

***TEEN PREGNANCY TASK FORCE***  
***Meeting Minutes***

June 2, 2010

**I. Call to order**

Marcia Spector called to order the eighth meeting of the Teen Pregnancy Task Force at 2:05 PM on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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, Judith Specht, RN., Stony Brook Hospital, Marcia K. Spector, SNAP, Lorraine Squires, Mastic Moriches Shirley Community Library

The following Members were present:

Resource to Task Force - Sandra Gil, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Clerical Staff - Ann Maurren, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Ginny Suhr, Legislative Aide

The following visitors were present:

Dan Amato, SNAP, Maria Barbara, Legislative Aide to Tom Cilmi, Legislator Tom Cilmi, Gina D'Andrea Weatherup, Planned Parenthood, Charles Fox, SNAP, Ken Grotell, SNAP, Luciana Reali, Life Center of LI, Joseph Weinstein, SNAP

**III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Minutes were reviewed with no changes. L. Giardino made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by P. Ilberg, minutes were unanimously approved.

**IV. Chairperson's Report:**

- a) M. Spector discussed future task force meeting dates and time lines. G. Suhr reported that the report deadline has been extended to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.
- b) M. Spector described future retreat meeting as a longer meeting, possibly in a different venue and including a facilitator to focus on specific areas and ideas to assist the Task Force in the preparation of the report to the Legislature. L. Giardino suggested Cicitelli Associates, Inc., an organization that provides

- excellent professional training on multiple topics. She will contact them and report at the next meeting. M. Spector also suggested Healthy Teen Network, however, they charge for their services.
- c) M. Spector questioned the possibility of available funding for a full day retreat. G. Suhr will discuss this possibility with Leg. V. Villoria-Fisher. If no funding is available, a “pot luck” lunch and free venue will be considered.
  - d) M. Spector remarked that some members were not able to attend the June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. L. Giardino offered to facilitate but speakers were not scheduled, therefore, the June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting has been cancelled. S. Gil will contact speakers to discuss immigration laws and possibly provide information to help clients understand the PCAP application. Suggestions for speakers were the president of Long Island Wins, Catholic Charities and the president of the Long Island Latina Teachers Association.
  - e) M. Spector suggested two meetings in July and no meetings in August. It was decided to schedule a meeting on Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 and the extended meeting on Wednesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - f) M. Spector asked Leg. Cilmi to contact the East Islip School Superintendent to appoint a new school member to attend the Task Force meetings. The group agreed that school representation is essential to decision making for this issue.

#### **V. June 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing in Babylon**

- a) The public hearing took place on Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Babylon Town Annex. The hearing was well attended with 25 speakers. P. Ilberg commented about issues being raised regarding abstinence vs. comprehensive health education. G. Suhr responded that abstinence and comprehensive health education are not exclusive entities and that parents play an important role. S. Gil commented that most teens are not aware of options.
- b) M. Spector commented that the Speak Out was a great success and teen values vary by community. L. Giardino agreed that a public education campaign to raise awareness about the teen pregnancy issue, as suggested at the public hearing, is something to consider. Schools and medical professionals can play a larger role in raising awareness about teen pregnancy and reaching out to teens.
- c) Students with special needs and mental illness must be included in the Task Force considerations.

#### **VI. Presentation by Lorraine Gariboldi, Life Center of Long Island, Inc. and Luciana Reali, Health Educator**

- a) L. Gariboldi introduced the presentation by describing the Life Center, which has been in operation for 25 years and is located in Deer Park, Massapequa and Hempstead. L. Gariboldi introduced Luciana Reali, health educator, who reported that The Life Center received a grant which requires a survey to be completed

- before and after the educational classes. Studies show that there is a significant positive change in attitude and delayed initiation of sexual activity following the completion of classes.
- b) L. Reali presented a powerpoint explaining skills for being abstinent. She described three classes of teens; those not having sex, moveables (not really sure which way is right for them) and those having sex. The program promotes self esteem and setting goals. The curriculum provides programs during school, after school and summer; including instructors both male and female, culturally diverse, parent and faculty workshops, peer education and multimedia activities. Discussion includes abstinence and pregnancy, creative dating, how to build strong relationships and information regarding abusive relationships.
  - c) L. Reali concluded the presentation by reading a success letter from a client saying how the program had changed her life. Surveys have proven successful concluding changed attitudes about pregnancy and STDs. Discussion resumed with comparisons between abstinence programs and comprehensive health education indicating a common goal, which is “we all care about kids.”

**VII. Presentation by Dan Amato, Charles Fox, Ken Grotell and Joseph Weinstein on Adolescent Male Attitudes Towards Sexuality and Pregnancy**

- a) K. Grotell commented that the importance of being a health educator is the connectedness with the students. He believes that the students consider him family or a surrogate parent. Movie stars and athletes are not always good role models and teens just want to know that there is someone who cares. Education and information must be ongoing and available to improve effectiveness.
- b) J. Weinstein commented that older males are afraid to ask questions or go to programs to avoid embarrassment. Males basically value what other males are doing and look for a mentor. He recommends giving information before they ask and continue to repeat the information even after they say “I already know.” He recommends targeting athletes during mandatory physicals.
- c) C. Fox commented that we need to engage more in the faith based community, since it is the lifeline of the black community. He believes that many males believe that contraception is the female’s problem and there is a tremendous lack of fatherhood participation and positive male role models. M. Spector recommended more fatherhood initiatives. S. Gil responded that Headstart has a program improving the image of fathers to a child. C. Fox commented that music is an important area to consider since women are portrayed as sex objects and music is heard throughout the country. Media awareness is crucial to distinguish between reality and fantasy.
- d) D. Amato believes that most teens believe the information they hear most often and the most important fact they learn is they have the ability to make choices. It

is very important that they receive correct information to give them a feeling of self efficacy.

**VIII. New Business**

- a) M. Spector distributed reports for all members to read entitled National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health and Guiding Principles for Sexual Health Education for Young People: A Guide to Community-Based Organizations.

**IX. Adjournment**

Lorraine Squires made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 PM, seconded by Judy Specht. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Ann Maurren