

General Assembly Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday, March 17th, 2016, from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Location

Manchester Community Resource Center, 434 Lake Ave, 4th floor, Manchester, NH 03103

Attendees

Anna Thomas	Ashley Kitchell	Cathy Kuhn	Craig Chevalier	David Harris
Erin Kelly	Holly Bilodeau	Kevin Kintner	Holly Cekala	Lynne Lorentson
Mark Stokes	Matthew Bouchie	Mikaela Gerry	Nicole Clark	Richard Doyle
Lori Iraheta-Yem	Jennifer Macla	Stephanie Costello	Matthew Davis	Sohpia Defrancesco
Arlene Agosto	Marianne Savarese			

12:00 Meeting begins

Neighborhood Health Improvement Strategy

- I. This initiative began by mapping out specific needs/issues, such as hunger, health, and crime, which repeatedly showed that the same neighborhoods are experiencing all of these problems. The initial people organizing this program went out and conducted over 500 surveys, noting people's concerns, wants, and needs.
- II. This eventually prompted a collaboration between state and federal levels of funds to implement larger scale change; the idea being that there were all these people individually funding these programs, but not communicating, whereas they could do more good if they worked together.
- III. This strategy currently focuses on a handful of community-school based neighborhoods and will eventually expand. To choose the neighborhoods they would begin with, they looked at such factors as poverty, crime, the presence of City Years in their school, as well as the readiness of the neighborhood and schools to bring it in. They also stayed out of neighborhoods which already had a driving focus behind, so as to not compete with other programs.
- IV. The benefit of this program is that it receives grant money for the community, while bringing equity and alleviating symptoms of poverty in our neighborhoods. While it currently focuses on reducing toxic stress and adverse childhood incidences in children, eventually, it will focus on all demographics of the population.
- V. Overall, good connectivity among resources builds a culture of health in our community.

Blue Cross Blue Shield

- I. This program is for those who receive both Medicare and Medicaid. If your participants qualify for this program, it is a great way to get coverage for health needs they might otherwise not receive (vision, dental, over the counter medicines, transportation to doctor's visits, etc).
- II. Joann Sherwood is willing to come out and meet potentially eligible individuals. For larger groups, she is able to come on a regular basis. For example, she can be found once a month at Hope for NH Recovery and is willing to do this with other agencies.
 - a. Feel free to contact Ms. Sherwood directly. Her phone number is 663-8716.

SOAR

- I. Marianne Savarese gave us a presentation on SOAR, a disability application system.
- II. Everyone has the right to apply for disability and there's no penalty for being turned down.
- III. Ms. Savarese walked us through the process of applying for disability, including how to write a good letter for proof of disability and some of the common restrictions to receiving welfare.

1:15 Meeting Concludes

Minutes Prepared By

Nicole Clark

Manchester Continuum of Care Coordinator, VISTA