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## Newtown CHAT Meeting Summary April 26, 2011

Present: Barbara Langston, Dr. Lisa Merritt, Barbara Powell-Harris, Brittany Johnson, James McCloud, Katie Lasch

The meeting began with introductions. (Community Kitchen discussion postponed to May Meeting).

*PACE-EH subcommittee* – Katie Lasch gave a report to the group. Katie discussed the completion of the issue profiles relating to property maintenance and crime prevention. The PACE-EH sub-committee will begin their action plan in May. CHAT attendees discussed the ideas of changing the PACE-EH boundary to include all of Central Coconut Ave.; this would extend the boundary from 17<sup>th</sup> St. to the South to 10<sup>th</sup> St. The group mentioned that PACE-EH should contact schools for student participation prior to school letting out. It was also recommended to partner with SCTI and encourage entrepreneurship among the youth in the community. Once Robert L. Taylor is opened, the PACE-EH subcommittee and the CHAT can use this venue to educate and get information about health out into the community.

### Discussion:

Dr. Merritt discussed the Safe Rx program which led to group discussion about prescription drug use/abuse in the community. It is important to continue to maintain and raise awareness about this issue at the community level. The Multi-Cultural Health Institute provides information and ongoing education pertaining to this topic. Prescription drugs are even given to pets, which may also pose a danger.

The CRA grant opportunity was discussed. The CHAT did not apply for the grant as a single entity. The group felt it was important to address the matching criteria of the grant due to the fact that the cash requirement was high.

An emphasis was placed on groups, both within and outside of the community, coming together with a focus on health; the importance of working together and collaborating on health-related topics was stressed.

### Announcements:

The Crowley Museum and Nature Center would like to have more involvement with the Newtown/North Sarasota Community. The Center would like to get children and youth groups out to their facility. If there is someone who works with youth, or has a youth group, the Crowley Museum and Nature Center would like to have the opportunity to get with the group once per month.

May 4<sup>th</sup>, Greater Hurst Chapel will conduct "Best Bones Forever". This is a program that focuses on nutrition.

May 14<sup>th</sup>, the middle school STEM program will hold a conference for girls to expose and encourage them regards to fields in science, math and technology; there will also be a nutrition section.

**May CHAT Meeting will be May 24th at 6:00 pm North County Library**