

**Team:** North Port CHAT

**Date:** Wednesday, September 10, 2014

**Time:** 4:30pm

**Place:** North Port Police Department, 4980 City Hall Blvd, North Port, FL 34286

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, October 08, 2014

**Ro Mohamed, Consultant, Healthy Sarasota County & Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) at the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County**

- Ro introduced the upcoming Food Day CHAT event on Friday, October 24 and requested a “North Port CHAT Team” to represent the community on the issue of food access and food insecurity
- Ro announced the launch of the EBT/SNAP program at both Englewood and Venice Farmers Market and the “Double Value” program at the Englewood Market where SNAP participants can double their NSAP dollars (up to \$20) for Florida-grown food
  - o Anyone interested in learning more about these programs can attend a community and market vendor workshop on Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at the Venice Chamber of Commerce
- CHAT participants received a copy of the Food Day Charter and Agenda as well as an invitation to [LOVN CHAT’s healthy walk at the Venice farmer’s Market on Saturday, September 20, 2014](#)

**Pam Polowski, CDP, Certified Dementia Practitioner with Infinity Home Care**

Pam gave an overview of the impact on Alzheimer’s and dementia by providing:

- 1/6 people will develop dementia; our community is failing to meet the needs of dementia patients
- 65% of caregivers will die before their elders/those they care
- Physicians could be a link to addressing the need for proper and continuous therapy and care but doctors lack the knowledge and proper training; they also may not know what the community’s resources are
- Jewish Family & Children Services provide some resources but lack the volunteer support
- Living Waters Lutheran Church provides out-of-home respite care for \$25/4 hrs
- Pam goes into Adult Living Facilities to provide therapy but there are barriers (Medicare does not pay for this in ALF’s; Medicaid does)
- [Pam stated a dire need for increased public awareness and education especially for physicians](#)
- [Pam also urged collaboration capacity in our community to address dementia](#)

**Carisa Campanella, Care Coordinator with Neuro Challenge Foundation for Parkinson’s**

- Services are provided from Bradenton to North Port
- There are 6000 people living with Parkinson’s in within this geographic area
  - o There is an overrepresentation in our region because manifestation of the disease correlates to exposure to farming/agricultural chemicals, chemical used in combat in foreign wars, and even chemical used in the dry cleaning industry
- Neuro Challenge programs exist at Health Fit complex (SMH) and supported by fitness trainers as well as at YMCA in Sarasota
- [Carissa expressed a need for a fitness site in North Port to partner with the Foundation to the offer Peddling for Parkinson’s; Ro suggested a potential partnership between the Foundation and the City of North Port whereby the Foundation would provide an instructor and programming and the Morgan Family & Community Center could provide the fitness facilities at a low-traffic time](#)
- November 8, 2014 – Parkinson’s Symposium at Heron Creek Golf and Country Club

**Lois Marshall, Senior Friendship Center Caregiver Resource Center, Venice**

- Programs offered by the Center that support our aging population include reflexology, free memory screenings, caregiving and bathing techniques, and various caregiver support groups

**Anyone interested in serving as “Co-Chair” for the North Port CHAT can contact Ro Mohamed ([ro@CHIP4Health.org](mailto:ro@CHIP4Health.org)) or Vanessa Carusone at ([vcnp21@gmail.com](mailto:vcnp21@gmail.com))**