

TEEN PREGNANCY TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2010

I. Call to order

Marcia Spector called to order the sixth meeting of the Teen Pregnancy Task Force at 2:05 PM on April 14, 2010 in the Suffolk County Legislative Building, North County Complex, Hauppauge, NY 11788.

II. Roll call

The following Task Force Members were present:

Lorraine Gariboldi, Life Center of LI, Inc., Laura Giardino, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Penny Ilberg, Department of Social Services, Molly Licalzi, Eastern Suffolk BOCES, Judith Specht, RN., Stony Brook Hospital, Marcia K. Spector, SNAP, Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, Legislator, 5th District

The following Members were present:

Clerical Staff - Ann Maurren, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Ginny Suhr, Legislative Aide

The following visitors were present:

Patricia Mininni, Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library, Gina D'Andrea Weatherup, Planned Parenthood

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes were reviewed. P. Ilberg distributed an additional handout listing TASA catchment areas distributed between Babylon Youth Bureau, Colonial Youth and Teen Parent Resource Center. Because oftentimes reimbursement through third party billing does not cover the cost of providing services, agencies are not able to provide sufficient services. There are 200-275 clients seen annually and no outreach is being done at this time. P. Ilberg would recommend that the state re-evaluate the program to obtain funding. Preceding information will be added to the minutes from April 14th. Minutes were reviewed with no other changes. Leg. V. Vilorio-Fisher made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by J. Specht, minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Chairperson's Report:

- a) M. Spector asked the Task Force about other topics they would like to learn more about prior to submitting a report to the legislature. M. Spector has scheduled a panel of speakers on statutory rape at the May 19th meeting. L. Gariboldi will present at the June 2nd meeting. M. Spector suggested inviting male staff from SNAP to present also. S. Witzenburg will present on June 16th. Leg. V. Viloría-Fisher requested clarification regarding comprehensive sex education versus abstinence only curricula. L. Giardino responded that the Health Department program consists of comprehensive health education versus sex education. Leg. V. Viloría-Fisher reported that the Task Force must reflect the “consensus of where we are in the group” and dissenting information must be expressed as well. M. Licalzi stated that the focus must be on making positive life choices in all areas, not just decisions about sexual activity. M. Spector stated that we must cover 2 important areas including capacity, which is how bodies work and motivation, which includes skill building and healthy relationships. L. Gariboldi commented that we must encourage “no” to premarital sex, drinking, drugs, etc. and parents must also be educated. Leg. V. Viloría-Fisher responded that if teens are going to engage in these activities, they must do so with care and precaution. J. Specht commented that many young people do not have reliable and positive parenting relationships. The media frequently depicts parents as illiterate and children as smart. P. Ilberg commented that we don’t support “cool” on television shows, internet, etc.
- b) Discussion was held regarding the influence of technology on teens. Overuse of technology may lead to limited learning of verbal and social communications skills in young people. Bullying and sexual messages are frequently sent through the internet and texting. Leg. V. Viloría-Fisher suggested using Google, Yahoo or Facebook for PSAs. L. Gariboldi mentioned “Parents Speak Up National Campaign” which is a free media campaign to support parents and children. In Colorado, the entire state has participated in “Say No To Sex” posters and signs in stores, PSAs, media, etc. to send the message. P. Ilberg suggested peer to peer advocates and blogging may be helpful ways to reach out to teens. Leg. V. Viloría-Fisher suggested we reach teens and parents at the sports field. M. Spector added that 80% of male teens get school physicals.

V. Review of April 20th Public Hearing in Brentwood

- a) M. Spector reported that the public hearing in Brentwood was very well attended and Task Force members were quite impressed with the attendees. There were representatives from domestic violence agencies and a group of male students from Brentwood provided valuable insights to ways to work with teens. L. Giardino reported that they appeared to have formed a brotherhood to support each other. Leg. V. Viloría-Fisher commented that the community outreach attendees provided positive messages about the community.

- b) Discussion was held regarding topics for upcoming meetings. Jill Porter from Probation was suggested as a potential speaker. Other topics included funding for adolescent pregnancy, health care reform and how it will impact prevention and services, pornography and gang activity. M. Spector would also like suggestions regarding speakers in the future. Leg. V. Viloría-Fisher suggested the possibility of holding umbrella meetings twice a year, “Task Force of Task Forces.”
- c) M. Spector also reported that the date of the SNAP “Leaders of the Future” conference will be on May 20th and not May 27th, as was previously stated in the 4/14/10 minutes. The Task Force is invited to attend the conference.
- d) The Teen Pregnancy Task Force final report is due by June 30th. Leg. V. Viloría-Fisher commented that she can request an extension if necessary.

VI. Presentation by Laura Giardino, Suffolk County Department of Health Services

- a) L. Giardino presented information about clinical services for teens provided by the Department of Health Services beginning with a handout including 2009 Prenatal Statistics related to all the health centers. These services include prenatal, family planning and public health nursing. Statistics from each of these services were provided. Barriers and obstacles specific to teens were discussed. These include: waiting times due to limited family planning staff, appointment times available and confidentiality issues.
- b) The highest rate of teen pregnancy is in Brentwood. The majority of health center patients are Hispanic. Most nurses have taken a “Spanish for Professionals” class to work with Spanish clients since many of them read at a third grade level. L. Giardino reported that health centers offer excellent care including teaching, referrals, drug and alcohol counseling.
- c) See Addendum A for a list of Suffolk County Health Centers.

VII. May 4th Public Hearing in Mastic Moriches Shirley Library

- a) The public hearing in Shirley will take place on Tuesday, May 4th, at the Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Community Library from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Christina Noonan will provide flyers.
- b) Outreach will include contacting Brookhaven Youth Bureau, Colonial, Bishop Hale, who runs an African American church, FSL, South Brookhaven Health Center, BMH and BOCES.

VIII. New Business

- a) Leg. V. Viloría-Fisher discussed doulas and the important role that they play for women. M. Spector responded that Southside Hospital has shown an interest in using doulas to support teens in labor.

IX. Adjournment

Marcia Spector made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 PM, seconded by Judy Specht. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Ann Maurren

ADDENDUM A
Suffolk County Department of Health Services
Guide to Countywide Health Centers

Brentwood Family Health Center
1869 Brentwood Rd.
Brentwood, NY 11717
853-3400

Dolan Family Health Center
284 Pulaski Road
Greenlawn, NY 11740
425-5250

The Elsie Owens North Brookhaven County
Health Center at Coram
82 Middle Country Road
Coram, NY 11727
854-2301

Kraus Family Health Center at Southampton
Schenck Building
Meeting House Lane
Southampton, NY 11968
852-8852

The Marilyn Shellabarger South Brookhaven
Family Health Center East at Shirley
550 Montauk Highway & Dorsett Place
Shirley, NY 11967
852-1000

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Health Center
1556 Straight Path
Wyandanch, NY 11798
854-1700

The Maxine Postal Tri-Community Health Center

Riverhead Health Center
County Center
300 Center Drive
Riverhead, NY 11901
852-1800

South Brookhaven Family Health
Center - West
365 East Main St.
Patchogue, NY 11772
854-1300

The Suffolk County Health Center
at East Hampton
316 Accabonac Road
East Hampton, NY 11937
852-7608

1080 Sunrise Highway
Amityville, NY 11701
854-1000