



**General Membership Meeting  
October 5, 2017**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.**

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

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**Members present (13): Barbara Acksen, Kimberly Alvarado, Claudia Alves, Olivia Botelho, Stan Brajer, Jennifer Chaves, Jenny Costa, Joyce Dupont, Abigail Hevey, Marc Huffman, Anne Lynch, Christine Sullivan, Amy Sylvia, and 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**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair, Barbara Acksen, who welcomed round table introductions of those in attendance.

**Presentation: *Health Imperatives: Family Planning Services (Jennifer Chaves, Site Manager, Health Imperatives)***

Jennifer Chaves began the presentation by introducing herself as the director of both the New Bedford and Wareham Health Imperatives sites. The New Bedford site is located in the Howland Building at 651 Orchard Street. Recently DCF has moved into the same building on the fourth floor and CBCC has moved into the third floor. Having these agencies move in has made the building more accessible by having multiple social services available in one place. The Wareham office is located at 106 Main Street, Wareham, MA 02571 and has a few evening clinics. They are looking to add more evening clinics as the office has seen an increase in the number of patients. The New Bedford office sees roughly 22-26 patients a day and the Wareham office sees about 16-18 patients a day.

Health Imperatives provides many services to individuals 13 and over without parental consent. Minors fill out a general and a minor consent form. Individuals also do not have to use their insurance. Fees are decided on a sliding scale through DPH. Services provided include:

- Birth control/contraceptive supplies, information, and counseling
- Breast exams and self-exam education
- Colposcopy for abnormal Pap results
- Emergency contraception ("Plan B" or "Morning after pill")
- Gynecological and male reproductive exams
- Pap test and follow-up, HPV screenings
- Pregnancy testing and options counseling
- Rapid Hepatitis C testing and education
- Rapid HIV testing and education



- Referrals for other health risks and concerns
- Screenings for high blood pressure and diabetes
- Sexually transmitted infection testing, treatment, and education
- Testicular exams and self-exam education
- Urinary tract infections and common GYN problems

As of July 1, they have also begun to prescribe Pep and PrEP for potential exposure to HIV. PrEP is given pre-exposure to reduce the risk of contraction. PrEP can reduce risk by up to 70%. Pep is given post exposure. It is most effective if given within 72 hours. Possible side effects of each are headaches and nausea but it has been reported to disappear within a few weeks. The process to get these medications is easy and patients leave their facility with a week's worth of the medication.

### Meeting Business

#### Meeting minutes – approval

**September 7, 2017** – Jennifer Chaves moved to approve the report, Amy Sylvia seconded, with no discussion all members present approved the September minutes.

#### Treasurer's Report – postponed

- Bank balance 8/31/2017: \$194,423.71
- Total Encumbered Funds: \$157,206.29
- Unrestricted net assets: \$42,032.23

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

### Standing Committee reports

**Health Access** – Barbara Acksen reported that the Health Access Committee has continued to work on setting up post-partum support groups. Mothers who are dealing with post-partum issues will be able to attend these support groups and will have someone to talk to that may be experiencing similar issues. One group should be starting at St. Luke's this month. A flyer will be sent out once they have a date of the first meeting. The Health Access Committee meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 9:00 am at the Kennedy Donovan Center.

**Health Equity** – Kerry Mello was not present so there was no update on Health Equity. The committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m.6 at the Immigrants Assistance Center.

### Member Announcements

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

- Anne Lynch from the Kennedy Donovan Center reported that October is literacy month



and that KDC is collecting gently used books to be distributed to area health centers. For more information visit [www.kdc.org](http://www.kdc.org).

- Stan Brajer announced that the United Way's Family Resource Center will have its next PIPELINE gathering on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at the Family Resource and Development Center, 128 Union Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, New Bedford. This gathering's topic is "Basic Rights of Special Education in Spanish". Call 508-994-4521 to register.
- Abby Hevey from Mass in Motion reported that Snap benefits are doubled at farmers' markets. They are going to be setting up a winter farmers' market and will have more details at the next meeting.
- Amy Sylvia from South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center announced two upcoming events. The first is a 5K Walk/Run against domestic violence taking place at Nelson Park in Plymouth on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Pre-register for the event at [Southshoreracemanagement.com](http://Southshoreracemanagement.com). The second is a Psychic Fair Fundraiser taking place on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 10-4 at 345 Court Street, Suite B, N. Plymouth, MA 02360.
- Marc Huffman from DLH Consulting announced that Doreen Huffman is now offering psychiatric services and has immediate openings. She will see all age groups and will be taking on a case load of about 100 patients.
- Claudia Alves from People Incorporated reported on two programs they are offering in the area. The adult foster care program is for individuals 18 and older. These individuals are allowed to enjoy the comforts and atmosphere of a private home with assistance from a paid family or non-family caregiver. They work toward an ISP goal and involve the whole family. The second is the Shared Living program. This requires the individual to have a diagnosis of a developmental delay. The Department of Developmental Services has models that place an individual into a caregiver's home for short and long term-term placements. People Incorporated provides supports to individuals under these models through their shared living program. Qualified and trained staff are needed to provide temporary or ongoing support for individuals who wish to continue living an active lifestyle in the community. Ms. Alves urges families to make these arrangements while they are still young and able to do so. Their agency is always in need of short and long term placement homes.

### **Adjournment**

Amy Sylvia moved to adjourn the meeting, Jennifer Chaves seconded, with no discussion all members present approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

### **Next Meeting**

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