

Community health depends on community voices

North Port CHAT Meeting Summary **January 12, 2011 4:30 pm**

Present: Fay Williams, David Carter, Anne Marie Lupien, Jeri Maxfield, Don VandeKrol, Barbara Gross, Rosemarie Sulzbach, Suzanne Gregory, Linda Jericka, Vince Giuffre, Monica Becket, Tom Jones, Brenda Szych, Sam George, Janis Russell, Hilary Woodcum, Tom Davie, Mary McDonald, Linda Stone, Ken Alexander, Diane Ramseyer

Welcome and Introductions – David Carter and Sam George, co-chairs, welcomed everyone and introduced first time attendees.

Guest Speaker - Suzanne Gregory share background on SCOPE, then provided information on an initiative, *Aging with Dignity and Independence*. This is a partnership with SCOPE, USF Sarasota-Manatee, and The Patterson Foundation. This initiative will last several years, with the initial year (currently) gathering community input. An online survey for all ages is available for county residents to respond to. The survey will capture the experiences of seniors, as well as those who are not seniors, but who share experiences with elder residents.

The survey includes:

- Think of a time, a particular instance or episode, when you experienced a positive interaction with and older person (65+)
- This was a time when you felt successful and proud of what you were doing
- The older person's dignity and independence was enhanced
- Respond to the following questions with as much detail as you can recall

A flyer was shared with the survey link and Suzanne will send an email with the information to Diane to distribute to CHAT members via email. SCOPE is encouraging CHAT members to respond to the survey, and share with their spheres of influence and relationships. The survey closes on January 23rd.

Additionally, information on the Winter Forum on Aging at the Chelsea Center on February 25, from 8:30-2:00 pm was provided. Guest Speakers are George E. Vaillant, MD from Harvard Medical School, and Helen Q. Kivnick, PhD, professor from University of Minnesota.

Additional discussion was held on reaching additional survey participants, including suggestion to follow-up with the Ukrainian Community in North Port. Rose Marie indicated that she knows some volunteers who are able to help translate.

Updates

Re: World Wellness and EcoFest - March 19th and 20th, partnering with "Natural Awakenings Magazine" and Vision North Port – to be held at Warm Mineral Springs. Barbara Gross provided the

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update. The Magazine is handling the booths. She is working to get a special price for the North Port non-profits, and requested those interested give her contact information.

Health Services Committee – Sam George provided an update from this committee. Linda Stone will assume the role of chair in February. The group continues to set dates to greet new physicians to the community. Sam shared information on the new providers. The plaque thanking SMH for their support was presented December. A date to provide Venice Regional Medical Center is also in works.

The committee is also working on a health fair with the Knight Owls Kiwanis Club. The date is pending finality until the new community center is complete. There is the possibility of using the Mullen Center as well, they have an open date for April 2nd. The goal is to provide health screenings for all ages, especially youth.

Anne Marie Lupien shared an update on the planning for the March 30th “North Port Celebrates Health Care”. This is a partnership with the CHAT and the City of North Port. A proclamation will be issued in honor of the event by the City Commission.

A suggestion has also been made to provide a bus tour for board of SMH, showing the community in the manner done by other groups, such as Vision North Port, and the City itself, to showcase the community.

North Port Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (NP-ASAP) – Drug-Free Youth initiative continues to grow. There will be a screening event on January 28th. The first members-only event will be held in February (19th). This will be at the bowling alley in Port Charlotte, who will close it to all but members from 5-7 pm.

The Prescription Drop-off Box is in place at the Police Department. A public event will be held on February 12, 2011, but anyone can drop off medications throughout the week when the police department lobby is open.

On January 31st, the CHIP Health Provocateur Group will launch its campaign, SafeRx- Campaign for Responsible Prescriptions. A proclamation of support will be issued by the City Commission on February 14th at 1 pm.

Hilary shared information on the “Lock-up Your Meds” campaign sponsored by SCOSA. She has posters and flyers available for distribution.

Tom Davie and Sam George are working to get a “First Tee” program in the community at Heron Creek.

From Coalition on North Port Homeless Students – An update on the backpacks provided to North Port Students was provided indicating that 401 backpacks have been given out in North Port Schools.

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Community Announcements:

Newcomer's Day – February 5, 2011 from 10-12 pm at the North Port Library.

Janis Russell shared information from a Visioning Workshop at Charlotte Technical Institute. The healthcare education program at CTI was reaching out to the community to find out how they can help impact healthcare issues through their students and education offerings in North Port. This includes available interns, etc. Information on the school might be of value to the incoming healthcare providers. Additional discussion was held on ways to provide our youth with exposure to healthcare careers.

Tom Davie has time available to provide small groups with “Practical Wellness” program through First Step of Sarasota.

North Port Health Center re-opened on Monday, with a Ribbon Cutting on February 2, 2011 at 10 am.

Brief discussion on possible threats to safety net health services in the community.

In closing, appreciation was shown to Fay Williams for her service as CHAT Chair in the previous 2 years.

Dates to Remember

January 28th, 2:30 pm – NP D-Fy Application Event at NPHS

February 1st, 6:30 pm – NP-ASAP and NP D-Fy Workgroup Meeting – Family Services Ctr

February 2nd, 10:00 am – North Port Health Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

February 3rd, 4:00 pm – Health Services Committee at Family Services Center

February 9th - 4:00 pm – Next CHAT– North Port Police Department

**February 14th – 1:00 pm – Proclamation for SafeRx Campaign – North Port City Hall
Commission Chambers**

February 19th, 5-7pm – Members-Only NP-DFY event at Treasure Lanes

**March 30th, 6:00 pm – North Port Celebrates Health Care – reception for Physicians and
Dentists in North Port by CHAT and City of North Port**

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