

**Community Health Network Area 12
Minutes of April 10, 2003 Meeting
Amesbury Health Center
Amesbury, MA 01913**

Attending: **Jacqui Williams**, DPH; **Susan Johnson**, Steering Committee; **Anne Marie D'Angelo Florent**, DMA; **Nick Costello**, Link House, INC; **Kate Keyes & Jaime Lennon**, Essex County D.A. Office; **Carl Cacho**, Pentucket Area Early Intervention; **Margie Walentuk**, Amesbury Public Schools; **Paul Muzhuthett**, DPH; **Judy Anderson**, HHVNA; **Charlotte Stepanian**, Merrimac BOH/COA; **Pam Brooke**, CAI Head Start; **Nancy Bodwell**, AJH; **Ruth Brophy**, Pentucket Regional School District, **Sara Groesch**, TCA; **Andrea Penney**, Joslin Clinic at AJH; **Tom Barker**, DPH; **Sue Folley**, Triton School District; and **Karen Windle**, MVH.

1.0: Meeting called to order by Charlotte Stepanian, Secretary. Mission reviewed, minutes of March meeting accepted. Treasurer's report showed current balance of \$10,049.73. Steering Committee meeting of March 18th reviewed with special note of the rescheduling May 8th meeting to May 29th at Tewksbury Hospital for the MAPP training program.

2.0: Health Moment was presented by Judy Anderson and called attention to the observance of Public Health Week and the focuses in the community. Judy referenced the Massachusetts Public Health Association's historical review of the many events in public health history that have had their origin in our state.

3.0: Verbal reports were presented by the **three school districts** that received mini-grants earlier this year. **Ruth Brophy, Pentucket School District**, reported on the new food changes being offered including breakfast. Physical activity is being promoted with the Sachems Stride Across the State. To date 110 students and staff are participating with a T-shirt awarded for completing 120 miles of walking. Students may use 1st period skills period for walking in the PE area. A walking club meets on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Newsletter and newspaper articles are focusing on the benefits of exercise. An elementary school walking program during recess is in place. **Sue Folley, Triton School District**, spoke of the activities occurring in the 3 elementary level schools in that district, which are connected through the Triton Trails newsletter. In the Newbury schools, there is a fitness challenge between grades 3-6 with a trophy to be awarded to the winner. This trophy will be perpetuated annually. In Salisbury, the first ten-minutes of gym class is devoted to walking/jogging. Pedometers have been purchased. The 6th grade is highly competitive for the 1st annual "stretch award"—a Beanie-Baby ostrich. At Pine Grove Elementary, the students walk the one-mile historical trail around the school. It is planned to get a panther costume used as an educational tool in USDA food health promotion programs. **Chris Geoghegan, Newburyport School District**, unable sent a brief written report of the overwhelming success of offering salads as an alternate choice at lunchtime. Students are now asking for more fruit and vegetable choices. There is a 98% student participation in their walking programs.

4.0: The MAPP program planning and enrollment process was reviewed. Agencies are urged to send 2 representatives that have interest in participating in this community assessment process. Paul Muzhuthett discussed the CHNA12s role in the evolving plans for a Newburyport Leadership Breakfast to be held at Anna Jaques Hospital on April 28th from 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM in the cafeteria conference room. This breakfast meeting is designed to bring the many organizations within Newburyport to the table to develop a working coalition capable of addressing the community's health concerns. The lack of a structured coalition has compromised recent grant eligibility.

5.0: Networking: **Nancy Bodwell** noted that HIV programs may be negated as a line item in the state budget. The Able Alert project is urging the public to voice their concerns to the legislators. **Ann Marie D'Angelo Florent** spoke of the MassHealth post-enrollment program that is empowering enrollees on how to navigate the health care system. Program request forms are available. **Sara Groesch** commented on the fact the professional licenses are revoked for drug use but not driver licenses. More resulting deaths have been noted. **Nick Costello** noted that there has been an increase in the number of women incarcerated for non-violent drug related crimes. He also commented on the connection of many reform issues to the Pioneer Institute. **Ruth Brophy** urged mobilization to meet human needs and also voiced the need to contact our legislators. **Carl Cacho** reinforced the need to be creative in today's world and echoed the value of contacting your legislator. **Kate Keyes** spoke of the Flash point program sponsored by the D.A.'s office that teaches literacy and life skills to youth. **Jaime Lennon** noted that the Juvenile Justice program sets up offenders with needed services. **Tom Barker** provided an update of HIV funding activities at the state funding level. **Marge Walentuk** is pleased that Newburyport is moving toward a positive stance for funding sources. She also noted that Amesbury has lost a half –time nurse with resulting schedule changes. The first AED has been placed in the High School with 4 more to be received through grant application. **Paul Muzhuthett** circulated the SARS guidelines and spoke of the relocation of several agencies. **Sue Folley** noted that Triton has lost a 6-hour/day nurse. Pettengill House in Salisbury has had a significant increase in the number of meals served. **Charlotte Stepanian** spoke of the newly formed Food Pantry at Merrimac's Senior Center and the large number of seniors utilizing the service. **Karen Windle** noted that principle members of the domestic violence coalition will be traveling to Victoria, British Columbia in June to present the work that the coalition has been doing. **Pam Brooke** noted that Head Start is recruiting for next year. Applications are available with placement in June. The decision is still pending if Head Start will be moved to the Department of Education or remain in its current structural position. **Jacqui Williams** noted that Healthy Start has been funded for next year but \$5 million has been cut from CMSP~27,000 clients with 4,000 on waiting list. Clients will be cut if not paying premiums. Often there is duplication with other insurance plans. **Susan Johnson** reported on the successes of the Kick Butt Day at the State House. Nine Triton students participated. **Andrea Penney** noted that Sue Gustafson has retired and will be replaced by Jay McGovern as the AJH representative on the Steering Committee. **Next regularly scheduled general meeting—June 12th from 3-5 PM at Amesbury Health Center. Register for MAPP training on May 29th. June agenda will be sent prior to meeting.**

Respectfully submitted by,
Charlotte E. Stepanian, BS, MSNc, RNC, Secretary