



**General Membership Meeting  
June 1, 2017**

**9:37 a.m. – 10:47 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, Claudia Alves, Olivia Botelho, Jennifer Chaves, Jean DeCoffe, Maritza Irizarry, Jay Kenney, Anne Lynch, Kerry Mello, and Amy Sylvia.** *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**

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

**Presentation: *Overview of Adult Foster Care* (Claudia Alves, Adult Foster Care Program Recruiter, People Inc.)**

Claudia Alves, Adult Foster Care Program Recruiter at People Inc., gave an overview of her organization. Ms. Alves said that People Inc. offers Adult Foster Care (AFC) as an option for individuals on MassHealth with chronic health care needs. She said the AFC program allows people to enjoy the comforts and atmosphere of a private home with assistance from a paid family or non-family caregiver, while providing a continuum of care services that includes day services, community supports, respite, and residential placement. The AFC program also provides nursing care management and case management to support the family as well as the individual.

Ms. Alves said participants must meet the following eligibility requirements for enrollment:

- Require daily reminders or assistance with at least two of the following: bathing, dressing toileting, eating transferring, or mobility;
- Be at least 18 years old;
- Receive MassHealth;
- Had a physical within the last 12 months;
- Provide TB screening information.

Caregivers, on the other hand, must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Complete an application providing three references;
- Pass a CORI background check;
- Had a physical within the last 12 months and received medical clearance;

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- Provide TB screening information;
- Provide participants with their own bedroom;
- Home must meet the requirements of MassHealth.

Once a placement has been made, Ms. Alves said a registered nurse and case manager will schedule regular home visits to monitor things, as well as provide any necessary training the family may need. People Inc. provides 24-hour emergency support. The caregiver can also have time away for an evening or up to 14 days of vacation every calendar year.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Ms. Alves distributed a brochure and fact sheet about the AFC program to GNB Allies members. For more information about the AFC Program, contact Ms. Alves at 508-679-5233. You can also visit [www.peopleinc-fr.org](http://www.peopleinc-fr.org).

## Meeting Business

### Meeting minutes – approval

**May 4, 2017** – Amy Syliva moved to approve the report, Jean DeCoffe seconded, with no discussion all members present approved the May minutes.

### Treasurer's Report – approval

- Bank balance 4/30/2017: \$195,058.25
- Total Encumbered Funds: \$157,206.29
- Unrestricted net assets: \$42,032.23

Kerry Mello moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Olivia Botelho 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 discussed expanding their provider network. They also discussed providing more trainings and updating their resource guide. She said they've tried a number of different ways to get the word out about their trainings, but they will focus on making office visits and developing relationships in the future because they've found that to be the most effective. Furthermore, Dr. Acksen reminded everyone that the committee meets on the second Thursday of the month. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, June 8, at 9:30 a.m. at the Kennedy Donovan Center in the white building.

**Health Equity** – Kerry Mello reported that Helena DaSivla-Hughes will serve as co-chair of the Healthy Equity Committee moving forward. She said their next meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 13, at 9 a.m. at the Immigrants' Assistance Center.



## Member Announcements

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

- Anne Lynch noted that Kennedy Donovan Center's (KDC) Early Intervention Program is holding a Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 10, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. They will have many fun-filled activities, community resource tables, treats at the bake sale, and raffle items. The KDC is located at 385 Country Street in New Bedford.

Ms. Lynch also 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. To make a referral, e-mail [EarlyInterventionNewBedford@kdc.org](mailto:EarlyInterventionNewBedford@kdc.org) or call 508-997-1570

- Jennifer Chaves, Site Manager at Health Imperatives of Brockton, MA, noted that they have made inroads at several area middle and high schools, including New Bedford. She said they've given presentations and distributed brochures at several schools and the students are coming into their clinics for birth control, pregnancy testing, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), reproductive health exams, and other things. She said all services are offered confidentially to teens and adults. She said they have treated more positive cases of chlamydia during the past month than anyone has seen in a very long time. The New Bedford clinic is located at 651 Orchard Street, Suite 100. The Wareham clinic is located at 106 Main Street. For more information, visit [healthimperatives.org](http://healthimperatives.org).
- Olivia Botelho distributed a handout for BMC HealthNet with information on finding a free or low cost health care plan in Massachusetts. She will give a presentation on BMC HealthNet at the September 7<sup>th</sup> GNB General Membership meeting.

## Adjournment

Jean DeCoffe moved to adjourn the meeting, Olivia Botelho seconded, with no discussion all members present approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on September 7, 2017 @ 9:30 a.m. at Southcoast Center for Women's Health, located at 300 B Faunce Corner Road in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts.