

*Community health depends on community voices*

## **North Port CHAT Meeting Summary January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Present:** Fay Williams, David Carter, Denise Brislin, Monica Becket, Kris-An Hinds, Luciano Saiz, Jenn-Marie Grant, Linda Stone, Jolene Blevins, Sam George, Hilary Woodcum, Susan Owens, Ellen Barcan, Chief Terry Lewis, Ken Alexander, Todd Konen, Elisa Indell, Vince Giuffre, Commissioner Tom Jones, Laura Yahres, Tom Davie, Cindy Cooley, Michael Gleason, Cheryl Anne Benn, Brenda Szych, Amy Lynch, Diane Ramseyer

**Welcome and Introductions** – Chair, Fay Williams, welcomed everyone and introductions were provided.

**Discussion on Tobacco Grant** – The CHAT’s Health Services Committee has developed a plan to assess the awareness of the local physicians of the services and supports available to persons wishing to quit smoking. This includes an evening event at Heron Creek Country Club, with the American Lung Association providing an educational presentation for CME’s on treating respiratory/lung disease. At the physician event, a survey will be distributed to the physicians in attendance to obtain the data for the assessment. Heron Creek has offered to provide food, if the CHAT rents their meeting facility. CHAT members discussed inviting school nurses and health care providers from the health department. The Health Services Committee is asking for \$1500, this is to include an additional event for North Port Community Health Clinic.

Jolene Blevin, from the American Lung Association, provided information on their activities and how they could participate in this project. She shared information on “Better Breathers Club” and their patients’ assistance program for persons who need special supplies, but cannot afford them. Additionally, they have education programs for schools and special programs for families, especially around the issue of asthma. Ken Alexander suggested that outreach to the youth recreational sports programs, helping provide education on the issue of asthma and sports would be beneficial to the community recreation coaches. Linda Stone shared that the Health Department has an RN Case Manager now for persons without insurance and who have a chronic disease, and this information might be of interest to those organizations.

The North Port High School Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) provided their formal proposal for funding through the NP CHAT’s Tobacco Coalition Grant. They request a budget of \$2000 to do retail environmental scans and a retailer recognition program. CHAT members discussed sending a press release, as well as letters to the retailers informing them of the program prior to starting the environmental scans. The emphasis will be on how this can help their business, not on “gotcha”.

**December Meeting Summary Acceptance** – The group briefly reviewed the December Meeting Summary and accepted as written.

**North Port D-FY Presentation** – Youth Leaders from NPHS presented an overview of a presentation they will be making to a group of stakeholders at the NP-ASAP Meeting on Thursday

Our Mission: Through the efforts and activities of the North Port CHAT, we will achieve a safe, healthy community where individuals and agencies collaborate to assure the physical, social, and emotional well-being of all residents. We will accomplish this through advocacy for an integrated health and behavioral health care system, evoking community action and collaboration to reduce substance abuse among our youth and adults, promoting the value of “connectivity” in all aspects of the development and growth of our community, and most importantly, providing an effective way for the voice of the community to be heard and active in North Port.

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(14<sup>th</sup>). This is part of the ongoing effort to create an initiative – North Port Drug-Free Youth (D-FY). They hope to develop a core group of youth leaders who can work with NP-ASAP to hold a Youth Summit in March, which will provide the means to learn if youth in North Port would, in fact, like North Port D-FY initiated. A video and brochure have been created as well.

### **Updates –**

- ◆ North Port Connects – Quarterly meeting was held on Monday at the library
- ◆ Health Services Committee – No updated needed – see tobacco grant discussion
- ◆ NP-ASAP Update – The previous presentation on North Port D-FY serves as the NP-ASAP Update

### **Community Announcements**

Sarasota County Healthy Start is having a fund-raiser at the Sarasota Architectural Salvage. Monica has tickets - \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door – January 21<sup>st</sup> 5:30 pm.

CYD (Community Youth Development) is offering the STAR program – a special program that helps students learn leadership skills and how to be part of a board. This is for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> graders – who will be able to take the skills they learn and be placed upon local boards throughout Sarasota. They have over 60 boards who have participated as part of this program. Call 941-922-5126 – Orientation will be on February 4<sup>th</sup>. There is an application which needs to be completed.

### **Meeting Dates to Remember**

**January 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm - NP-ASAP – North Port Family Services Ctr.**

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4:30 pm – Health Services Com – NEW LOCATION! -North Port Family Services Center 6919 Outreach Way (corner of Pan American and Outreach)**

**February 10<sup>th</sup> 4:30 pm - Next CHAT– North Port Police Department**

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