



**General Membership Meeting
April 6, 2017**

9:35 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

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

Members present (13): Barbara Acksen, Arthur Briggs, Rachel Collins, Jean DeCoffe, Jay Kenney, Kayla Kinisky, Cristal Medeiros, Kerry Mello, Kathy Murphy, Kathy Spear, Amy Sylvia, Sharon Terreault, and Kathleen Wilbur. *If your name does not appear on this list and you attended the meeting, please contact gnballies@gmail.com.*

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Chair, Barbara Acksen, who welcomed round table introductions of those in attendance.

**Presentation: *Massachusetts Home Visiting Initiative, Meeting Street Early Head Start*
(Sharon Terreault, Director, Early Head Start)**

Sharon Terreault, director of Meeting Street Early Head Start in New Bedford, gave an overview of the Massachusetts Home Visiting Initiative program at her facility. Ms. Terreault said that Massachusetts Department of Public Health awarded Meeting Street Early Head Start a grant to start an evidence-based, home-visiting program in New Bedford. They were one of 17 high need communities selected in the Commonwealth.

As the first home visiting program in the city, Ms. Terreault said that Meeting Street will service up to 36 families through their Early Head Start program. Through the grant, she said their goal is to support parents' efforts to fulfill their parental roles, promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of very young children, move families toward self-sufficiency, and ensure children enter Kindergarten ready to learn.

Ms. Terreault said the program is available to income eligible families with children (newborn to three years old) who reside in New Bedford. She said preference is given to families affected by substance abuse, child abuse or neglect, and those who have had interactions with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. She said they currently have four families enrolled and 13 referrals. Referrals can come from a variety of sources, including pediatricians and obstetricians, early intervention programs, drug treatment programs, Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, and even self-referral.

For those enrolled in the program, each family receives weekly 90-minute visits offering support services related to the child's health and development, age-appropriate parenting, socialization groups, and other services related to the family's goals. Furthermore, staff members help families



re-connect with education or job training and they can provide certain health screenings, among other things.

Ms. Terreault said that Meeting Street Early Head Start utilizes the “Growing Great Kids: Prenatal to 36 Months” Curriculum. She said this evidence-based curriculum is focused on fostering the growth of secure attachment relationships and developmentally enriched, empathic parenting, while supporting families to reduce their stress and build protective buffers for their children. The curriculum is in both English and Spanish.

While this program is still in its infancy stages in New Bedford, Ms. Terreault said it provides a valuable service to families in the community. She concluded her presentation by distributing referral forms to everyone in attendance. For more information, call 508-742-6447 or visit www.meetingstreet.org/EHS. Ms. Terreault can also be contacted directly at 508-742-6445.

Meeting Business

Meeting minutes – approval

March 2, 2017 – Kathy Spear moved to approve the report, Arthur Briggs seconded, with no discussion all members present approved the February minutes.

Treasurer's Report – approval

- Bank balance 2/28/2017: \$198,540.05
- Total Encumbered Funds: \$157,206.29
- Unrestricted net assets: \$43,032.23

Amy Syliva moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Kayla Kinisky seconded, with no discussion all members present approved the report.

Standing Committee reports

Health Access – Barbara Acksen reported that the Health Access Committee met last month and worked on establishing places where they could have support groups. She said they spoke to Lisa Beaudry, the head of maternity services at Southcoast Health, about initiating something at the three hospitals since that is where a majority of women give birth. They are also hoping to get a support group back on its feet at Parenting Teens. Furthermore, Dr. Acksen said the Health Access Committee was brainstorming various community groups to make presentations and distribute educational materials. She said the next meeting of the committee will take place on Thursday, April 13, at 9:30 a.m. at the Kennedy Donovan Center. She said they will be reviewing a report from MotherWoman at this meeting.

Health Equity – Kerry Mello reported that the Healthy Equity Committee has been on a brief hiatus because they just concluded the Cancer Disparities grant. However, she said the Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers (MACHW) is in the process of conducting a census of community health workers (CHWs) to expand its membership in the



Southeastern region of the state. Ms. Mello distributed the census to those in attendance and encouraged members to complete the form and fax it to 508-756-9825, share it with other CHWs, or fill it out online at www.MACHW.org. The form can also be mailed to MACHW, 35 Harvard Street, Suite 300, Worcester, MA 01609.

Ms. Mello said that MACHW is hosting a free community health worker development forum which will focus on behavioral health at the Wareham Free Library on Monday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to noon. Light refreshments will be provided. To register, contact Jackie Toledo by phone at 508-556-1345 or e-mail at jtoledo@centerhealthimpact.org.

Member Announcements

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

- Rachel Collins noted that the Fall River Recovery Connection Center will have an Open House on Wednesday, May 3, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the Fall River RCC, located at 292 North Main Street. There will be refreshments, recovery stories and more. Please RSVP by April 19th to Ms. Collins at collinsr@vinfen.org or 508-675-3137.

Ms. Collins also distributed an April 2017 calendar and flyers for upcoming events they are hosting that month in Fall River, Dartmouth and New Bedford. She said that no health insurance, membership dues or fees of any kind are required to participate.

- Kathy Murphy noted that Terry Mason, Deputy Director for Program and Policy at the Massachusetts Public Health Association, was awarded a Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPW) grant to establish focus groups throughout the state to address the issues of addictive gambling and related issues, including research, prevention and treatment. With the recent approval of a new Twin River Casino location in Tiverton, RI, which directly borders Fall River, MA, she said the DPH wants to get ahead of this issue by training existing community health workers to screen and refer people who have a gambling disorder. She said she would send any information she receives to GNB Allies and we will disseminate it to members by e-mail.
- Kathy Spear noted that High Point Treatment Services is in the process of training its staff on the issues of addictive gambling. She said it's been a long process to get people certified, but they are getting there. They hope to establish support groups in the near future to address this issue.

Ms. Spear also noted that the Metal Health Providers Network will be host a workshop for First Responders and Professional Care Givers on Friday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Southcoast Behavioral Health in Dartmouth. Dr. Donna White will be the keynote speaker. There will also be a panel discussion.

- Kerry Mello noted that she has invited both Elizabeth Tarrant, Vice President of Health Intervention and Prevention at Health Imperatives, and Meredith Swan, Assistant Development Director at the Women's Center, to attend the April 21st GNB Steering Committee meeting.



Adjournment

Jean DeCoffe moved to adjourn the meeting, Rachel Collins seconded, with no discussion all members present approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on May 4, 2017 @ 9:30 a.m. at Southcoast Center for Women's Health, located at 300 B Faunce Corner Road in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts.