

Community health depends on community voices

North Port CHAT Meeting Summary
February 8th, 2012, 4:30 pm

Present: Sam George, Dave Powell, Fay Williams, Janis Russell, Susan Owens, Linda Jericka, Tom Jones, Monica Becket, Vince Guiffre, Tom Davie, Vanessa Carusone, Diane Ramseyer

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

Community Updates

North Port Coalition for Homeless and Needy Children- They will be delivering 362 bags to their outlets this month. Outlets now include: Schools, Children First, Veteran's Families in need, Building Blocks Nursery School, Living Waters Preschool, Academy for Early Learning, North Port Social Services, and Achievement Learning Center.

Temporary Emergency Shelter- Another meeting was held last week with community members from two churches (Living Waters and New Hope) who are willing to become facilities, as well as San Pedro which was there to learn more. Red Cross and Ed McCrane (County Emergency Management) provided information on the process and made arrangements for facility agreements and surveys. Betty Danfelser, who has agreed to serve as volunteer coordinator, also received additional information on how to schedule the volunteer training. Betty is finalizing a location – the training will be for several hours on Friday evening, followed by a day-long Saturday session.

Committee Reports

Health Services – A volunteer from the Health Department will help with the outreach presentations on adult immunization. At the January meeting, the committee started to plan for a Behavioral Health (Mental Health) Services study for North Port. The group hopes to find a student intern who would help with this study.

NP-ASAP (Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention) – The group continues their work through the mentoring grant with Drug-Free Charlotte County. On February 14th, the full coalition will meet to discuss collaborations with the county prevention workgroup.

NP D-Fy (Drug-Free Youth)- The group is nearing the 1000th North Port teen to join since May 2010. Ideas for raising additional funds for the testing were discussed.

Other Business for Discussion

Update on status of hospital funding from the State was provided by Sam and Tom. As this is the legislative time of year for the State, there are many different ideas being developed for legislation. Any proposals which may affect the health system of the community will be shared with the CHAT for

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their information and awareness. Sam suggested the CHAT set meetings with the area hospital systems again to learn their view of the current state of health system development in North Port – what are the possible barriers and how could the CHAT help to assure the community’s system continues to grow.

Suggestion made for Health Services to develop a plan to raise awareness about how the health care and employment environment of the city would be affected by some of the proposed legislation.

Community Announcements

Tom Davie shared information on efforts to increase the number of businesses in the area which have Drug-Free Workplace Policies. He can be contacted for additional information tdavie@fsos.org

World Café – Sarasota County Children’s Partnership is holding a “World Café” to discuss ways to build community for the betterment of all ages. It is February 16th at 5:30 pm – free refreshments – at Peace Christian Church 3010 S. Sumter Blvd. RSVP is requested. (941) 371-4799

Tri-County Community Counseling is offering a program for youth to help build life skills “Life Solutions for Today’s Youth”. The program will be held in North Port and in Port Charlotte. Call to learn more @ 941.429.3721

Library News:

“What you are eating, could be eating you” – Jack Swanton, starts tomorrow and may be at capacity. Memory Bus will be at the Library on Feb 17th 10-4 pm for a free mental acuity test – for ALL ages. Janis is preparing a forum on “Small Claims Court”.

April 21st – North Port Baby Shower and Preschool Fair by City of North Port and Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota.

Cinderella Project – looking for gowns, jewelry, etc to provide Prom dresses for NP teens– 240-8125

Meeting Dates to Remember

February 14th – 8:30 am – NP-ASAP Full Coalition Mtg – Peace Christian Church, 3010 S. Sumter Blvd

Feb 22nd - 3:00 pm – Health Services Com – Family Services Center

No March NP D-Fy Advisory Group meeting

March 14th - 4:30 pm - Next CHAT– North Port Police Department – presentation from SCOPE’s Aging with Dignity and Independence Initiative

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