



**General Membership Meeting
November 3, 2016**

9:42 a.m. – 10:51 a.m.

Southcoast Center for Women's Health, 300 B Faunce Corner Road, North Dartmouth, MA

Members present (10): Barbara Acksen, Claudia Alves, Jamie Berberena, Jennifer Chaves, Helena DaSilva-Hughes, Maritza Irizarry, Jay Kenney, Kayla Kinisky, Claudia Sanha, Gloria Villalobo. *If your name does not appear on this list and you attended the meeting, please contact gnballies@gmail.com.*

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:42 a.m. by Chair, Barbara Acksen, who welcomed round table introductions of those in attendance.

Presentation: *Shared Living Program at People, Inc.* (Claudia Alves, Shared Living Program Recruiter/Case Manager)

Claudia Alves, Shared Living Program Recruiter/Case Manager at People, Inc., gave an overview of this program. She said the Shared Living Program at People, Inc., is relatively new to her organization and the Southcoast. It started in June after People, Inc. received a grant and is regulated by the Department of Developmental Services.

Ms. Alves said the program is a residential option that matches a person with a developmental disability with a Shared Living Caregiver. She said Caregivers may be families, couples or individuals. The match between the supported individual and the Caregiver is important to the success of the Shared Living Program. Caregivers offer needed support to the person placed in their home and in return receive a tax free stipend between \$9,000 and \$60,000 depending on the level of disability as well as mutual companionship.

Ms. Alves said the process of becoming a caregiver is long, detailed and rigorous. She said Caregivers begin with an orientation to the program which outlines what their roles and responsibilities will be. They are then required to complete pre-service training. This includes an overview of the agency explaining their mission, vision and values. Furthermore, all Caregivers are



trained prior to placement in first aid, CPR, human rights, fire safety and evacuation. They must also pass a CORI background and fingerprint check.

Once approved, the Caregiver will provide a safe and comfortable home environment and support for the individual with routine daily tasks such as meal preparation, medication administration, arrangement of and transportation to medical appointments, as well as socialization and participation in the community. Their care helps improve a person's quality of life by enabling a person to become more independent and connected within the community.

Ms. Alves said it's been difficult to recruit enough Caregivers from the area. She said if anyone is interested in learning more about the program, they can contact her by phone at 508-689-6114 or e-mail at calves@peopleinc.-fr.org.

Annual Meeting Discussion

Barbara Acksen reported that the Annual Meeting will be held on December 1, 2016. While this annual meeting is held every year, she said this is a biennial year in which the officers of the Steering Committee will be elected. She said the Steering Committee discussed expanding their group to include more members, but decided to keep it the same size in order to reach a quorum at each meeting. She encouraged all General Membership members to attend this important meeting to vote.

Business meeting

Meeting minutes – approval

October 6, 2016 – Helena DaSilva-Hughes moved to approve the report, Kayla Kinisky seconded, with no discussion all members present approved the September minutes.

Treasurer's Report – tabled (until next meeting)

Standing Committee reports

Health Access – Barbara Acksen reported the GNB Health Access Committee has been meeting and working with Rachel Davis, of Southcoast Hospitals, on developing a stronger social media presence. She said she attended a MotherWoman Conference in Worcester in September with co-chair Darlene Dymysza. She said there are currently 12 groups in Massachusetts and the GNB Health Access Committee was one of the original six groups in the state to receive a grant. She said the grant has been extended for a third year and they are currently working on their goals. Of the 12 groups, she said the GNB Health Access Committee is the only coalition in the state. Dr. Acksen



concluded by saying they hope to develop a series of support groups for women in the Greater New Bedford area.

Health Equity –

Helena DaSilva-Hughes reported that the Immigrants' Assistance Center continues to distribute FIT Kits for colon cancer screening. They want to get as much as they can get done through November because U-Mass Dartmouth is doing an analysis of the grant. She also said the Immigrants' Assistance Center are doing a number of presentations to various community groups and churches about colon cancer screening and the response has been noteworthy.

Member Announcements

Members are always welcome to provide handouts for others and to share upcoming events.

- Jennifer Chaves, Site Manager at Health Imperatives of Brockton, MA, noted a few things about her organization. She said Health Imperatives is a non-profit community based agency that provides vital health and human services to more than 27,000 families and individuals each year from communities stretching from Quincy to Nantucket. She said their mission is to improve the health and well-being of low-income or vulnerable families and individuals in Southeastern Massachusetts. With family planning offices in New Bedford and Wareham, she said they offer birth control, pregnancy testing, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), rapid Hepatitis C and HIV testing, reproductive health exams. She said all services are offered confidentially to teens and adults. She said she has been success at providing these services at Wareham High School, but hasn't been as fortunate with New Bedford High School. She asked anyone who could offer their help to contact her at by e-mail at jchaves@healthimperatives.org.
- Claudia Sanha distributed materials regarding the Family Resource and Development Center. She said their new address is 128 Union Street, 3rd Floor, New Bedford, MA 02740. She also distributed a calendar of events for November 2016. For more information about this organization, visit their website at www.frcma.org.

Adjournment

Helena DaSilva-Hughes moved to adjourn the meeting, Claudia Sanha seconded, with no discussion all members present approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 a.m.



Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on December 1, 2016 @ 9:30 a.m. at Southcoast Center for Women's Health, located at 300 B Faunce Corner Road in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts.