



**General Membership Meeting  
February 1, 2018**

**9:35 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.**

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

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**Members present (4): Barbara Acksen, Stan Brajer, Damon Chaplin, 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 9:35 a.m. by Chair, Barbara Acksen, who welcomed round table introductions of those in attendance.

**Business Meeting**

**Meeting minutes** – approval

**December 7, 2017** – Amy Sylvia moved to approve the report, Stan Brajer seconded, with no discussion all members present approved the December minutes.

**Treasurer's Report** – postponed

- Bank balance 12/31/2017: \$195,784.72
- Total Encumbered Funds: \$159,331.29
- 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.

**Discussion of increased communication about services amongst members**

Barbara Acksen began the discussion by reporting that at the November strategic planning meeting members identified a need to increase awareness of services offered in the area. Some ideas discussed were:

- Barbara Acksen said they would continue to send the membership emails about services.
- Jason Kenney is updating GNB Allies website. Amy Sylvia suggested adding links to local organizations' websites. Stan Brajer also suggested looking into which platform is being used and suggested using a paid one that may offer more options. Damon Chaplin said HTML 5 is being used by a lot of area organizations.
- Jason Kenney is updating Facebook and Jenny Costa suggested sharing info with the New Bedford & Fall River guide pages
- Damon Chaplin suggested using Twitter especially with information for trainings and conferences
- Amy Sylvia suggested linking to United Neighbors website, [MyFallRiver.org](http://MyFallRiver.org) and the SouthCoast Hospitals website.



- Amy Sylvia mentioned the earlier discussion of starting panels at general membership meetings

The discussion continued with Damon Chaplin, the new director of the New Bedford Health Department, offering some commentary on practices of CHNAs and area organizations. He discussed different programs focused on the opioid crisis, such as the New Bedford Opioid Task Force, police ride a-longs, and some state funded grants. He referenced the Behavioral Risk Survey being done by the 500 Cities Project which includes both New Bedford and Fall River. He also noted that SouthCoast Health is slated to perform their Community Health Needs Assessment in 2019. He noted that CHNAs generally function as programmers or funders and that each serves a different purpose. Barbara Acksen said that GNB Allies falls under both of these categories. He finished by reporting that the Health Department is working to know what the local organizations are doing in the area and what can be done to support these efforts.

### **Standing Committee reports**

**Health Access** – Barbara Acksen reported that the Health Access Committee is starting a support group at St. Luke’s. Lisa Beaudry gave a presentation to physicians to advertise the group. A flyer was also developed and distributed. The Health Access Committee meets every 2nd 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 collaborative with other organizations such as DPH, Southcoast Hospitals, BCC, and the Immigrants Assistance Center. An MOU between the collaborative and JRI has been drafted and needs to be signed. The collaborative is also looking for a new coordinator because Kathy Murphy stepped down.

### **Member Announcements**

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

- Stan Brajer reported that the work with hurricane families is ongoing. They have now reached about 207 families.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on March 1, 2018 @ 9:30 a.m. at Wamsutta Club located at 427 County Street, New Bedford, MA 02740.