

Community health depends on community voices

**North Port CHAT Meeting Agenda
April 13, 2011**

Present: Sam George, Tom Davie, Monica Becket, Fay Williams, Barbara Gross, Kris-An Hinds, Lorna DeRiggs, Sue Owens, Anne Marie Lupien, Linda Stone, Patricia Scheerer, Nina Demicovskly, Yolanda Cadet, Linda Jericka, Rosemarie Sulzbach, Nancy Carter, Todd Konen, Mary McDonald, Mary Borst, Janis Russell, Hilary Woodcum, David Carter, Diane Ramseyer

Welcome and Introductions – Chair, David Carter, welcomed everyone and introductions were provided.

Special Presentation – Jackson Labs and North Port – Commissioner Blucher shared information on the potential Jackson Labs project, which could locate in North Port. He provided some basic facts, along with information on how to indicate support for the project locating in Sarasota County, and specifically in North Port. He shared information on some of the work Jackson Labs has done already, and would like to do with a Florida site. They are particularly interested in combining their research with actual clinical utilization in a hospital setting.

First hurdle is to have the State of Florida approve the plan for Jackson Labs to come to the state and provide \$100 million in cash through the state over a three-year period. If that is achieved, then it will be located somewhere in Sarasota County, pending the county raising matching funds. Gulfcoast Community Foundation of Venice is interested in providing funding, and a referendum would be placed on the ballot county-wide.

Work on location (including acreage given by a local landowner) in North Port was discussed, including partnerships with USF on a university site and potential for partnering with SMH. Several other locations in the county, as well as Lakewood Ranch – which would cross county lines, where noted.

Sam George moved that the CHAT send a letter to the legislators and governor to show support of it being located in Sarasota County, noting that North Port would be a good location in Sarasota. Fay Williams seconded it – motioned carried. Members can also send letters individually.

Community Updates

North Port Coalition on Homeless Students – They have provided 1300 hygiene supply bags and will be assembling more on April 18th (let Diane know if you would like to help). They raised \$2500 through the AmVets event last month, and an additional \$700 at a Visani Comedy Club event. The Performing Arts Center collects a 50/50 raffle for them at their events.

Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness – 10 year plan – Diane provided a brief update – the workgroups are halfway through the process to create the plan. The importance of south county representation in the process is crucial, as most are from north county, primarily City of Sarasota area

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– and that can be reflected in the plan, if the south county voice is not there to share its perspective and need. They did hold a meeting in Venice the end of March, and plan to be in North Port in May. Barbara Gross indicated she is aware of Adam Trebugge speaking to a group at the Family Table in May and will send the information. **(FOLLOW-UP NOTE – Barbara sent information – the meeting is on May 18th at 5-6:30 pm at the Family Table – there is a limit to 30 people in attendance – let DIANE know ASAP if you want to attend, and she will give you the contact information).**

Committee Updates

Health Services Committee – Sam George provided the update for Chair, Linda Stone.

- **North Port Celebrates Healthcare** – reception honoring local physicians and dentists on March 30th was a wonderful success with 30 or more physicians and dentists attending, as well as all City Commissioners. Anne Marie Lupien was thanked for her work on organizing this event so effectively. It is hoped to make this an annual event.
- **Health Fair** – The April 2nd Health Fair with Knight Owls Kiwanis had several notable successes in both number of participating screeners, as well as some crucial health issues identified for several attending. Sam introduced Mary Borst who has organized many health fairs throughout the area. Mary has offered her expertise for future events.
- **Program for Specialty Services** – Some of the physicians attending the March reception indicated interest in helping with some pro bono work. The Health Services Committee is beginning to work on a program whereby they (committee) would take applications from community members who need specialty services, qualifying them (income and lack of insurance), and linking to physicians. Have a gatekeeper program can help build physician base of pro bono services, as they do not need to spend their staff time qualifying.
- **Dental Sealant Program** – Dr. Malik of the Health Department’s Dental Services Department has indicated that there will be a pilot of the school-based dental sealant project for 2nd graders at Glenallen Elementary School in May. This is the plan the committee has been advocating for in the past year.
- **Visits to Specialty Care Center** – members are planning to visit some specialty centers, including Birthing Centers in northern part of county and Naples.

All are welcome to come to the Health Services Committee and help with any of these projects. They meet the first Wednesday of each month at 4:00 pm – Family Services Center.

NP-ASAP – NP D-Fy (North Port Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention and North Port Drug-Free Youth) – North Port D-Fy is in process of going through a formal evaluation for the initiative. Shelly Robertson is the consultant conducting the evaluation funded through Tobacco Funds at the Health Department. This will not only help in strategic planning and development of NP D-Fy, but, if it is shown to be “evidenced-based” – can help with funding opportunities.

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Drug Free Charlotte County and NP-ASAP are partnering on a Drug-Free Communities Mentoring Grant. DFCC would be the Mentor Coalition and the grant recipient. But, as a Mentee, NP-ASAP would be given the training and development assistance necessary to execute a solid strategic plan using proven strategies to reduce the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs by youth. This would include a part time staff person dedicated to NP-ASAP. The goal would be to be in position within 2 years to successfully apply for federal Drug-Free Communities funding – as well as create a sustainable coalition.

44 more members successfully joined NP D-Fy at last Friday's screening event. There are now 161 members. An event is planned for the end of the month.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Database Program has now been enacted by the Director of the State Department of Health. This is simply carrying out the legislation enacted previously, but delayed by a lawsuit. However, legislation is still pending at the state level which could alter or repeal the program. Advocacy is still needed to assure the program not only stays in effect, and all other tools are available to law enforcement and communities addressing this issue in an effective, multi-pronged approach.

Announcements –

Barbara Gross thanked everyone for their participation in the World Wellness and Ecofest. It was a very successful event.

Suggestion made to send a letter of welcome to the new City Manager, including information on the CHAT. Diane will draft.

Friends of Library event at the Library tonight – all welcome.

Library is also offering a variety of healthy living and eating events at the library.

May 12 – 10:30-12 – Women's Healthy Choices – Heart, Attitude, Memory Metabolism - Jack Swanton, Coastal Behavioral Healthcare

May 19th – Healthy Nibbles – 10:30-noon – Healthy snacks and recipes – Maria Portelos-Rometo, IFAS Sarasota County Extension

May 26th – What You're Eating Could Be Eating You – 10:30-noon – Jack Swanton

May 28th – 1-2pm – Pre-Diabetes Lunch and Learn – Jennifer Tucker-Mogensen, South County Family YMCA

Caregivers program – drop-in – every two weeks at the Library – Fridays.

May 6th – Choosing a Home Health Agency: Who Pays? – 10-noon

May 20th – How Do I Handle That?! Managing Challenging Behaviors – 10-noon

Newcomer's Day on May 7th from 10-noon. Organizations are encouraged to have a table (free) at the event, which is held at the library quarterly.

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Author and recording artist, Jose-Luis Orozco, will be at the library on Tuesday, April 26th at 6 pm. Noon Kiwanis is providing a number of children's books which are in English and Spanish.

May 21st – North Port Walk-a-Thon – for South County United Way Services. Teams split their pledges with United Way and their own cause. Dallas White Park – see Diane for detail.

Meeting Dates to Remember

May 3rd – 6:30 pm – NP-ASAP/NP D-Fy meeting – Family Services Center

May 4th - 4:00 pm – Health Services Com – Family Services Center

May 11th - 4:30 pm - Next CHAT– North Port Police Department

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