DSS no longer has the ability to require drug testing. Clients must go through a physician or clinic, where the person must be seen before the expense of a drug screening will be covered, or the client must self-pay. In the past, DSS staff could require that the parent obtain a drug test within 48 hours. If they failed to do so, the implication of such was upheld in court. Can the SAC explore this and possibly write letters to support a means to follow up with drug testing for those who are not connected to an MD or a clinic? (Email from Milly Burrows, ask Carol and April for more information from meeting discussion)

VII. Announcements

VIII. Next Meeting: December 20, 2006



CHNA#24 / GTHHSC

Community Health Network Area #24 / Greater Taunton Health & Human Services Coalition

P.O. Box 2894, Taunton, MA 02780

A coalition of agencies and individuals uniting to build healthier and safer communities through
prevention, education, and health promotion

Name of Coalition/Committee/Group:_____

Contact or Chairperson Name, Phone and Email:_____

Day, time, place meetings are held:_____

Briefly Describe the Nature of Your Group's Activities:_____

Recent or Significant Accomplishments:_____

Other:_____
