

**General Membership Meeting  
March 3, 2016**

**9:37 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.**

SERHO, 1736 Purchase Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740-6821

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**Members present (19):** Barbara Acksen, Arthur Briggs, Helena DaSilva Hughes, Jean DeCoffe, Eleni Dupuis, Deirdre Healy, Jay Kenney, Bill McCoy, Kerry Mello, Cristal Medeiros, Maria Mendes, Glenys Palomino, Tina Santos, Claudia Soares, Christine Sullivan, Amy Sylvia, Owen Tidwell, Gloria Villalobo, Kathy Wilbur. *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 and Member Introductions**

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

**Presentation: *An Overview of the Services Offered by The Diabetes Association of Fall River (Tina Santos)***

Tina Santos, Youth Services Community Coordinator for the Diabetes Association of Fall River and Director of Camp Jack, gave a presentation on the services offered by her organization. She said the Diabetes Association of Fall River is an affiliate of People, Incorporated. She said their mission is to strengthen their community for each of its members by providing premier services for children and adults of all abilities in a collaborative and creative environment. Through the Diabetes Program of People, Incorporated, their goal is to improve the health and well-being of the communities that they serve by advancing diabetes prevention, early detection, education and disease management.

Through their programming, Ms. Santos said the Diabetes Program of People, Incorporated is committed to providing the following:

- Resources for medical providers;
- Professional education;
- School education and support;
- Hospital, physician and school referrals.

Ms. Santos said the Diabetes Program of People, Incorporated provides a wide range of support and services for children who are at risk for, or diagnosed with, diabetes. These services include:

- Individualized assessment and consultation by a Registered Nurse;
- Backpacks (with supplies and brochures) for newly diagnosed children with diabetes;
- Youth Exercise, Sports and Supports (YESS) Program;

- Emergency Diabetic Supplies and Diabetes Related Materials;
- Fun events throughout the year, including annual holiday parties, Face Painting Night and Fight Boxing.

Ms. Santos also mentioned that youth who are diagnosed with diabetes, ages 5 through 14, can enroll in the Jack Rua Camp for Children with Diabetes (Camp Jack). The camp runs for six-weeks during the months of July and August and is held in Rehoboth, MA. The program's small enrollment and staff-to-camper ratio ensures a quality camp program in which the campers receive plenty of supervision from exceptional role models, take part in a variety of camp experiences and learn something new every day. Program areas include arts and crafts, nutrition and diabetes education, archery, nature and sports. There are also field trips and daily events based on the weekly themes and plenty of special guests and surprises.

Ms. Santos noted the Jerry the Bear Pilot Program has ended at the Diabetes Association in Fall River. Under this program, children take care of a stuffed animal (bear) named Jerry by feeding him a healthy diet and keeping his blood sugar level in a good range by counting carbs and matching insulin doses. When Jerry's blood sugar level goes high or low, Jerry speaks his symptoms, encouraging kids to recognize how they feel.

In addition to their youth and family services, Ms. Santos said the Diabetes Association provides a wide range of support and services for adults at-risk for, or diagnosed with, diabetes. These services are aimed at helping adults manage their diabetes to reduce the incidents of complications and lead long, healthy lives. Some of these services include:

- Emergency diabetic supplies;
- Cooking classes and grocery shopping training;
- Diabetes information and support groups;
- Individualized assessment and consultation by a Registered Nurse;
- Instruction in self blood glucose monitoring and insulin administration;
- Physical fitness classes.

Lastly, Ms. Santos said the Diabetes Association aims to provide comprehensive diabetes education and support throughout the South Coast region. This is accomplished by working with community partners to reach those at risk for, or diagnosed with, diabetes in settings that are accessible to large groups of individuals.

For more information about the Diabetes Association, visit [www.peopleinc-fr.org](http://www.peopleinc-fr.org) or [Facebook.com/DiabetesAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/DiabetesAssociation).

## **Business meeting**

**Meeting minutes – approval**

**February 4, 2016** – Helena DaSilva Hughes moved to approve the report, Owen Tidwell

P.O. Box 7567 New Bedford, MA 02742

[info@gnballies.org](mailto:info@gnballies.org)

seconded, with no discussion all members present approved the February minutes.

**Treasurer's Report** – Jean DeCoffe, Treasurer, reported:

- Bank balance 1/31/2016: \$230,011.97
- Total Encumbered Funds: \$182,115.75
- Unrestricted net assets: \$47,953.45

Owen Tidwell moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Bill McCoy seconded, with no discussion all members present approved the report.

### **Standing Committee reports**

**Health Access** – Barbara Acksen reported that four people have been selected to go to the mother-woman training sessions that will take place on three successive Fridays. Last year, they trained four people but two dropped out. She said they are excited about getting more people trained this year so they will be able to initiate more support groups and have those people train others.

**Health Equity** – Helena DaSilva Hughes reported that the Capacity Building Cancer Disparities group continues to distribute FIT kits for colorectal cancer screening. They have been distributing them at the Immigrants' Assistance Center and other local organizations. She said providing follow up with the people who have received the kits is extremely important and results in a higher percentage of individuals returning them.

Ms. DaSilva Hughes also said that renowned surgeon, Dr. Victor Pricolo, Chief of General Surgery at Southcoast Health, was the guest speaker at a recent Dog Tags Navigators event at Fort Tabor.

### **Other Business**

#### **Updated on youth concerns discussion**

While there was no formal discussion on this topic, Deirdre Healy noted that a student at UMass Dartmouth has been approved to start a Young People in Recovery group. This is a national advocacy and action organization, which supports young adults in or seeking recovery from substance use disorders. UMass Dartmouth is the first campus participating in this program.

#### **Meeting Location Search**

Barbara Acksen noted that GNB Allies has secured a location for its general membership meetings for the months of May and June and September through December. The meetings will be at the Southcoast Center for Women's Health in Dartmouth. She said they are still looking for a meeting location for their April meeting. Members were encouraged to send any additional suggestions to [gnballies@gmail.com](mailto:gnballies@gmail.com).

## Member Announcements

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

- Helena DaSilva Hughes noted that the Immigrants' Assistance Center, Inc. is celebrating its 45th anniversary on Friday, April 8, 2016, at the New Bedford Whaling Museum from 6 to 10 PM. Tickets are \$50 per person, which includes hors d'oeuvres, entertainment and cash bar. The organization is asking for support by placing an ad in their program booklet or by purchasing tickets to the event. The deadline for taking out an ad is March 18<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested can contact Ms. DaSilva Hughes at 508-996-8113. More information is also available online at [www.immigrantsassistancecenter.org](http://www.immigrantsassistancecenter.org).
- Bill McCoy noted that the White Ribbon Campaign is having an annual event today (March 3, 2016) at the State House in Boston. He said the White Ribbon Campaign began in Canada two years after a horrific attack – when a male killed 14 female students in Montreal in 1989. Since then, the White Ribbon Campaign has spread to over 60 countries around the world with men and boys wearing white ribbons and pledging not to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls.
- Kathy Wilbur noted that the towns of Marion and Wareham recently updated their tobacco regulations, prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21. She said Wareham also banned all flavored tobacco products and prohibited the sale of tobacco products within 500 feet of any school.
- Cristal Medeiros noted that the Community Nurse Home Care is a part of the Southeastern Health Initiative for Transformation (SHIFT), a community-based partnership working to address the wellness and health needs in our community. She said there are three stipend opportunities available for anyone interested, including a wellness coach for “A Matter of Balance” and wellness leaders for “My Life, My Health.” There is also an outreach opportunity for nurses, physical therapists and occupational therapists. She said funding for these programs is made possible by the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund grant given to the New Bedford Health Department from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. For more information or to apply, contact 508-717-0717.
- Deirdre Healy noted that world-renowned scientist Dr. Jane Goodall will visit UMass Dartmouth on April 7, 2016. She said this event will introduce the campus and local communities to Dr. Jane Goodall's work. As part of her visit, students in the area are becoming involved in Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots program which aims to empower young people to take action, connect globally and combine forces for a better world. Visit [www.rootsandshoots.org](http://www.rootsandshoots.org) for more information.
- Ms. Healy also noted that April 10 to April 16 is National Volunteer Week. She said UMass Dartmouth will be doing a series of events to highlight volunteerism in the region.
- Amy Sylvia noted that Campus Safety Associates is holding a de-escalation training for human service workers in a home setting called “Verbal Judo: The Gentle Arts of Persuasion.” This training will be held on March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Plymouth Public Library (Otto Fehlow Room) from 9 am to 1 p.m. Additional trainings will be held on March 29 and April 14 at Health Imperatives, Inc., of Brockton. Visit [www.campussafetyassociates.com](http://www.campussafetyassociates.com) for more information.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on April 7, 2016 @ 9:30 a.m.