

North Port CHAT Meeting Summary February 13, 2013

Present: Vanessa Carusone, Erin Romer, Bruce Burton, Maureen Coble, Phyllis Balliett, Faith Chapman, Mary McDonald, Brie Southall, Vince Giuffre, Commissioner Rhonda DiFranco, Ken Alexander, Janis Russell, Jasmen Rogers, Diane Ramseyer

Welcome and Introductions – Chair, Vanessa Carusone, welcomed everyone and introductions were provided.

Community and Committee Updates –

Backpack Angels/North Port Coalition for Homeless and Needy Children – continues to pack about 400 hygiene kits monthly. They are doing a fundraiser with Bob Evans February 15th.

NP D-Fy- continues to take in new members, nearing the 1700th member since start.

NP-ASAP – working on federal Drug-Free Community Grant application. The group recently presented a local retailer with a certificate of appreciation with NP D-Fy members from Imagine School. The retailer voluntarily removed incense and spice (synthetic marijuana) from its inventory. Also participated in National Drug Fact Week at the end of February, including a proclamation from City Commission.

What is the CHAT? (Tabled until May)

Setting the Table for At-Risk Youth Focus Meeting – April 10th, 2013 – 4:30 pm –

Where to place notice?

North Port Sun
North Port Chamber
North Port Magazine

Who to invite? In addition to those organizations already connected to the CHAT (ie, Backpack Angels), the group made a list of individuals and organizations to invite in April. Please contact Diane if you can contact any of the following (some names are already designated):

Sarasota Children's Partnership
BANNK
Pastor groups
Behavioral Health Stakeholders
CYD
Local Sports Associations

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Community health depends on community voices

Would parks and rec have a list?
Mustangs
North Port Youth Soccer
North Port Fast Pitch
North Port Huskies
Big Bro/Big Sis
Boys and Girls Club
Safe Place (Maureen can follow)
SRO's
Dept. of Juvenile Justice (Maureen)
Child Protection
North Port Social Services
Peg Hughes
Lt. Tim Enos
Guidance Counselors and School Social Workers
Salvation Army
Catholic Social Services
JFCS
Journeys – CBHC
CFBH Network – David Clapp – have a child welfare liaison
Home schoolers
Victim Advocate – sheriff dept
SPARCC
SCC will have an updated outreach plan for foster care home recruitment plan
Children's First – Faith will handle
All Faith's
Guardian ad Litim
Healthy Start Coalition
Early Learning Coalition
Family Home Childcare Centers

Community Announcements

Erin Palmer – Schoolhouse Link – a new position to serve Venice and North Port youth. They are looking for office one day a week in North Port. While she is in North Port regularly, there is not a specific place for them to have consistent office hours.

Phyllis Balliett – shared information on the locations and services Friendship Centers offer those age 50+. This includes Meals on Wheels, socialization, caregiver resources, health care services and more. There is also an adult day center for persons with dementia that provides

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social stimulation and appropriate activities. They also offer classes in a variety of issues of interest to seniors and support groups on a variety of issues.

Camp for Champs – summer camp for kids in foster care is looking for donations of supplies (towels, sunscreen, lunch sponsors, etc.) July 1-2nd. Also looking for people who could come in and talk about issues related to youth (modeled after others in the state who bring in sports celebrities).

Ken Alexander shared that the Sarasota and Desoto behavioral health funds through Central Florida Behavioral Health have been awarded to the local provider network led by First Step of Sarasota.

Brie Southall shared information on the mentoring project that she is involved with through the Florida Youth Leadership Academy.

Commissioner DiFranco indicated she will be traveling with others from the city to Washington, DC to meet with legislators on issues of importance to the city. This includes the impacts that possible cuts to the Community Development Block Grant might have for the area.

Janis Russell gave information on some of the library's events, including Viva Florida activities and nutrition themed presentation in March and a financial planner in April.

Next CHAT MEETING- March 13, 2013

**Guest - Gwen McKenzie, CEO, Sarasota Memorial Health Care System
North Port Police Dept.**

March 11th – 8:45 am – NP-ASAP – North Port Police Dept.

April 10th – At-Risk Youth Roundtable CHAT Meeting – 4:30 pm NPPD

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