



**General Membership Meeting
December 7, 2017**

9:40 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

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

Members present (12): Barbara Acksen, Sandra Amaral, Olivia Botelho, Stan Brajer, Arthur Briggs, Juraci Capataz, Gloria Cardona, Krista Cormier, Jenny Costa, Rachel Davis, Jean DeCoffe, Darlene Dymysza, and Christine Sullivan. *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 9:40 a.m. by Chair, Barbara Acksen, who welcomed round table introductions of those in attendance.

Presentation: *Senior Whole Health Benefits and State Passive Enrollment* (Juraci Capataz, Business Development Manager, Senior Whole Health)

Senior Whole Health (HMO SNP) is a Medicare Advantage health plan for seniors 65 years and older that combines MassHealth Standard and Medicare benefits through one point of contact. Each member is assigned a Geriatric Support Services Coordinator (GSSC) and a nurse care manager. This plan is at no cost to the individual. Some Senior Whole Health benefits include:

- No prescription copays and pharmacists on staff to help
- Full/partial dentures and implants at no cost
- Eye exams and glasses
- Nurse care managers who helps to coordinate all services needed
- Health Club memberships
- Healthy You card to buy certain OTC health-related items
- Transportation to and from doctors' appointments
- Home services such as home care, Meals on Wheels, and medication management

This program was piloted in the New Bedford/Fall River area and has now grown to other areas. In the Greater New Bedford area there are about 1,800 members, while there are about 16,000 members throughout Massachusetts. The program offers a wide range of help and attempts to cater to each individual's needs. Behavioral health needs are also met through Beacon Health. For an individual who would not otherwise qualify but could still benefit from the program want to find out more, they may apply for a Frail Elder Waiver. In this case, Coastline Elderly does an assessment to see that the individual meets at least two areas of need.



Passive Enrollment in the program began in the Boston area in April of 2017. Individuals were sent letters stating if they did not choose a program, they would be enrolled in Senior Care Option. If individuals were passively enrolled, they may still elect to dis-enroll from the program. Passive Enrollment will be coming to the Southcoast area by possibly spring 2018.

Meeting Business

Meeting minutes – approval

October 5, 2017 – Arthur Briggs moved to approve the report, Christine Sullivan seconded, with no discussion all members present approved the October minutes.

November 2, 2017 – Darlene Dymza moved to approve the report, Arthur Briggs seconded, with no discussion all members present approved the October minutes.

Treasurer's Report – postponed

- Bank balance 10/31/2017: \$194,184.90
- Total Encumbered Funds: \$157,206.29
- Unrestricted net assets: \$42,032.23

Jean DeCoffe was not able to give the treasurer's report. The report will be voted on at the next general membership meeting.

New Steering Committee Members & Election

The new Steering Committee Member list was presented to those present. New members include Rachel Davis, who will be taking over for Kerry Mello since her retirement, and Jamie Berburino. Without any further discussion, the Steering Committee slate was approved unanimously.

Standing Committee reports

Health Access – Barbara Acksen reported that the Health Access Committee is starting a support group at St. Luke's by the end of January. At their last meeting, they discussed advertising and recruiting for this group. They will continue to discuss possible other locations for other support groups. The Health Access Committee meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:00 am at the Kennedy Donovan Center.

Health Equity – Barbara Acksen reported that Health Equity has been working on developing a CHW training center here on the Southcoast. GNB Allies is part of a consortium with other organizations such as DPH, Southcoast Hospitals, BCC, and the Immigrants Assistance Center. The Consortium is now partnering with JRI to begin some trainings. Their hope is to be able to apply for funding now that there are trainings in place. In the future, the group would like to be able to bring these trainings to other members' organizations as well. The Health Equity Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the Immigrants Assistance Center.



Member Announcements

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

- Olivia Botelho announced a benefit dinner for Unidos Para Familias Fund (United for Families) sponsored by Gifts to Give. This event will be held December 16th at 5:30 pm at the GiftsToGive Philanthropy Factory, Titleist Drive, Acushnet, Massachusetts. For tickets visit www.GiftsToGive.org/december16/ or for more info call 508-717-8715.
- Krista Cormier distributed the Fall River/New Bedford RCC calendar for the month of December. She mentioned there are a few new offerings this month. Calendars may also be viewed at www.southeastrlc.org.
- Stan Brajer reported that hurricane families are still coming in almost every day. For those interested in helping, the next meeting is Wednesday December 20th at 2:00 pm at 128 Union Street, New Bedford.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on January 4, 2018 @ 9:30 a.m. at Southcoast Center for Women's Health, located at 300 B Faunce Corner Road in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts.