

Community health depends on community voices

**North Port CHAT
Meeting Summary
September 14, 2011**

Present: Sam George, Dave Powell, Fay Williams, Janis Russell, Penny Pizzurro, Lorna DeRiggs, Todd Konen, Linda Jericka, Tom Davie, Tom Jones, Brenda Szych, Linda Stone, Monica Becket, Alex Shulman, Barbara Leverone, Diane Ramseyer

Welcome – Sam George welcomed everyone and introductions were provided.

Presentation – Barbara Leverone from Child’s Space – Barbara shared information on Child Space. They offer a class at the Florida Center for Child Development in North Port. The classes are held in the fall and spring. The program is to help solidify the bonding and relationship between child and caregiver (mother, father, grandparent, child care provider, etc.) - particularly during the first year of the child’s life. Participants have often not experienced nurturing themselves, so do not have the skills or understanding to create a strong bond. So much happens in the development of a child’s brain during the first year that it is important to quickly learn these skills. Parents learn how to use touch, movement and play – 1:1 interaction - to promote healthy development. There is a fee, but it is sliding fee as needed. Learn more at www.ChildspaceSarasota.com 941.362.0944.

Presentation – Town Pharmacy shared information on a prescription program they offer. They do compounding, home delivery, and bubble packing. They also offer some common medications for chronic illness which are offered for free. Their website offers information on prescriptions, side effects and interactions.

Community Updates

North Port Coalition for Homeless/Needy Children – Will have first packing of the new school year on the 19th. The brochure the CHAT help create has been updated and provided to them. Let Diane know if you need copies.

Pastors Luncheon – Final preparations are in place for the September 27th event at Farley’s Funeral Home. Thank you for the donations for this project.

Committee Updates

Health Services Committee – Linda Stone provided the update for the group. Linda announced the September meeting will be moved to 2:30 pm. and return to 3:30 in October.

The committee continues to look for ways to help increase awareness of the services available at the North Port Health Center. Several members have been researching opportunities for outreach through local publications, 55+ communities, etc. Additionally, they were updated on the status of the federal

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grant to expand the center to include other health department clinics. This grant was not received, but, they were informed it will be held for review in the next round.

The Committee is also following developments of several healthcare providers in the community – Health Department, Senior Friendship Center, SMH, etc. with regard to a system of care model.

Note – The September Health Services Committee Meeting has a time change for this month only – 2:30 pm at the Family Services Center – September 28th.

NP-ASAP/NP D-Fy – NP-ASAP (North Port Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention) will be working with the Drug-Free Charlotte County to organize under the Drug-Free Community Program (federal). Charlotte County received a grant to serve as NP-ASAP’s mentor.

NP D-Fy has signed 517 members to date. Additionally, Venice community members are forming a D-Fy chapter. We are working to help guide them through this process and help assure the two chapters are consistent with each other.

NP D-Fy will be finishing an effort to raise funds for additional screening supplies the end of this month.

Announcements

Dave Powell indicated that through his involvement with this CHAT, he is now part of a group in Port Charlotte which just recently organized a community group to serve the community in a similar way as the CHAT does.

Sam announced that the North Port CHAT has been chosen by a panel of judges as a finalist for the 2011 Health Care Hero Awards – through the Tampa Bay Business Journal.

Brenda Syzch announced the “Cooking for Kids” event at Heron Creek this Saturday evening.

October 8th – Feeling Fit Magazine will hold its first Health Expo at the Cultural Center in Port Charlotte. There will be flu and travel shots, massages, music and more.

Janis Russell reminded the group on September 21st, 6 - 7:30 p.m., the library will host a program called **Eating Right for Pre-Diabetes/Diabetes** and on September 23, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., there will be the following all-day program, **Alzheimer’s Caregivers Event**. Guest speakers to include physicians, eldercare attorneys, and local author Susan L. Garbett. Presented by Pam Polowski from the Sarasota Alzheimer's Association.

Janis also reminded the group that SHINE comes to the library on October 21st 10-4 pm at the library to help answer questions on Medicare.

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October 2nd – Seven Day Adventist Church is holding a health fair.

Tom Jones shared information from the Community Alliance and their legislative breakfast. Local data on health issues was provided and Tom shared the brochure with the CHAT. The data provided was on “negative quality of life trends” in Sarasota County. Tom also suggested that Kathy Chamberlin from the Mentoring Program would be a good presenter for the CHAT in the future.

September 22nd there will be a community forum in Sarasota to help provide information and awareness of Prescription Drug misuse issues 6:30-7:30 pm at Sarasota High School. The forum is for both youth and parent – and, any community member.

This Saturday is Peanut Day from 10-2 pm throughout the community. It is also Playful Community Play Day at Gene Matthews Boys and Girls Club. There is also a “Run for Heroes” Day.

Next CHAT Meeting is October 12th, 4:30 pm North Port Police Dept.

Health Services Committee meets September 28th at 2:30 (CHANGE OF TIME) – Family Services Center

NP-ASAP meets October 4th at 6:30 pm – Police Substation

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