

*Community health depends on community voices*

**North Port CHAT Meeting Summary  
September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 4:30 pm**

**Present:** Patricia Scheerer, David Carter, Tom Davie, Don Vande Krol, Laurie Ponte, Janis Russell, Hilary Woodcum, Robert Kluson, Eliza Evans, Hector Mendez, Sam George, Brenda Szych, Tom Jones, Vince Giuffre, Ken Alexander, Kimalee Rowley, Todd Konen, Monica Becket, Rosemarie Sulzbach, Anne Marie Lupien, Fay Williams, Diane Ramseyer

**Welcome and Introductions-** Fay Williams welcomed everyone and introductions were provided.

**August Meeting Summary Acceptance** – Meeting Summary from August CHAT was reviewed and approved as submitted.

**Presentation on CHIP Healthy Food Systems Committee and Potential Grants** -Dr. Robert Kluson, Sarasota County Extension Office presented the CHAT with information on the work that UF IFAS (University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Systems) and CHIP is doing to look at improving the food systems in the region. While the CDC Grant submitted last year was not funded, the stakeholder group formed continues to meet. They are looking at ways to create positive changes in our food system – improving access to fresh, healthy food; improving affordability of healthy foods, etc – even without funding. They have also identified potential opportunities for grants, and are looking for ways to get local communities more active and involved in the activities. He provided some examples that are occurring in other communities – retro-fitting food transport trucks to carry fresh produce into under-served communities, urban farming and supporting growth of community gardens, farm-to-school projects, and garden projects in schools. University of Florida has submitted a grant to gather data on specific demographic groups to better understand food choices and health, etc. If funded, Dr. Kluson will be the “point person” for this county, and will keep the CHATs informed of the work of the grant, and involved CHATs in helping reach community members.

Dr. Kluson responded to questions from the group on Genetically Modified Organism (GMO), hybrids and heirlooms; as well as the classes and trainings offered through the Extension Office. September 29<sup>th</sup> Dr. Kluson will do a workshop at Warm Mineral Springs for the Community Garden.

### **Updates**

The CHAT, NP-ASAP and NP D-Fy received certificates of appreciation from North Port Police Department for our participation in National Night Out.

The resource brochure for homeless students and families was completed and given to the Coalition. The CHAT had committed to this activity to help support the efforts of the Coalition for Homeless North Port Students.

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**Health Services Committee** - Sam congratulated the North Port ER for its one year anniversary. He then presented an update from the Health Services Committee.

They are working with the North Port Health Clinic and Knight Owls Kiwanis to provide a health fair in February.

The Committee will be electing a chair for 2011 at the October meeting. Anyone interested in being nominated, please attend the meeting. Sam also invited anyone interested to talk with him about the role, as well.

A follow up on the committee's advocacy efforts for a Park and Ride in North Port was given. While the land at the end of Sumter was not feasible for this endeavor, additional locations are being explored. The committee will continue to keep apprised of these efforts, and offer needed advocacy.

The committee is also looking at some issues of insurance coverage for lab work at the Emergency Room. Committee members have received requests from community members to look into the ER's inability to bill through Blue Cross/Blue Shield for lab work. Other services are covered by this insurer. In the past, the CHAT has sent letters to Blue Cross requesting the admission of local physicians into their (BC/BS) network. Similar advocacy from the CHAT for the lab work is being considered.

The CHAT has been nominated for a 2010 Health Care Hero award through the Tampa Bay Business Journal. We should hear the outcome shortly.

There will be a rally at Riverview High School at the end of the month to pull together families and children to advocate for children's health and wellness – The Milk Party Campaign as part of the Children's Movement Florida (<http://childrensmovementflorida.org> )

**North Port Connects** – No report at this time

**NP-ASAP Update** - Monica presented an update from this workgroup. The group has been able to acquire the support of a graduate of Idaho's Drug-Free Youth program to help promote tobacco prevention and do outreach with businesses and community organizations and churches for NP Drug-Free Youth. This is a very welcome addition to the group's efforts.

NP D-Fy is hosting a "Guitar Hero Tournament" for youth on the 16<sup>th</sup> with \$.50 pizza and soda. Everyone is welcome to come and see a Guitar Hero event in action at the North Port Performing Arts Center at 2:30 pm. Applications and Screening for membership will occur as part of the event.

There will be a Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on September 25<sup>th</sup> from 10-2 pm at the North Port Police Department. There will also be a permanent disposal box at a police site in North Port soon.

NP-ASAP has arranged for City Commission to issue a Proclamation for Drug-Free Workplace Week (October 18-24) at the October 12<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting – 1:00 pm

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Recognition was given to Brenda Szych of Marcos Pizza as one of the first "Founding Five Business Partners" for NP D-Fy.

### **Community Announcements**

Housing Help event offered in Sarasota at Imagine School of Palmer Ranch – on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10-4.

A program on Identify Loss will be offered at the library on September 21 from 6 – 7:30 pm

Library offering Caregiving Classes: Boundaries – Maintaining a Healthy Balance – on Sept 3 from 10 -11:30 am; and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation in the Home – on September 17<sup>th</sup> from 10-noon.

The Library is experiencing a significant increase in inquiries on help in locating jobs by persons over the age of 50.

September 19<sup>th</sup> – Block Party Day – For information on how to throw a block party – call the library.

The Library will be holding a film series on genocide. They are looking for local residents who can introduce the movies – see Janis Russell.

Tom Davie shared information on a program through First Step of Sarasota "Practical Living". This series focuses on ways seniors can improve health and wellness, including issues related to prescription drug misuse. He can offer this program (free) to any local organization.

### **Meeting Dates to Remember**

**September 11<sup>th</sup> – CYD Family Play Day at Dallas White Park**

**September 16<sup>th</sup> 2:30 pm – NP D-Fy Guitar Hero Tournament and Open Event**

**September 25<sup>th</sup>– DEA Prescription Medication Take-Back Day 10 -2pm Police Dpt.**

**September 25<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm– Playful Community Celebration – McKibbon Park**

**October 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm – NP-ASAP and NP D-Fy Workgroup – Family Services Ctr**

**October 7<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 pm – Health Services Committee Meeting - Family Services Ctr**

**October 12<sup>th</sup> - 1:00 pm – Drug-Free Workplace Week Proclamation at City Commission Meeting – City Hall**

**October 13<sup>th</sup> - 4:30 pm - Next CHAT– North Port Police Department**

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