

## COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK AREA 12

Minutes from January 11, 2007 Meeting

Amesbury Health Center \* 24 Morrill Place \* Amesbury, MA 01913

Attending: **Charlotte E. Stepanian**, Merrimac BOH/COA; **Judy Anderson**, HHVNA; **DeAnna Tashjian**, CAI-WIC; **Paul Muzhuthett**, DPH; **Terry Arsenault**, Amesbury Health Dept.; **Sarah Kennedy**, Health Quarters; **Anne-Marie D'Angelo Florent**, MassHealth; **Marjorie Detkin**, ESMV; **Adriana Leo**, HFN; **Jonathan Miller**, TCA, Inc.; **Nick Costello**, Link House; **Jacqui Williams**, DPH; **Tom Barker**, DPH; **Connie Gagnon**, MVH; **Joan Connor**, Amesbury Public Schools.

- 1.0: **The meeting was called to order** at 3:05 PM by Charlotte Stepanian. Introductions were made and the Mission Statement reviewed.
- 2.0: **Secretary's Report.** The December minutes were reviewed. A motion for acceptance was presented, seconded, voted upon, and unanimously accepted.
- 3.0: **Treasurer's Report.** There is a balance of \$5735.74.
- 4.0: **Guest Speaker:** Sarah Kennedy – Reproductive Health

Health Quarters is a regional non-profit health care agency providing reproductive health education and medical services to people in Northeastern Massachusetts, regardless of their ability to pay. Their mission is to help people make informed choices to protect their reproductive health, understand and value their sexuality, and plan for pregnancy. Medical services are offered on a sliding fee scale, including free care. They accept MassHealth and private insurance plan coverage. Condoms and Rapid HIV testing is offered free of charge.

Health Quarters has five service sites, in Beverly, Haverhill, Lawrence, Lynn and Reading, MA. In Lowell, the Greater Lawrence Community Health Center is our delegate agency and provides similar services.

Health Quarters offers Emergency Contraception (EC), a special kind of birth control that can prevent pregnancy during the brief period after sex and before pregnancy has happened. It is not to be mistaken for an abortion pill, rather it is a higher dose of typical birth control pills, and must be prescribed by a health care provider. EC has proven to a safe and effective option.

**The new Massachusetts EC legislation has gone into effect !** The Department of Public Health has released guidelines on the new EC pharmacy program [www.massECnetwork.org](http://www.massECnetwork.org) and has officially informed hospitals of the new requirements for treating rape survivors.

### Why Use Emergency Contraception?

- Birth control was not used at all or there's the possibility it failed (for instance, missed pills).
- Condom broke or fell off.
- Forced to have sex.

### How To Get Emergency Contraception?

- You can call 800.892.0234 for an EC prescription on weekends and holidays.
- You can get EC in advance—just in case! Ask your medical provider for “EC-to-go”.

Sarah provided a show and tell of the latest birth control methods.

The CHNA would like to thank Sarah for her informative presentation and extend our sympathies in the passing of her grandfather earlier in the day.

5.0: **NETWORKING & AGENCY UPDATES –**

**Connie Gagnon**, Merrimack Valley Hospital

-A pediatric subunit has been started at the hospital.

**Tom Barker**, DPH

- The Transitional Intervention Project (“TIP”) is a statewide initiative to help incarcerated individuals living with HIV to make a successful transition back into the community. TIP case managers work with clients while they are incarcerated to assess their post-release needs. Upon the client’s release, TIP staff implement the client-specific service plan, providing help in areas such as:

Acquiring health insurance and other benefits; finding a primary care physician skilled in HIV care; adhering to HIV medical treatment regimens; accessing mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and other community services; traveling to medical care and other appointments and obtaining safe housing.

**Jacqui Williams**, DPH

-Distributed *Straight Talk* – Communicating with your teen about sex and abstinence.

**Terry Arsenault**, Amesbury Health Department

-Explained what the Medical Reserve Core was. She stressed the importance of training and meeting with one another before a disaster strikes in a community.

**Nick Costello**, Link House

- An overview of addiction recovery programs given.
- There’s an AA program for young people (age 15-30) at the Elms on Sunday evenings from 7-8 PM.

**Adriana Leo**, HFN

- 4 evening programs have been added and are currently full.
- May try to add an evening fitness program.

**Paul Muzhuthett**, DPH

- Provided DPH update.
- HCVC – VIP team was active at Merrimack College’s Deval Patrick event. A meeting with Senator Baddour is scheduled for 1/19 re: Safe School regulations.
- A Health Care summit will be held on 1/26 in Lawrence.

**DeAnna Tashjian**, CAI-WIC

- Shared UNH study
- Chang's Taekwondo America, located in Bradford, is holding its annual New Year Party and Benefit Auction on January 27th from 6 - 11 PM at DiBurro's in Ward Hill. Tickets are \$35. Proceeds will benefit the WIC Program.
- Local Flyer distributed.

**Marjorie Detkin**, ESMV

- Independent estimates for the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit for FY08 show that net Medicare costs are 30% lower than originally predicted.

- Elder Network Meetings are held monthly. Contact Laura Marsan at [lmarsan@esmv.org](mailto:lmarsan@esmv.org) or at 978-946-1303 for details.

**Judy Anderson, HHVNA**

- Flu vaccine won't be provided to private adult providers in 07-08, it must be purchased by them. Please remind your doctor to do that when visiting. Orders must be placed early as the vaccine takes 6 months to produce.

- With warm winter weather ticks are still a problem. Cats are carriers into the home.

**Anne-Marie D'Angelo Florent, MassHealth Updates January 2007:**

If you would like a MassHealth presentation or have any questions regarding MassHealth and or other related health programs, Contact *Anne-Marie D'Angelo Florent from the MassHealth Member Education unit* 617-210-5217 or email *Anne-Marie.D'AngeloFlorent@state.ma.us*

***MassHealth Essential Program***

The MassHealth Essential program enrollment cap has been increased to 60,000 members and the program is open to enrollment. As of January 4, 2007 enrollment is 56,852 members.

***MassHealth and Commonwealth Care Enrollment and Outreach Grants***

Over 100 proposals were received. 24 community and consumer focused non-profit organizations were awarded traditional outreach and enrollment grants. 7 community and consumer focused non-profit organizations were awarded integrated marketing and outreach grants.

***Commonwealth Care Health Insurance Program.***

- Phase II is now in effect (January 2007) for individuals with incomes 101% -300% FPL. Premiums will apply according to income.
- **Commonwealth Care is not a MassHealth program.** However applicants must apply through the current MassHealth enrollment process and be screened for MassHealth eligibility before they can be determined for eligibility for any of the Commonwealth Care plans.

Visit the [www.mass.gov/connector](http://www.mass.gov/connector) website for ongoing updated frequently asked questions that have been answered by the Connector Board regarding the Commonwealth Care program.

***Commonwealth Care Customer Service Center***

Customer Service Representatives are available for applicants and members for Enrollment Support And Premium Billing. 1-877-MA-ENROLL (1-877-623-6765) - [www.macommonwealthcare.com](http://www.macommonwealthcare.com)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5 PM.

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, February 8th, 3-5 PM, in Amesbury.

**Please review January Minutes prior to this meeting.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
DeAnna M. Tashjian,  
CHNA 12 Secretary