



**General Membership Meeting  
January 5, 2017**

**9:37 a.m. – 10:22 a.m.**

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

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**Members present (10): Barbara Acksen, Olivia Botelho, Jean DeCoffe, Jay Kenney, Anne Lynch, Kerry Mello, Claudia Sanha, Amy Sylvia, Christine Sullivan, Gloria Villalobo.** *If your name does not appear on this list and you attended the meeting, please contact [gnballies@gmail.com](mailto:gnballies@gmail.com).*

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**Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. by Chair, Barbara Acksen, who welcomed round table introductions of those in attendance.

**Meeting Business**

**Meeting minutes – approval**

**December 1, 2016** – Claudia Sanha moved to approve the report, Jean DeCoffe seconded, with no discussion all members present approved the September minutes.

**Treasurer's Report – approval**

- Bank balance 11/30/2016: \$201,949.99
- Total Encumbered Funds: \$159,143.58
- Unrestricted net assets: \$47,953.45

Kerry Mello moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Anne Lynch seconded, with no discussion all members present approved the report.

**Standing Committee reports**

**Health Access** – Barbara Acksen reported that the Health Access Committee had a productive meeting in December. She said they reviewed a number of points they wanted to communicate to the Mother Woman Committee. At their next meeting, she said they are going to have a phone call with the group that is doing research with Smith College to go over what they achieved in 2016 and their goals for 2017.



**Health Equity** – Kerry Mello reported that the Health Equity Committee submitted the final report to JSI for the Cancer Disparities Grant. The details of this report will be presented at the February 2, 2017, GNB Allies General Membership Meeting.

## Member Announcements

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

- Claudia Sanha distributed a January 2017 calendar and flyers for upcoming events the Family Resource and Development Center (FRDC) is hosting that month.
  - A “Creative Kids Playgroup” for infants, toddlers and their parents will be held every Tuesday at Ben Rose (35 Delano Street, New Bedford) from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information, call Dina at 508-997-4867.
  - A “Parenting Circle” for parents of middle and high school students will be held every Wednesday at the FRDC (128 Union Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, New Bedford) from 9 to 10:30 AM. For more information, call the FRDC at 508-994-4521.
  - A “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren” support group will be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 5 to 7 p.m. at the FRDC. For more information, call Claudia Sanha at 508-994-4521 x. 106 or Kelly Thatcher at 508-910-1125.
  - A “Mother’s Support Group” promoting sisterhood called the South End Sisters Circle will be held on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Ben Rose. For more information, call the FRDC at 508-994-4521.
  - An eight-week program called Active Parenting of Teens will be held every Thursday at the FRDC beginning on January 26<sup>th</sup>. For more information, call the FRDC at 508-994-4521.
- Anne Lynch noted that the Kennedy-Donovan Center is always taking referrals for their Early Intervention Program. She said the specialized program is certified by the Department of Public Health and provides services to young children who have or are at risk for developmental delays. She said they are currently in the process of starting a new group that will meet on Mondays. To make a referral, e-mail [EarlyInterventionNewBedford@kdc.org](mailto:EarlyInterventionNewBedford@kdc.org) or call 508-997-1570
- Olivia Botelho noted that open enrollment for BMC HealthNet is from November 1, 2016, through January 31, 2017, for 2017 coverage. She said that while premiums did increase over last year, BMC HealthNet is still the most affordable. For more information, visit [www.bmchp.org](http://www.bmchp.org).
- Amy Syliva noted that as of January 1, 2017, South Shore Women’s Resource Center is now South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center.



- Kerry Mello noted that the Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers (MACHW) is conducting a Community Health Worker's Census. They are trying to get a list of everyone so they can provide support when certification starts. By April, they are going to be launching three pilot programs across the Commonwealth and southeastern Massachusetts is going to be the first to take part in it. Ms. Mello will provide additional information to GNB Allies which will be distributed to members by e-mail.

### **Adjournment**

Anne Lynch moved to adjourn the meeting, Jean DeCoffe seconded, with no discussion all members present approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on February 2, 2017 @ 9:30 a.m. at Southcoast Center for Women's Health, located at 300 B Faunce Corner Road in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts.