

Community health depends on community voices

North Port CHAT Meeting Agenda
December 9th, 2009 4:30 pm

Present: Hilary Woodcum; Janis Russell, Linda Pierce, Hector Mendez, Sam George, Tom Jones, Sherry Berry, Megan Gering, Emily Davis, Louis Meyer, Nathan Davis, Linda Stone, Anne Klockenkemper, Amy Lynch, David Carter, Fay Williams, Todd Konen, Jennifer Grant, John Lewis, Denise Brislin, Luciano Saiz, Kris-An Hinds, Diane Ramseyer

Welcome and Introductions – Fay Williams everyone to the meeting and introductions were provided.

November Meeting Summary – The November meeting summary was reviewed and accepted.

Special Guest – Linda Pearce presented information on a teen pregnancy program which was started in the Newtown Community, it has subsequently expanded to include the North Port Community. Truvine Teen Project is a curriculum based upon Florida Statutes and approved by Truvine Missionary Baptist Church. It is taught by health educators from Planned Parenthood of Central and Southwest Florida. The program offers two sets of classes – one set for teens and a second for parents. Teens who complete the program received a \$100 gift card, and parents also receive an incentive. Rates of births to teens in Sarasota County, especially in the African American and Hispanic populations exceed beyond state rates. The North Port area has statistics indicating that 20% of teen births in the counties are in North Port zip code. The project is looking for North Port area churches or civic groups who would be willing to host the classes. Group discussed possible locations – including the Family Services Center. CHAT members were able to provide some location ideas and contacts for follow-up. For information on this program, to sign up as a teen or parent, or, to help find a location for January classes – contact Linda at 224-2080.

Discussion on Tobacco Grant - NPHS SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco) gave a presentation to the group on their work to inform teens about the marketing practices used by tobacco companies to target teens. The group also presented their ideas for the use of some of the tobacco grant assessment funds. These ideas include:

- City-Wide Surveillances – working with local police to locate retailers who will sell underage – costs would be for rewards to retailers who do not sell to underage persons.
- Youth DFY-IT Program – incentives for kids who stay drug and tobacco free – NP-ASAP is working on this and the SWAT is helping move it forward by building more youth participation in the planning phase.
- High School Cessation Programs – Cessation program already at the high school – this may not be for an assessment focused grant.

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- Limit Outside Advertisement for Tobacco Products – do scans of retailers for advertising which appeals to youth – costs would include recognition for retailers who change their practices – lead to possible ordinances.

Discussed the ideas with the group followed the presentation. Chief Lewis indicated his willingness to work with the group on retail surveys, etc. SWAT was invited to attend the DARE graduation this Friday at 9 am at Toledo Blade. Sam George moved that the CHAT request the SWAT group return with a budget for their ideas. Denise Brislin seconded and motion carried. The group will return in January with a budget.

Vice Chair Nominations and Election - Sam George nominated David Carter to be the Vice Chair – he agreed and CHAT confirmed. The position will start January 2010 – he will set into Chair role on January 2011. Fay Williams will remain Chair through 2010.

Updates

Health Services Committee – Sam updated the CHAT on the work of the Health Services Committee in the past month. A presentation was given to a group at Heron Creek on H1N1 in November. With the media coverage of this issue, it appears citizens are currently comfortable with their knowledge of the issue and no further presentations are scheduled. The Committee continues work on the fluoride issue, as well as welcoming new physicians to the community. At the last committee meeting they discussed options for use of some of the tobacco funds for assessments in North Port. A new possible project would be to invite the local physicians to a meeting and providing an educational presentation by the American Lung Association (for CME's). Please see Health Services Committee Summary for further details.

Responding to questions, David Carter indicated that the ER opened with the projections of seeing around 20/day – it is exceeding these expectations with an average of 50 and high over 70. They are opening their rehabilitation center open for those persons who went through a course of rehabilitation to continue on their own at the center. About 10% of patients are transferred out – but, this also includes those being sent to behavioral health centers, - about 5-7 are transferred out daily to a hospital.

North Port Connects – Next Meeting is on January 11th at 5:30 pm – North Port Library. A presentation with tips on non-profit tax filing will be provided.

NP-ASAP Update – See Meeting summary from December 3rd for full details. A meeting on January 14th is scheduled with invitations sent to School Board Members and City Commissioners. Chief Lewis and Carolyn Zucker (School BD) are confirmed to attend. The SWAT group is bringing more youth to discuss North Port DFY-IT. Based upon feedback from teens – a youth forum centered on this initiative will be held *after* "FCAT season". The teens at the December 3rd meeting were very supportive of this project and want to help get it going – as well as indicated that they felt it would appeal to many youth.

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Meeting Dates to Remember

January 6th, 4:30 pm – Health Services Committee - Peace River Health Care Park

January 11th – 5:30 pm – North Port Connects Meeting – North Port Library

January 13th 4:30 pm - Next CHAT– North Port Police Department

January 14th, 6:30 pm - NP-ASAP – North Port Family Services Center

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