

CHNA-12 MINUTES

JANUARY 18, 2001

The meeting was called to order. Twenty people were in attendance, including three new participants: Kathy Paschal, from the Church of Jesus Christ of LDS (Georgetown); Diane Franz, from United Way of the Merrimack Valley; and Martha Hunt Tilton, interested citizen from Newbury, and former nurse.

Dental Project Update: Kathy explained that the Dental Project may not be funded beyond September 30th by the Delta Dental Foundation. Delta Dental was initially interested in the Dental Project due to the fact that several alternative funding sources were listed in the original grant application. These included DPH, DMA, foundations, service organizations, and United Way of the Merrimack Valley. Furthermore, the Dental Project is not self-sustainable, as it is not at the stage in its development where it can bill for services provided. Several participants in the meeting suggested foundations/organizations to be approached for funding. Nancy Bodwell suggested a list be sent around the room, and people wrote their ideas of where to search for funding sources. Kathy also stated that Tufts Dental School has yet to find "appointment time" for the seventeen people from the Dental Project screenings who were seen by students at Tufts last month. There are over 200 people who now need dental appointments, and so she will contact BU and Harvard Dental Schools, as well as a clinic opening in Salem, MA, and one already open in Manchester, N.H. to set up appointments. She has already contacted a few Directors of local C.O.A.'s, and they are willing to send their vans to Salem, MA, and Manchester, N.H. for dental appointments.

Presentation: Charlotte, of the Merrimac Board of Health, Public Health Nurse

Charlotte gave an extremely interesting talk of how Merrimac has progressed in the past 30 years in public health nursing. Merrimac currently has a 3-woman, elected, Board of Health. She has spent the past 30 years as a public health nurse in the town. She explained that a public health nurse is mandated to provide immunizations for the

community. The public health nurse directs health care for the community. Population-based public health services are interventions aimed at disease prevention and health promotion that shape a community's overall profile. The public health nurse is part of a team, and does not work individually.

Margaret Eagar, of MVEC&HEL, made a presentation regarding Environmental Organizations of the Merrimack Valley. She asked for the CHNA's endorsement of a moratorium on more point sources of persistent toxins in the area, i.e. stop the construction of new facilities and/or expansion of facilities that contribute to pollution (mercury, dioxin, lead) in the Merrimack Valley. She explained that there are two incinerators in the area, and one ash landfill in Haverhill. This moratorium is supported by CHNA-11, and concerned physicians, clergy, and citizens within that CHNA's area. A vote was taken, and members present at the CHNA-12 meeting endorsed the moratorium. Co-chairman Bill Browning signed the endorsement.

Announcements:

Dianna Denning-VNA: Feb. 15th, 12:00-2:00 at Haverhill Public Library: quarterly meeting for parent providers.

Diane Franz-United Way of Merrimack Valley, Community Initiatives Director. Information and referral center of United Way; volunteer action center-connects volunteers with agencies.

Lucinda

Marcoux-American Cancer Society: drivers needed in Haverhill area for cancer patients--only 4 volunteer drivers in area.

Emma Brand-YWCA Newburyport/VNA: increase in cervical cancer rates in Salisbury. She also circulated a flyer, which she would like posted on the CHNA-12 website, if possible. The flyer states that Seacoast OB/GYN, in collaboration with the Salisbury Board of Health and Women's Health Network Members, The YWCA of Newburyport and the VNA Care Network, are hosting a "Women's Health Evening On Cancer Prevention" on Wed., Jan. 31 from 5:00-7:30 P.M. at SalisburyElementary School. Free physicals will be provided. If there

are not at least six women signed up for the event, it will be postponed until the following month. The postponement will continue monthly until a minimum of six women have signed up.

Wayne Pineau-TCA: There are 40 active cases of Hepatitis C at the Drop-In Center in Haverhill. IV drug use is spurring the increase in HIV and Hep.C.

Lynne Rurak-Newburyport School Nurse: Hosting a school-wide harassment clinic in Newburyport.

Thouy Chao-CHEC Northeast: Passed out a flyer, and spoke of CHEC's training program for outreach workers.

Kathy Paschal-Church of Jesus Christ of LDS (Georgetown): The women's group at her church in Georgetown is interested in having health workers speak about women's health issues to the group. She is a recent graduate of a B.S. program in social work, and is looking for a job. She was encouraged to pass out her resume.

Bill Browning-Community Action: Recently conducted two interviews for Community TV--Pat Dennehy and a 1-year sobriety survivor; Nancy Bodwell and a person living with HIV. He is interested in scheduling more interviews. Any one interested should contact Bill.

Florence Kennedy-Amesbury High School Nurse: There are currently 17 students at the high school involved in the anti-smoking campaign.