

COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK AREA 12

The Community Health Network 12 is a collaborative whose mission is to improve the health status of the communities.

Amesbury

Paul Muzhuthett called the meeting to order and introduced the new co chairs of CHNA 12 and turned over the meeting to CHNA-12 co-chairs, Bill Browning and Wayne Pineau. All attendees introduced themselves.

Boxford

AGENDA

Georgetown

Groveland

Haverhill

Merrimac

Newbury

Newburyport

Rowley

Salisbury

West Newbury

HAVERHILL FAMILY NETWORK: Funded by Dept. of Education. Provides services to families with children under the age of 4; parents and children support groups; education groups; play groups; young parent support group (under age of 23); and also has a library whose focus is parenting. The agency works with the Parent Advocacy League (Parenting a Difficult Child), and coordinates services with other agencies, such as VNA, Community Action, Head Start, insurance companies, etc. to advocate for young families and to assure that they are not overlooked. This is a one-time visit to connect these families to community services. The first time newborn home program includes both parents. This follows a DPH initiative to assess risk factors of the parents, such as alcohol intake, smoking, and unprotected sex. The agency is promoting family literacy, and is sponsoring a book give-away at Haverhill. Citizens' Center for "Make a Difference Day," held on Sat., Oct. 28th from 11:00-1:00. Families with children under the age of 12 are eligible.

The agency also offers the following: drop-in times at the center, parenting workshops (ex.-CPR). The agency's services are not limited to Haverhill parents: no one is denied services. The agency also publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, with a circulation of 2500. The agency is open to parents and childcare providers, and has a Parent Advisory Council. There is only 2 full-time staff: the Agency is looking to hire more individuals.

There is a Community Resource Team, which meets bi-weekly. This consists of the Haverhill Family Network, VNA, Community Action, Hale Hospital, Pentucket E.I. Program, MSPCC etc. The focus of this team is to provide services and avoid duplication of efforts from each agency to connect the families to area services.

Hale Hospital automatically refers mothers under the age of 20, or who had not received pre-natal care, to the Family Network.

The first-link visits are open to those living outside of greater Haverhill through DPH Regional Office Team referrals.

CHNA-12 MAILING LIST: Paul suggested that the CHNA should maintain a roster/ mailing list. He asked that "new" attendees sign a sheet stating their name, agency, and e-mail address. He stated that everyone who attended the CHNA meeting last month (except for 3 people) have e-mail addresses, and we will begin to send CHNA related information to all of them via e-mail and that those 3 who don't have e-mail, the information will be mailed out to them.

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From now until January 2001, CHNA information will be dispersed in this manner (e-mail/mailings). The agenda and minutes for CHNA-12 will be posted on the CHNA-12 web site: www.chna12.org beginning January 2001, and the hard copy mailings will end except in the case one has no email address.

Charlotte, the public health nurse from Merrimac, asked if the CHNA meeting time could be changed (she has to SPEED along 495 to make this meeting from another meeting in Lowell, which also is held on the 3rd Thursday of the month). The CHNA meeting time can not be moved, since meetings are scheduled until December, 2001.

DENTAL PROJECT: Kathy stated that she received instruments, autoclave, and other supplies--she's still waiting for the dental chair and light. She met with 5 Directors of local Councils on Aging. She will start screenings in the Haverhill COA during the month of November, possibly end of Oct. (still waiting on equipment, so no dates yet). Plans to screen 3-4 days/week at COA. Transportation has been set up with Coppola for \$35.00/hr. Irene O'Brien, Director of the Groveland Council on Aging, has agreed to be the liaison to all COA's in the CHNA regarding the dental project. Each COA director will be notified in advance when Kathy plans to screen at his or her site. Thirty-five people/day is the maximum that Kathy can screen, due to number of instruments. The chair weighs 62 lbs., so help will be needed lifting it. COA directors, in several towns, have agreed to allow Kathy to leave her equipment in their agencies during the screening dates.

A school nurse from Amesbury stated that her town received a grant for \$360,000 over 5 years. to upgrade nurse's offices in schools--needs to include dental in this upgrade. Someone mentioned that Dr. Donald Kowalski, in Groveland, accepts MASSHEALTH.

MARKETING: Bill Browning interviewed Kathy regarding the dental project 2 weeks ago for Community TV. Copies of the tape will be distributed to each town/city within the CHNA. This sparked quite a bit of interest in attendees, and several agency representatives would like to appear on Bill's show, and have copies of their interviews distributed within the CHNA. Potential interview topics include: Safe Homes, Fuel Assistance Program, Sexual Assault Program, West Nile Virus, and Bacterial Meningitis. Sally of the Prevention Center offered to keep copies of Community TV tapes in her agency's library, and lends them to communities within the CHNA.

The number of cable companies within the CHNA is approximately 4, so only 4 copies of tapes would be needed to reach each of the 11 towns/cities. The price of each copy is \$10.00.

CHNA-12 SURVEY: 1999: Sally of the Prevention Center discussed the results of this survey. Tricia Dagle, of the Prevention Center, developed the full survey. The survey dealt with by-law effectiveness, attendance, and organization of CHNA-12. Sally stated that survey participants, for the most part, responded favorably. Since Sally has been a member of the CHNA, she has noticed that "deficiencies" listed in the survey have already been rectified. Paul stated that he would like to have current CHNA members fill out the old survey, and compare the two.

Paul stated that there have been 2772 hits on the CHNA-12 web site during September. Sally stated that several people have said that they want to stay involved, but can't attend meetings. We should mail information regarding the web site to people listed on the OLD mailing list.

Paul stated that unless people visit the web-site periodically and update the information pertaining to their agency and programs, we can't keep the site updated consistently. So please visit the site and update the information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Steering Committee meeting changed to the 4th Tues. of the month, location to be announced. The meeting change will start in November.

Ellen from the Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Program will highlight her agency at next month's CHNA-12 meeting.

Lynn Ricketts will send her information regarding GED classes to the CHNA-12 web site. Apparently, there is a crisis in terms of funding these programs.

Debbie, Haverhill's public health nurse coordinator, will post flu-clinic dates and times. Over 600 elders in Haverhill have already been inoculated

Charlotte, Merrimac's PH nurse, has also started inoculating people against the flu. She stated that a B.S.N. student from St. Joe's, Lowell, will be fulfilling a preceptorship requirement with the public health nurses office in 3 towns/cities.

Jackie stated that over 22,000 children are enrolled in the Children's Medical Security Plan (CMSP).

School nurses from the Triton and Newburyport districts attended the meeting. The Newburyport nurse explained that a hygienist would be speaking to children in each grade regarding dental health. Children in grammar school will learn about oral hygiene; those in middle school will learn about mouth guards; those in high school will learn about chewing tobacco dangers.

Volunteers needed to staff the sexual assault hot line. Training begins the end of this month-Dec., and participants will earn certification. Contact Ellen at the Lawrence Y.W.C.A., Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Program.

Tobacco Prevention/Newburyport: discussion of "NO SMOKING" in Newburyport bars/restaurants has been tabled until Jan., 2001.

Head Start: still looking for 3 teachers (three classes of 18 kids/class have yet to start school this year!). There is a \$100.00 reward for referring a teacher to the program. Head Start is also looking for a cook. Call Colleen at 372-5052.

Augusta Gale, a breast cancer survivor, will be speaking about breast cancer on Oct. 25th at City Hall, from 11:00-1:00.

Bio-Terrorism Lecture: October 26, Andover. Funded by DPH/CDC--call Debby (public health nurse -Haverhill) for more information.