

COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK AREA 12
Minutes of March 13, 2003 Meeting
Amesbury Health Center
Amesbury, MA 01913

Attending: Paul Muzhuthett, DPH; Susan Johnson, Steering Committee; DeAnna Tashjian, WIC; Kate Keyes, DA's office; Jaime Lennon, DA's office; Nick Costello, Link House, Inc; Sally Manninen, NCHC; Betty Kirk, ESMV; Carl Cacho, Early Intervention; Charlotte Stepanian, Merrimack BOH/COA; Judy Anderson, HHVNA; Nancy Bodwell, AJH; Sue Gustafson, AJH; Diana Denning, VNACare Network; Sara Groesch, TCA; Karen Webber, VNACare Network; Ruth Brophy, Pentucket RSD.

- 1.0: Meeting called to order by Charlotte Stepanian, Secretary due to absence of Andrea Penney, Chairperson. All members present introduced themselves. Minutes of February meeting accepted following correction of omission of Betty Kirk and Paul Muzhuthett from the attendance listing
- 2.0: Treasurer, Judy Anderson reported current balance of \$9,049.73.
- 3.0: **Networking:** Betty Kirk reported that the SHINE program might be eliminated due to the budget cuts. This program provides an advocate to assist elders with their insurance issues and will be sorely missed if eliminated. Carl Cacho stated that the services his agency provides have been hindered by the many program cuts. Sally Manninen announced the MAPP training date to be May 29th at the Regional Health Office in Tewksbury. Save the date flyers were distributed for posting. Nick Costello spoke of the impact the cuts are having upon Link House. St. Patrick's Day fund-raiser will be on Monday, March 17th. Kate Keyes introduced Jaime Lennon, the new Juvenile Justice representative from the DA's office. Diana Denning noted that Healthy Families funding has been restored and are still taking referrals. The First Step program is ending this month at the end of its funding cycle. Oasis is still serving HIV families. DeAnna Tashjian spoke of the WIC program's continued underutilization by eligible participants. Susan Johnson shared the news releases about her trip to the State House with her now-volunteer tobacco kids. Training on Saturday, March 15th at Worcester Centrum for April 2nd State House action. Sue Gustafson spoke of the media blitz that was occurring at AJH that day regarding the "cuts." Sue also announced that this was her last meeting as she's retiring. *We wish her a happy retirement!* Nancy Bodwell reported small cuts to the HIV program. Judy Anderson reported about the upcoming trainings in Leominster and Pittsfield on how to start a walking club later in March. Paul Muzhuthett reminded the group about the Regional Forums scheduled around the state with the new DPH Commissioner and other HHS heads. The Northeast session is scheduled for April 1st at the Regional Health Auditorium in Tewksbury from 11AM—12:30PM.
- 4.0: Dr. Gene Declercq, Boston University School of Public Health, delivered a PowerPoint presentation of the latest survey results for the health of the Merrimack Valley and CHNA 12 communities. Some shifting concerns noted since the last survey. Visit NCHC website for more information at www.nc4hc.org
Kurt Seetoo, DPH Northeast Regional Epidemiologist brought the group up to speed about the role and duties of an epidemiologist and local health department as well as the structure of the Department of Public Health. Each received that latest version of the 105 CMR regulations pertaining to infectious and reportable diseases.

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