



Newtown CHAT Meeting Summary
October 23, 2012
North Sarasota Library
6pm

Present: Beverly Phelps, Joyce Raby, Kari Ellingstad, Virginia Stephens, Katie Leonard.

Welcome and Introductions: Everyone was welcomed and introductions were provided

Group Discussion

CHAT Participation - Katie discussed participation in the group and suggested that after discussions with Kari and Diane Ramseyer, that maybe the CHAT should go in a new direction. Katie stated that it may be a possibility to attend different community/neighborhood organizations and provide some background information about the CHAT. Beverly said that when the CHAT first started, it was truly collaborative and had a similar format that included other organizations and groups. Joyce said this would be a great idea since SPARCC will be having a girls group that will be meeting at Robert L. Taylor Community Complex as well as a program run through the city, and D-FY.

CHAT meeting frequency - The group brainstormed on feasible options for the CHAT to increase attendance and community engagement. Virginia shared her experiences with another organization and provided feedback regarding meeting frequency. Additionally, the non-profit group that she was working with worked with staff from the Community Foundation of Sarasota and received assistance in drafting a strategic plan. Virginia advised the group to look into whether or not this was something the CHAT would be eligible to do.

CHAT meeting focus - The group discussed having eight meetings per year with three of the meetings geared to each one of the goals of the Newtown CHAT. The remaining five meetings would be opportunities for community updates and planning.

The three, issue specific, meetings should include other groups/individuals/organizations who are working on issues that relate to the goals of the CHAT.

Goal 1: Increase availability and access to healthy, affordable foods in Newtown/North Sarasota.

Goal 2: Create awareness about distressed properties and their effect on environmental and physical health.

Goal 3: Decrease community violent crime by increasing lighting levels and police visibility, and by raising awareness of the negative health outcomes of violence.

**Breastfeeding would be included into Goal 1 and the D-FY program would be incorporated into Goal 3

CHAT meeting location - The group discussed moving the CHAT meetings to different locations to include others. Virginia shared her work in Desoto County and how she would have various meetings at different faith based organizations, community centers, etc.

Updates

Beverly shared information about the M.I.L.K. program (Mothers and Infants Lactation Klub) that has been launched in the community. The group meets the first Friday of every month from 11:30am-1pm at the North Sarasota Library.

Beverly announced "A toast to Dr. Washington Hill" on Thursday, November 1st at Michael's on East. This event will honor one of our community's greatest advocates for maternity/child health. Further details are provided on the Healthy Start website.

<http://healthystartsarasota.org/>

Dr. Lisa Merritt provided the group with the following information via email:

The Men's health fair at Ringling College will take place on October 27th.

Booker High School girls' basketball team breast cancer awareness event November 5th from 5:30-8:30.

Bethel breast cancer awareness event, November 6th.

Alta Vista/MHI Art/health collaborative student art exhibit at the North Sarasota Library November 20th from 4-7pm.

Lupus support group sponsored community health screening November 20th at the North Sarasota Library from 4-7pm.

Gene Weborg provided the following information to the group via email:

The High Point Drug Market Intervention Strategy is a plan that was presented to City officials as an evidence-based practice for drug prevention.

The FOCUS ministerial alliance is working with County and City staff and SPD/SCSO on a possible future event to demonstrate community unity.

FOCUS members have established a Community Response Team (CRT) that is called on by law enforcement to demonstrate neighborhood partnerships and to respond to families whose lives have been impacted by the specific incident.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

6-7pm

North Sarasota Public Library

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