

Western Massachusetts

# Health Access Network



September 11, 2009

Jones Library – Amherst, MA

## Attendance:

Shirley	Allen	Caring Health Center	(413) 731-1100, x2018	sallen@caringhealth.org
Laura	Anderson	Community Partners Inc.	(413) 253-4283	landerson@comparters.org
John	Bergeron	Hilltown Community Health Center	(413) 667-2203	jbergeron@hchcweb.org
Danna	Boughton	Community Action	(978) 249-5634, x766	dboughton@communityaction.us
Molly	Butler	Department of Public Health	(413) 586-7525, x1148	Molly.Butler@state.ma.us
Ana	Castillo-Herrera	Baystate Health System	(413) 794-3336	Ana.Castillo-Herrera@baystatehealth.org
Michael	DeChiara	ENGAGE Consulting	(413) 259-1009	michael@michaeldechiara.com
Olga	Deshchenko	Community Health Outreach Coalition		odeshchenko@gmail.com
Terrie	Edson	Franklin County Home Care	(413) 773-5555	tedson@fchcc.org
Brian	Eno	Community Action	(413) 475-1573	beno@communityaction.us
Carolyn	Heiden	Franklin Medical Center	(413) 773-2725	carolyn.heiden@bhs.org
Octavio	Hernandez	Community Health Programs	(413) 528-9311, x2140	ohernandez@chpberkshires.org
Cristina	Huebner	Caring Health Center	(413) 693-1017	chuebner@caringhealth.org
Peter	Kaminski	Amherst Survival Center	(617) 875-7189	pkaminski@gmail.com
Deborah	Kinney	Baystate Health System	(413) 322-4463	deborah.kinney@baystatehealth.org
Meg	Kroepelin	Community Partners Inc.	(413) 253-4283	mkroepelin@comparters.org
Gary	Lapon	Holyoke Community Health Center	(413) 420-2139	Gary.Lapon@hhcinc.org
Lynne	Lavinio	Baystate Medical Center	(413) 395-7885	llavinio@bhs1.org
Carol	Lewis	Community Partners Inc.	(413) 253-4283	clewis@comparters.org

Jacqueline	Matta	Cooley Dickinson Hospital	(413) 582-2846, x6	Jacqueline_Matta@Cooley-Dickinson.org
Judy	McCoy	Baystate Mary Lane Hospital	(413) 967-2250, x72609	judy.mccoy@bhs.org
Simon	Muil	Insurance Partnership/Employee Benefits	(413) 896-0080	smuil@4ip.org
Sonia	Negroni	Caring Health Center	(413) 739-1100, x3151	snegroni@caringhealth.org
Ann	Poole	Tapestry Health	(413) 582-0192	apoole@tapestryhealth.org
Anne	Rosen	Community Partners Inc.	(413) 253-4283, x19	arosen@comparters.org
Lydia	Sanchez	Caring Health Center	(413) 739-1100, x2137	lsanchez@caringhealth.org
Trisha	Smallman	Amherst Survival Center		totrisha@aol.com
Diana	Stein	League of Women Voters	(413) 253-9572	dstein@mtholyoke.edu
Cheryl	Thomson	Fairview Hospital	(413) 854-9608	cthomson1@bhs1.org
Aurora	Vicente	Holyoke Community Health Center	(413) 420-2183	aurora.vicente@hccinc.org
Sandy	Vysocky	Community Action	(978) 544-8091, x768	svysocky@communityaction.us
Margaret	Ware	Elder Services of Berkshire County	(413) 499-0524, x109	shinedpt@esbci.org
Jackie	Wolf	League of Women Voters	(413) 549-2958	lwvahealthcare@yahoo.com
Lorraine	York-Edberg	Franklin County Home Care	(413) 773-5555, x275	lyork-edberg@fchcc.org

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community  partners

Friday, September 11, 2009

Jones Library, Downstairs Meeting Room

Amherst, Massachusetts

## AGENDA

- 9:50 AM Refreshments and settle in
- 10:00 Welcome, introductions; review agenda and materials
- 10:15 Community updates
- 11:00 State program and policy developments *plus* "What's happening with state and national health care reform?"  
*Brian Rosman*, Research Director, Health Care For All
- 12:00 Adjourn

## **Group Mission and Agreements**

The **Western Massachusetts Health Access Network (HAN)** meeting is designed to bring together individuals, organizations, and systems around health care access issues in Massachusetts. Though participants may embrace different perspectives on how best to expand health care services, all are committed to improving access to care for low and moderate-income members of their communities.

HAN meeting participants generally fall within three different groups. The first group consists of the community-based organizations that provide frontline services to individuals in need of health benefits. The second group is the state agencies that run the state's publicly funded health care programs. And the third is a group of advocates that track public policy and promote community engagement in health access issues on a legislative level.

Community Partner's role in HAN is to facilitate the meetings and to create a safe space in which people are comfortable engaging with one another on issues related to health care access. Community Partners also provides administrative support for these meetings.

The meetings serve 4 objectives:

1. to exchange information among meeting participants
2. to build relationships and support one another in our collective work
3. to share experiences and best practices, and
4. to advocate for increases in the number of people who receive the health care services they need

## **Group Agreements**

1. Listen respectfully. Talk one at a time
2. Everyone will be heard
3. Act as a reliable resource for others – bring printed information to share
4. Welcome new people – this is not a closed group
5. Appreciate our successes
6. Give constructive criticism
7. Respect that there is a limited amount of time for everyone to speak
8. Have a clear agenda
9. Start and end on time
10. Provide meeting-to-meeting follow-up
11. Explain acronyms