

Community health depends on community voices

North Port CHAT Meeting Summary
August 11th, 2010 4:30 pm

Present: Tom Davie, Janis Russell, Don Vandekrol, Sam George, Vince Giuffre, Mary McDonald, Brenda Szych, Ken Alexander, Christyl Lunsford, Monica Becket, Anne Marie Lupien, Fay Williams, David Carter, Diane Ramseyer

Welcome and Introductions – Fay Williams, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were provided.

July Meeting Summary Acceptance – The meeting summary was distributed by email prior to the meeting, but a copy was moved through the group for anyone who may not have seen them. (approved as presented).

Diane gave a quick update on the progress on printing the information for students who are homeless. She received all the information for inclusion the end of last week. A draft will be ready for review by the end of the week.

Updates

Health Services Committee – Sam shared that the committee is finalizing the role of chair for the coming year, but if anyone else is interested in this role, please contact Sam.

The CHAT is being nominated for an award recognizing “medical heroes”.

Update on sealant program – recent changes in Department of Health rules on submitting grants, requires State approval for any grant over \$50,000. This stopped plans for a grant this fall, but, work continues on the potential project. The Dental Health and School Nursing programs of the health department are strongly committed to working with the CHAT on this issue.

North Port Connects – Watch for meeting announcement in September – no word at this point.

NP-ASAP Update – There was a NP D-Fy event in July which was well received by the teens involved with NP D-Fy already. They are anxious and excited to move the initiative forward. They are planning an event in September. Outreach to businesses is happening now.

October the group will be recognizing National Drug-Free Workplace Policy Week.

September 25th will be a take-back day for prescription drugs. The North Port Police Department has a drop-off box that will soon be installed at the Department. Another formal take-back day will be November 13th. The box will be available for year-round drop off.

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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The group has established a set meeting date of the first Tuesday of each month at the Family Services Center – 6:30 pm.

Assistance by more members would be very helpful to moving their actions forward.

Future Project and Leadership Discussion – In July, the group did not have time to discuss the issue of future projects and leadership. Unfortunately, because so many people are on vacation at this point, it did not seem appropriate to discuss these issues at this meeting. Members are asked to consider how they may be able to help with the work of the committees.

Discussion was held on the issue of prescription drug misuse. Over 1100 people died in Florida last year related to an overdose from Oxycodine. Community action in this area is being looked at by several groups, in addition to NP-ASAP – both county-wide and regionally. CHIP's Health Provocateur Group has taken this on as their next project (this is a group of all the hospital CEO's and Health Department Directors from Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto, and Charlotte County). The LOVN CHAT will hold a special community event for Seniors in March – other groups in the Northern part of Sarasota, Manatee County and the Englewood CHAT are also looking at holding a similar event at the same time – educating seniors about how to talk with their physicians about medications, food interactions, keeping medication safe and disposing of them safely – are some of the planned topics.

Fay asked how we might better communicate with the residents to engage them in helping with projects – particularly related to NP-ASAP's work in building awareness related to prescription drug abuse. The workgroup is planning several public events from September – November related to this issue.

Community Announcements

Sam suggested inviting the new COO of SMH to a CHAT meeting.

More physicians are moving into the 2nd Floor of the Emergency Room – Family Practice, pediatric, cardiology and OB-GYN.

David shared some insights on a recent issue related to someone who needed to be transferred to a hospital because he required additional care. There was dissatisfaction raised because it resulted in a second ambulance transport (one in the ER and one to hospital). Group asked to remember that the ER is not a hospital, so some things cannot be treated and require transport. But, these experiences will provide necessary data to help support the need for inpatient beds.

Janis reminded the group about Block Parties = Workshop on organizing block parties is at the library this Saturday at 10:30.

The CHAT has been approached by a workgroup from CHIP's Healthy Sarasota Project (off shoot from the CDC grant) to come to the September meeting to discuss potential project collaboration. Invitations to other groups who are involved in Urban Farming will be sent.

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Tomorrow night – Community Forum on Warm Mineral Springs – City Hall

August 16th – Tourism and North Port Community Forum.

Meeting Dates to Remember

August 14th – Back to School Resource Fair – Heron Creek Middle School

**September 2nd - 4:00 pm – Health Services Com – North Port Family Services Center
6919 Outreach Way (corner of Pan American and Outreach)**

September 7th – 6:30 pm – NP-ASAP/NP D-Fy meeting.

September 8th - 4:30 pm - Next CHAT– North Port Police Department

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