

*Community health depends on community voices*

**North Port CHAT Meeting Summary**  
**November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 4:30 pm**

**Present:** Fay Williams, Crystal Bruce, Laura Yahres, Susan Owens, Mary McDonald, Moira L. Powell, Ken Alexander, Sam George, Vince Giuffre, Tom Jones, Jennifer Grant, Anne Klockenkemper, Elisa Indell, Terry Lewis, Michael Gleason, Hilary Woodcum, Diane Ramseyer.

**Welcome:** Fay Williams welcomed everyone and introductions were provided.

**Presentation:** A special certificate of appreciation was presented by the CHAT to the Early Bird Kiwanis Club of North Port for their participation in the AIM Beverage Server Training. Tom Jones accepted on their behalf. Beef 'O' Brady's will be given a similar one, as they, too, completed the AIM Training – a program of SCOSA.

**October Meeting Summary:** Summary was reviewed and accepted as presented.

**Special Guest** – Crystal Bruce, Sarasota County Tobacco Partnership and the Sarasota County Health Department, presented on the grant received by the County for tobacco prevention activities. Over 3000 deaths per year in Sarasota County can be tied to tobacco. Tobacco companies spend more marketing dollars in Florida than any other State – more than a billion dollars per annum. With Tobacco Settlement funds, the State is focusing on creating system and policy changes to reduce the use of tobacco in Florida. The activities of the grant include working with workplaces, public areas, parks and recreation, etc. to help develop policies which reinforce smoke-free environments. An additional area of targeted activities will remain with youth – helping find ways to prevent them from starting in the first place.

Crystal explained that in June 2009, there was an interactive at the health department which focused on getting ideas for activities for this grant. Several CHAT members attended this event, including from North Port. There is funding for the North Port CHAT to conduct a local assessment. The grant provides \$3000 for the CHAT (North Port) to work on an assessment. One suggestion for this assessment - find out from local health care providers what type of services they are doing to help with smoking cessation, what gaps exists, and what opportunities for education activities with physicians and linking them to existing services. Another suggestion is for the CHATs to assess retailers for accessibility to minors.

Discussion ensued regarding these possible areas. Crystal reminded the group that the grant requires involved of youth. Sam asked for Diane to send out an email to the CHAT members asking for ideas – discussing this at the next Health Services Committee meeting. Ken and Fay suggested inviting youth organizations to the next CHAT on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The first part of the meeting will be devoted to getting input.

Crystal left some additional materials for CHAT members.

**Updates –**

**Health Services Committee** – Sam shared an update on the activities of the Health Services

Our Mission: Through the efforts and activities of the North Port CHAT, we will achieve a safe, healthy community where individuals and agencies collaborate to assure the physical, social, and emotional well-being of all residents. We will accomplish this through advocacy for an integrated health and behavioral health care system, evoking community action and collaboration to reduce substance abuse among our youth and adults, promoting the value of “connectivity” in all aspects of the development and growth of our community, and most importantly, providing an effective way for the voice of the community to be heard and active in North Port.

*Community health depends on community voices*

Committee. They welcomed a new Dermatologist to the North Port Community. Sam provided additional details of the response she had to a free screening. Sam was thanked for helping to arrange this welcoming. Next Health Services meeting is December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**North Port Connects** – Next Forum is on January 11<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 pm at the library. The focus is tentatively set to focus on helping non-profits with tax filing, and identifying tax filing support programs for community members.

**NP-ASAP Update** – The Prescription Drug Vigil was held end of October at the High School. Hilary was thanked for her work and SCOSA's organization of the event. Commissioner Jones and Chief Lewis were thanked for their participation. Operation Medicine Cabinet (a Rx Med take-back program – will be held throughout Sarasota County this weekend – in North Port at the Walgreens on the corner of Sumter and Price. Several CHAT members will be helping with this event. Diane and Monica will share about it, and the work of NP-ASAP, on WENG Thursday morning.

NP-ASAP is planning to bring together North Port youth at a forum on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The purpose is to get input on the Drug Free Youth initiative and build a youth base who will create the activities and determine how youth would like the program implemented. Any suggestions on location and ways to get the word out to youth (to attend) are requested.

**Leadership** – Chair/Co-Chair or Vice Chair for January forward – Discussed if changes to the chair system as we have it currently (one comes on in January for a year, and one comes on in July for a year). Sam moved that the CHAT change the organization to be: a Vice Chair is elected, who after serving one year in that role, moves into being the Chair. Michael Gleason seconded it. Motion carried. Nominations will be taken and voted at the December meeting. Anyone who is interested in being nominated for the Vice Chair position, or has a nomination, please let Diane know. Fay Williams will continue through 2010 as Chair.

### **Community Announcements**

Sam announced that the Health Services Committee will be providing a H1N1 forum at Heron Creek on Monday at 5:00 pm.

CYD is doing a Gingerbread Contest at the Sarasota Mall – December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> – at this point it looks like there will be 80 houses. Laura will send a flyer for CHAT members to learn more.

### **Meeting Dates to Remember**

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4:30 pm – Health Services Committee - Peace River Health Care Park**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 pm - NP-ASAP– North Port Family Services Center**

**December 9<sup>th</sup> 4:30 pm - Next CHAT– North Port Police Department**

Our Mission: Through the efforts and activities of the North Port CHAT, we will achieve a safe, healthy community where individuals and agencies collaborate to assure the physical, social, and emotional well-being of all residents. We will accomplish this through advocacy for an integrated health and behavioral health care system, evoking community action and collaboration to reduce substance abuse among our youth and adults, promoting the value of “connectivity” in all aspects of the development and growth of our community, and most importantly, providing an effective way for the voice of the community to be heard and active in North Port.