

Community health depends on community voices

North Port CHAT Meeting Agenda
March 14th, 2012, 4:30 pm

Present: Monica Becket, Linda Stone, Vanessa Carusone, Suzanne Gregory, Linda Jericka, Mary McDonald, Joyce Weaver, Susan Owens, Janis Russell, Tom Davie, Jim Blucher, Sam George, Diane Ramseyer

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

Guest Presentation – Suzanne Gregory from SCOPE presented information on the results of their local research and data gathering for the *Aging with Dignity and Independence Initiative*. For a complete report, visit: www.scopexcel.org and click link to *Aging with Dignity and Independence Initiative*. Six themes came out of the discussions:

- Meaningful Involvement – being engaged in activities that matter to oneself and others
- Respect and Social Inclusion- being valued and experiencing considerate interactions in community life.
- Communication and Information – accessing timely and accurate information easily
- Health and Well-being – developing strategies for maintaining health and coping with decline and loss
- Aging in Place – being self-sufficient and self-reliant
- Transportation and Mobility – accessing required goods, services and lifestyle

A list of ideas to help promote aging with dignity and independence in the community was also developed through this process.

At North Port Library on March 28th, there will be a special presentation on the SCOPE Aging with Dignity and Independence with opportunity to participate in an extended discussion and refreshments.

Co-Chair for CHAT – Sam indicated the CHAT needs a co-chair who will assume the role of chair next year. After David Carter left, Sam assumed the role of chair early, and we have not yet selected a chair. Anyone interested is requested to contact Diane, so the group can address it next month.

Community Updates

North Port Coalition for Homeless and Needy Children – The group will be packing over 400 backpacks on Monday Morning at Patriot Storage at Talon Bay. Anyone is welcome to help.

Our Mission: Through the efforts and activities of the North Port CHAT, we will achieve a safe, healthy community where individuals and agencies collaborate to assure the physical, social, and emotional well-being of all residents. We will accomplish this through advocacy for an integrated health and behavioral health care system, evoking community action and collaboration to reduce substance abuse among our youth and adults, promoting the value of “connectivity” in all aspects of the development and growth of our community, and most importantly, providing an effective way for the voice of the community to be heard and active in North Port.

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Temporary Emergency Shelter – Successful run of the shelter was held in February, North Port Food Coalition provided meals. About 25 community members from North Port have now gone through the Red Cross training process as shelter volunteers. United Methodist Church is also going to go through the process to become a shelter, joining New Hope Community Church and Living Waters Church.

Committee Reports

Health Services – The committee continues to work on gathering information and data on behavioral health services as well as the adult immunization project. The committee has the help of several students to

NP-ASAP (Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention) – The Coalition continues to move through its mentoring process with Drug-Free Charlotte County. Monica and Diane spent last week in Mississippi at the first of three weeks in the “National Coalition Academy”.

NP D-Fy (Drug-Free Youth) – Member number 1050 signed up last week. We are holding a special celebration in honor of reaching the milestone of over 1000 on April 3rd. There will also be a taping for WEDU along with other communities for a future broadcast on Teen and Community Substance Abuse Prevention. Attorney General, Pam Bondi, will be part of the telecast.

Community Announcements

Sam offered thanks to Patriot Storage for always being willing to provide storage space for community needs.

Tri-County Community Counseling and Life Skills Center is offering a second round of “Life Solutions for Today’s Youth”. Youth can earn community service hours as well as learn some valuable life skills. Classes start March 27th. Call 941.429.3721 for details. There are scholarships available.

At North Port Library will start a 6 week event “Powerful Tools for Caregivers” May 6-June 7 10:00 am – 12:30 pm.

March 31st – United Way Walk-a-Thon in North Port – NP D-Fy is having a team, and they will get 50% of all funds raised by the team, the other 50% will go to North Port non-profits through United Way Services of South County. See Diane if you are willing to sponsor a walker.

City of North Port will be holding community forums to help provide input on Economic Development Plan – see times on the City’s website.

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Sarasota's National Night Out will be in October in Laurel. North Port's is held the 2nd Tuesday of August.

Library continues to offer a variety of community events and presentations.

Meeting Dates to Remember

March 13th – 8:30 am – NP-ASAP Full Coalition Meeting – Peace Christian Church, 3010 S. Sumter Blvd

March 15th – 3:30 pm – NP D-Fy Workgroup @Morgan Center

March 29th – 3:30 pm – NP D-Fy Workgroup @Morgan Center

April 3rd – 4:30 pm-7:30 pm – NP D-Fy Anniversary Celebration and “Town Hall” @Morgan Center

April 11th - 4:30 pm - Next CHAT– North Port Police Department – Dr. Lee Gross – update from Washington – Healthcare issues and reform

April 25th – 9:00 am – Health Services Com – Family Services Center**TIME CHANGE (no March meeting)******

April 25th – 3-5pm – Festival Training – Creating safe procedures for serving alcohol at community events – Presented by NP-ASAP. At the Family Services Center – Seating is limited – call 650-4856.

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