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## **Newtown CHAT Meeting Summary August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**

**Present:** Katie Leonard-Lasch, Barbara Powell Harris, Barbara Langston, Valerie Buchand, Omar Itraish, Beverly Phelps, Diane Ramseyer

**Welcome and Introductions** – Everyone was welcomed and introductions were provided.

**PACE-EH Subcommittee Update** – Katie Leonard-Lasch gave a quick overview of the committee for the new attendees. She identified the several activities they are working on:

- Community game with police
- Building awareness of the relationship of mental illness and crime
- Property maintenance – they are going to help rehabilitate a home in the community improving the energy efficiency of the home as well as needed repairs. They will use this as a model home for energy efficiency/green in the community.

The committee is also working on securing donations for the project. They need to raise \$30-40,000. They have the renovations/improvements prioritized and organized in stages to reflect the likelihood that donations will come in a staggered fashion. They are in process of identifying a fiscal agent to handle the funds. They will need to establish a liaison to help identify when contractors will be paid.

Further, the group is looking at conducting community events which will offer training on how to do basic improvements in the home.

The Committee will meet again on September 7<sup>th</sup> at the North County Library at 10:15am.

**New Store in Janie's Garden area** – Mr. Itraish shared information on a new store opening in the Janie's Garden area. They hope to open a 2000 sq. ft. store which will have fresh foods and produce and WIC. Group discussed with him how to market to the community to compete with other stores, including Walmart. This includes providing access to local foods, close access. He also indicated they are looking to hire at least two local employees (family-run business otherwise). Group also suggested he look into the "Healthy Store" initiative.

Action Planning – Phase 1  
*Identify Community Resources*

- Orange Blossom Community Garden
- Janie's Garden Store – Possible partner
- Robert L. Taylor Community Center
- Relationships with local growers through the extension office

*Identify Opportunities for New Resources*

- Work with Extension Office
- CRA
- Other businesses (one identified as a florist and another ice cream)

*Connect to Project Ideas*

- Local farm initiatives
- Healthy Corner Stores
- Community Kitchen and Entrepreneurial Initiatives

Will arrange a working meeting for the first week of September.

### **Announcements**

Barbara Langston encouraged everyone to place their meetings on the calendar at the Robert L. Taylor Center.

Don't forget the grand opening of Robert L. Taylor Community Center on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Next CHAT Meeting September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm**

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