

*Community health depends on community voices*

**North Port CHAT Meeting Summary  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Present:** Sam George, Jonathon Lewis, Dave Powell, Tom Davie Glenda Pinkston, Freddy Koenig, Mary MacDonald, Susan Owens, Tom Jones, Ken Alexander, Janis Russell, Brenda Szych, Paul Versnik, Ro Mohamed, Pat Frank, Joan Cain, Vince Guiffre, Diane Ramseyer

**Welcome and Introductions** – Sam George, Chair, welcomed everyone and introductions were provided.

**Special Presentation** – Jonathon Lewis, City of North Port City Manager, provided an overview of the direction of the city. He began with an introduction of himself and his work for the City of Palm Bay – another General Development Community. He discussed the improvements in infrastructure and facilities in the past few years which is indicative of a community of residents who care about their city and building a strong future. He described how other communities are now coming to North Port to see how things were done for a variety of things – including the Performing Arts Center, road and bridge design and other. He described the impact it has that North Port is now listed first in census information for this region (MSA). He was also able to report that there is progress in housing area now. He also explained how the City has been able to leverage \$50,000 into nearly \$200,000 of social services assistance through the social services department.

There was a period of questions and answers.

First question was related to the cost vs. benefit of having advisory boards. He responded that he believes it is really a community choice. From an administrative point of view, he sees the value of task forces created for a specific time period to deal with specific issue – rather than a standing board. There are some things which need to be standing advisory boards due to their nature (such as zoning) – but, not all issues require a standing board.

A question was posed regarding the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program elimination. There are budgetary considerations which are necessary to be considered as part of this decision, and it is not a core service. The schools also indicated that they are not able to accommodate the DARE program due to need to maintain a strict schedule to address FCAT issues.

Final question was addressed regarding outsourcing of solid waste. City Manager Lewis explained that solid waste costs are not part of taxation, but are assessments – and separate from the general fund. To determine if this is beneficial, it is necessary to determine if it is sustainable in the long run - including what is the cost if you need to return to providing the service.

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Mr. Lewis ended with a reminder about the free Prescription Drug Discount Program.

### **Community Updates**

North Port Coalition on Homeless/Needy Children- They packed 399 backpacks last month. Currently, they have 100 volunteers. Their website: [www.backpackangels.org](http://www.backpackangels.org) is up and running.

North Port Food Coalition – This is new coalition in the community with a variety of community members, churches and organizations involved, including several CHAT members. They are working to create a food bank which can help distribute food to the local food pantries in North Port. They are working with New Hope Community Church to provide a Community Thanksgiving Dinner for 700-1000. Publix on Toledo Blade is helping collect donations of the needed turkeys and food. Teams are being formed to cook, serve and provide transportation.

Additionally they will be holding a food drive in conjunction with KidFest and Film this weekend at Heron Creek Middle School (2-6 pm).

### **Committee Updates**

Health Services Committee – See attached meeting summary for information on their progress with the Adult Immunization Presentations and explorations on mental health services. Due to holiday period falling during usual meeting dates in November and December – the committee will not meet until January 25<sup>th</sup>. Committee members will be working on various tasks related to their action plan during this time, however.

Freddy Koenig of the North Port ER was also asked Freddy to give an update from the ER which included that they are now certified to deal with stroke victims.

NP-ASAP/NP D-Fy – Monica updated on the process North Port Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (NP-ASAP) and the federal mentoring grant through Drug-Free Charlotte County. There will be an informational breakfast on November 15<sup>th</sup> at Family Table Restaurant. NP D-Fy (North Port Drug-Free Youth) now has 862 youth who have successfully attained membership. They are currently working to develop a youth leadership group to plan events and more.

### **Community Announcements**

Update on County Referendum issue related grant program for non-profit services – the program will not be discontinued.

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City of North Port Inaugural Tree Lighting Ceremony – Thursday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm in front of City Hall.

Poinsettia Parade and Festival – December 10th

Mayor’s Feed the Hungry Campaign is going on – donate at City Hall

Veteran’s Day Ceremony – November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 am

“An 1800’s Christmas” will be Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm at North Port Library.

### **Meeting Dates to Remember**

**November 15<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 am – NP-ASAP Information Meeting –see Diane for details**

**December 6<sup>th</sup> -NP D-Fy Workgroup meeting– Police SUBSTATION on North Port Blvd (across from Skate Park)**

**December 14<sup>th</sup> - 4:30 pm - Next CHAT– North Port Police Department**

**January 25<sup>th</sup> - 3:30 pm – Health Services Com – Family Services Center**

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North Port CHAT  
Health Services Committee  
October 26, 2011

**Present:** Monica Becket; Linda Stone, Diane Ramseyer

**Old Business:**

Linda reviewed the PowerPoint created by Donna Keith and Dianne Shipley at the Health Department. The Power Point contains talking points for a speaker's bureau to conduct outreach in adult immunizations. There is also a blurb created for posting on home owner association internal cable channels. Suggestions were made to ask several members of the committee if they would help get the blurbs out to these communities. Once we have a response, we will work on who will provide the presentation.

A two-page template to use when promoting health services has been created, as well, which can be used in the future.

North Port Health Center has filled a number of open board positions and the members will be invited to future Health Services Committee Meetings.

**New Business:**

Linda shared some information on the Health Center's efforts to increase behavioral health services, primarily with Manatee Glens, and a possible collaborating with USF to use their nursing and social work students and interns. The Group discussed hosting another meeting with providers to discuss creative behavioral health partnerships. The committee will begin working on this.

There will be no meeting in November and December due to how the dates fall with holidays. Work will continue by members during this time regarding outreach for immunization presentation and planning a meeting related to behavioral health partnerships.

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