



Newtown CHAT Meeting Summary March 22, 2011

Present: Yvette Robison, Katie Leonard-Lasch, James McCloud, Barbara Powell-Harris, Dr. Lisa Merritt, Diane Ramseyer

Meeting was opened with a welcome. Chair, April Glasco will not be able to attend the next few meetings due to the scheduling of her internship.

Guest Speaker – Yvette Robison from the North County Library provided the attendees with information and updates related to the services and events at the library. The Library is offering “Prime Time Story Telling Dinner Time” – which is six Tuesdays starting April 26th. This is for 25 families, who are willing to commit for the full six weeks. There will be a family dinner with a story teller and family discussion. The only criteria are that the family must have at least one child between the ages of 6-10. They would like to draw in families who are not already active with the library. Call 861-1370. Families must pre-register and there is no charge for participation. Yvette requests CHAT members help spread the word. The flyer for this program will be attached to the CHAT meeting summary when emailed.

The library is also doing “Lunch among the books” with pre-schools locally.

Updates:

Orange Community Garden – Barbara Powell-Harris shared updates from the garden.

CRA – Per April Glasco, SCLO did not feel able to participate in a submission at this time. Dr. Merritt is working on partnerships to do a STEM project involving fitness and nutrition careers as well. Partnering with the garden as well is being worked on. Discussion was held on incorporating gardening with Earthboxes® as part of the grant, as well. Yvette shared that the library youth services department is also introducing a science program – “Reading around with Science”. This is for young children and can dove-tail in with the other outreach activities. The grant proposes providing education on the healthy eating and activity in conjunction with information on science, health and math careers that youth can begin building the foundation now to pursue. Barbara also suggested a program by the Junior Master Gardener Program – *Literature in the Garden*.

PACE-EH Subcommittee – Katie Leonard-Lasch updated the group and shared the process they are moving through to identify the contributing factors and conditions which contribute to the issues of Property Maintenance and Crime Prevention. They hope to keep on “pace” to begin their community work in May or June.

Notes from the March 2nd Meeting:

The group completed analyzing the issues of property maintenance, crime prevention and police visibility. More emphasis has to be placed on health associations to the issues; however, this can be done in our April meeting: Information from task 6 is included in these minutes.

Barriers to the PACE-EH process were identified and will be addressed later in the PACE-EH methodology.

Notes from the March 16th Meeting:

Alison Albee, Environmental Specialist, from the City of Sarasota discussed the City's lighting efforts pertaining to the USF Environmental Studies in Newtown presentation. Alison informed the group that the City plans to retrofit the existing lighting in the community. The City will be identifying areas where lighting is a concern and making comparisons to lighting and areas of crime activity.

Based on Alison's information, the group concluded that lighting on private property would have to be addressed. It is important to inform residents how they can keep their homes safe by having proper lighting and keeping shrubbery/bushes trimmed and maintained.

The group thought it may be a good idea to go out into the community to the areas they feel are too dark and use a light meter to measure illumination levels. Alison suggested that it would be beneficial for the group to talk with lighting professionals to learn about different lighting techniques and applications.

After the lighting discussion, the group began talking about health indicators and what could be used to measure the efforts of our PACE-EH initiative. Local, State, and National data can be used to compare the status of property maintenance and crime in the community.

Carolynn gave an overview of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy Homes program. Carolynn stated that issues pertaining to pests/rodents, mold and lead all have impacts on human health. The group can use methods established by Healthy Homes when looking at property maintenance in an effort to make homes healthier and to protect community health. In addition, in terms of property maintenance, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards can be used as a way to evaluate health status of distressed homes.

Next PACE-EH Meetings: Upcoming meetings will be the first and third Wednesday of each month. The group will meet Wednesday, April 6th and Wednesday, April 20th at 10:15 am at the North Sarasota Library. During the April meetings information will be collected to evaluate property maintenance and crime prevention in the community (Tasks 7 & 8), complete the background and scope of the issue profile (Task 9), refine goals and objectives (Task 4), set priorities for action (Task 11) and develop the action plan (Task 12).

Next Meeting – April 26th – Shavon Reed will update and inform the group on Newtown Redevelopment Office. Diane will not be able to attend the April CHAT Meeting, but Katie will take the meeting notes.

Announcements

Dr. Merritt shared on the Howard Club's Luncheon last week. Colonel Norvell Van Coots from Walter Reed Hospital presented information on their work, and the improvements the care of veterans in the recent years.

**April CHAT Meeting will be April 26th at 6:00 pm North County Library
Presentation – Shavon Reed on Newtown Redevelopment Office**

CHAT is the Community Health Action Team –
<http://www.chip4health.org/newtown.htm>
For More Information – newtown@chip4health.org
April Glasco, Chairperson