

NEWSLETTER

Coalition News

Vol IV, #10

Coalition Coordinator : Al Bashevkin 664-4511 x519; 802-442-5200.
The Northern Berkshire Health and Human Services Coalition is supported by the Berkshire Area Health Education Center with funding from UMASS Medical School. The Coalition is hosted by North Adams State College.

June 1990

Coalition's 4th Annual Meeting :

*A Medieval Moral Murder
Mystery Play in Modern Dress*

Date : Friday June 15, 1990

Time : Noon (sharp) to 2 PM

Place : North Adams State College, "The Pub"

Cost : \$10

Catering : Hot meal catered by ARA Food Services

Program : Peer Recognition Awards

Coalition Year in Review

The Life and Death Struggle of Human Services

*-Starring many of the public and private
forces within our society today*

Directed By StageStruck: Murder for Hire

Guaranteed to be the Most Memorable Annual Meeting Yet !

**REGISTRATION FORMS ARE INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER.
DON'T DELAY, REGISTER TODAY !!!!!**

Coalition News is the newsletter of the Northern Berkshire Health and Human Services Coalition. Its function is to keep the mailing list informed of what's happening around the Northern Berkshire area. It's a service to the entire COALITION mailing list (about 300). Announcements submitted to the newsletter will reach our entire mailing list. So, take advantage of this unique, free mechanism for informing our friends of news important to all. Please submit these announcements to Al Bashevkin, Coalition Coordinator, P.O. Box 1417, Bennington, VT 05201. Coalition News will be on vacation until September. For insertion into the September newsletter, announcements should reach Al Bashevkin by August 23.

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What's Happening I

- May's Events

May Coalition Meeting

Many thanks to the special guests that attended the May Coalition meeting. The stigma of mental illness is a problem that lingers and creates greater difficulties for persons with emotional difficulties. Thanks to a quiz from Meg LeRay, NBMHA, we all learned a little more about the extent of mental health problems in our country. Rich Malluzo, Director of Greylock Pavilion, offered some thoughts about the variety of factors influencing one's mental health. Bob Doyle and Judith Aiden of the Northern Berkshire Alliance for the Mentally Ill gave Coalitioners information about their organization. Pam Knisley of CommonGround talked about how the needs of mental health clients may go beyond the scope of traditional mental health services and how a friendly match up through CommonGround may help. Gavin Behrans of NBMHA talked about the needs of the dual diagnosed. Dianne Carrier, staff person for AdLib, helped Coalitioners see mental illness as more than a black/white situation. Marjorie Cohan discussed the advances that the Berkshire County DMH office has made towards involving the consumers of mental health services in mapping the future of those services. Thanks to all who contributed to this most interesting forum.

Trish Kelly was a last minute representative for John McManus who was organizing representatives from the health and human services industry to meet with leaders of the State Senate. Apparently, John was quite successful in his advocacy efforts (more on advocacy later in newsletter). Trish cautioned Coalitioners about the MMA referendum question which will earmark 40% of State revenue from new growth to be returned to cities and towns as new aid. The Council opposes this referendum as there is some question whether these new local resources will fund local education or health and human services.

Pam Gilchrest spoke to Coalitioners about Berkshire Sane/Freeze's upcoming advertisement that will address the peace dividend. The Coalition overwhelmingly supported efforts to turn unneeded defense dollars into domestic social programs, and so supported the Sane/Freeze advertisement. Pam, on behalf of the South Central County Community Coalition, is also seeking help for the TEAM petition drive. Eight thousand more signatures are needed state-wide, due to a technicality in referendum legislation.

Looking Ahead

It really has been a most eventful year, and Coalitioners will have a time to unwind, recognize the work we have all done, honor the winners of the Coalition Peer Recognition Awards, win door prizes, network, and hunt down clues in search of solving the medieval moral murder mystery play in modern dress. Guaranteed to be a time to remember. Thanks to Thorman Hulse of StageStruck (662-2873) for producing this event. Be sure to send in your registration now, as time is short and seating will be limited.

Alcohol and Other Drugs Task Force

A core of dedicated Coalitioners met on May 8 at the NB United Way office to discuss increasing concerns about the abuse of alcohol and other drugs in the Northern Berkshire area. The Friday evening preceding the task force meeting there were seven arrests in North Adams for driving under the influence. There seems to be a pervasive sense of community denial about these problems. The task force decided to talk to the greater Northern Berkshire community in search of a community consensus of what the problem is and what needs to be done. It is hoped that this task force will include all who are affected (merchants, parents, college officials, youths, service providers, police, clergy, school officials, city officials, etc.) by the abuse of alcohol and other drugs. The next task force meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 31 at 10 AM** at the office of Northern Berkshire United Way. For more information and to help out, contact Al Bashevkin.

Parenting Issues Task Force

Exciting news has generated from the work of the Parenting Issues Task Force. Berkshire Center for Families and Children and the Northern Berkshire Family Life Support Center are collaborating on a summer parenting program entitled, **Summer Break for Parents**. Each Tuesday and Thursday from 10 AM until 1 PM, "Summer Break for Parents" will offer Support and Educational programming for parents, child care for children, and lunch for all. On Tuesday, an educational/ support group entitled "Taking Care of Yourself" will run from 10:30 - 11:30 AM. On Thursday from 10:30 - 11:30 AM, an educational/support group entitled "Anger Management" will be held. Recreational programming will run from 11:30 until noon, to be

followed by lunch (provided by Louison House). Transportation to and from Louison House can be arranged. The cost for "Summer Break for Parents" is free. This is an outstanding opportunity. To participate in this program, parents should call either **Margo Randall** or **Pat Blair** at the Family Life Support Center office in North Adams, **664-8279**.

Voter Information Drive

Coalitioners have expressed an interest in increasing the numbers of registered voters in the Northern Berkshire area. Northern Berkshire residents need information about how to register to vote, and why they should do just that. So, the Coalition is about to embark on a summertime voter information drive. To register to vote, all one needs to do is go to city hall and register. It's that simple. We're asking people to donate two hours to help us with this cause. Interested? Come to the meeting, **Thursday, June 21 at 11 AM at Northern Berkshire United Way** and find out how you can help. For more information, contact Al Bashevkin.

Budget Crisis Information

Health and Human service advocates breathed a sigh of relief when the House Ways and Means and then the full House passed a \$1.2 billion tax package. If a tax package hadn't passed, then debate would have centered about further cuts to an already decimated health and human services budget. Even better news is the Senate version of the State budget which offers real progressive tax reform at its best and raises \$1.6 billion in new tax revenues. Despite all the good news about a tax package, many organizations will have trouble making ends meet. The North Adams Public School System is willing to lay off its only school adjustment counselor. Two years ago that school system had a curriculum coordinator, health educator, and at least two adjustment counselors. Cutting those positions is an example of the pain and consequences of the state's budget dilemma. The North Adams CDC is at risk of losing much of its CEED grant monies, which is used to spawn small business and affordable housing. The State's priorities have shifted in the past two years, and there will be difficult battles in the years ahead. Let's hope a new era of compassionate government has begun. Our next step is to insure that the budget out of the House and Senate conference committee is a progressive one. For info on its status and how to help contact the Mass Human Services Coalition, 617-482-6119.

TEAM's (Tax Equity Alliance of Massachusetts) initiative needs 8000 new signatures to get on the ballot for November. With the new tax initiatives, it is unclear how the TEAM initiative will be used in November. What is clear is the need to defeat the CLT initiative which will put the state back in its budget dilemma. For more information on how to help TEAM and what you should do, you can call them at 617-426-1228.

LISTING OF NORTHERN BERKSHIRE AREA 12 STEP SUPPORT GROUPS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS :

MONDAY

10 AM	St Thomas' Church	Adams
1 PM	Notre Dame Parish	North Adams
8 PM	Methodist Church	North Adams

TUESDAY

10 AM	St Thomas' Church	Adams
Noon	St Anthony's Church	North Adams
7:30 PM	1st Baptist Church	Cheshire
8:30 PM	St John's Church	Williamstown

WEDNESDAY

9 AM	Salvation Army	North Adams
Noon	Methodist Church	North Adams
8 PM	St Mark's Church	Adams

THURSDAY

10 AM	St Thomas' Church	Adams
Noon	Methodist Church	North Adams
8 PM	St John's Church	North Adams
8:30 PM	St John's Church	Williamstown

FRIDAY

10 AM	St Thomas' Church	Adams
Noon	Notre Dame Church	North Adams
6 PM	Methodist Church	North Adams (women's meeting)
8 PM	NARH (Clarke House)	North Adams
8 PM	St Francis' Rectory	North Adams

SATURDAY

9 AM	St Thomas' Church	Adams
1 PM	St Raphael's Church	Williamstown
8:30 PM	St Francis' Rectory	North Adams

SUNDAY

1 PM	St Raphael's Church	Williamstown
6 PM	St Thomas' Church	Adams
8:30 PM	St John's Church	Williamstown

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS :

MONDAY

Noon Notre Dame Church North Adams

TUESDAY

7 PM Methodist Church North Adams

WEDNESDAY

Noon Notre Dame Church North Adams

7 PM St Francis' Church North Adams

THURSDAY

6 PM Methodist Church North Adams

FRIDAY

No scheduled meetings

SATURDAY

Noon Notre Dame Church North Adams

SUNDAY

No scheduled meetings

AL-ANON :

TUESDAY

8:30 PM Williams College Chapel Williamstown

WEDNESDAY

8 PM St Mark's Church Adams

THURSDAY

8 PM Methodist Church Williamstown (ACOA)

FRIDAY

Noon St Anthony's Parish North Adams

SUNDAY

8:30 PM North Adams (temporarily in transition)

**THESE LISTINGS CAN CHANGE. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
THE LOCATION OF 12 STEP GROUPS, CALL BCAA AT 664-1067**

1989 - 90 COALITION SUPPORTERS :

ORGANIZATIONS

NB Committee on Mental Retardation
Pregnant Adolescent Support System (PASS)
American Red Cross
Berkshire Council on Alcohol and Addictions
Williamstown Housing Authority
Northern Berkshire Support Services
United Cerebral Palsy
Mass Society for Prevention Cruelty to Children
Northern Berkshire United Way
Berkshire Sane/Freeze
AdLib, Inc.
Northern Berkshire Community Action
Visiting Nurse Association of Northern Berkshire
Northern Berkshire Mental Health Association
Williamstown Council on Aging
AdLib North
Child Care of the Berkshires
Mass Department of Employment and Training
HelpLine, Inc.
North Adams Regional Hospital
Women's Services Center
Hospice of Northern Berkshire, inc.
Adams Housing Authority
Town of Adams Community Development Dept
Berkshire Food Project
Williams College
Berkshire Center for Families and Children
Rape Crisis Center of Berkshire County

INDIVIDUALS

John Howland, MD
Al Nelson
Pamela Knisley
Al Bashevkin
Steve Green
Suzanne Walker
Len Radin
Diane Balduzy
Michele Ethier
Karen Forni Austin
Kayte Miller
Anthony J. Siracusa
Bob Ronnow
Trish Kelly
Judith Alden
Art and June Rock
Bill Garrison
Lisa Jarisch
Mort Broch
Margaret Campbell ✓
Peg Ouellette ✓
Robert E. Doyle ✓

YES, SIGN ME UP AS A COALITION SUPPORTER for 1989-90 !

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Ind (\$10)

Sm Org (\$25)

(< \$100,000 budget)

Lg Org (\$50)

(< \$100,000 budget)

Checks payable to AHEC/NBHHSC. Mail to Berkshire AHEC 725 North St.
Pittsfield MA 01201

Areas of Interest :

Are you willing to be listed as Coalition Supporter Yes No

NEWS AND VIEWS

*** *And Now, Here's Ken!* **Northern Berkshire Tonight**, the talk show of the Coalition will be airing its June show, **Monday, June 4** at 7:30 and repeating **Friday, June 8** at 8 PM. The June show will be a recap of the Coalition Year in Review. Hosts of Northern Berkshire Tonight, Thorman Hulse and Ken Swiatek will be joined by special guests **Al Bashevkin**, Coalition Coordinator and **Al Nelson**, Director of the Northern Berkshire United Way. Join thousands of others who watch the Coalition on TV and enjoy the opportunity to watch Northern Berkshire Tonight on channel 7, Northern Berkshire's local access channel.

*** *Wanna help Summer Break for Parents?* . . . *Summer Break for Parents*, a parenting support program at the Family Life Support Center, is looking for volunteers to assist with their summertime programming. Volunteers are needed from 10 AM until 1 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Interested? Call Bob Ronnow at 743-7957.

*** *Violence in the Berkshires* . . . There's been talk around the Coalition about an increase in violence in the area. Come fall, look for an anti-violence task force to address violence in the community, schools, and at homes of the Northern Berkshire area. If you're interested and would like to work on this task force, contact Maggie Bittman during the summer at 664-6104.

*** *Welcome aboard!* Roger Galfese is now the North County Coordinator for CommonGround. Roger will be recruiting volunteers and monitoring friendships between volunteers and mental health participants. To contact Roger, call him at 663-6200 or stop in and visit him at his office at 85 Main St, 4th floor, room 422.

*** *Experience Latin America in Berkshire County!* Friday, June 15th from 8 PM until midnight enjoy Caribbean and Latin American food and dance to the music of "Los Amigos del Merengue". This international experience is sponsored by the Women's Services Center and will be held at the All Season's Motor Inn, Route 7, on the Lenox-Pittsfield Road. There is a donation of \$7 / person requested. For more information contact Lilla Weinberger at the Women's Services Center, 499-2425.

*** *Teen News* . . . In Adams, a teen center will be opening this fall at the The Community Center in Adams. In North Adams, sadly, the Teen Center is closing because of lack of resources. However, the North Adams Commission for Teens, Inc. is offering a Volunteer Incentive Program for its teens. Middle

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 31** - **Alcohol and Other Drugs Task Force** : NB United Way 85 Main St, North Adams 10AM
- June 4** - **Northern Berkshire Tonight** : Coalition Year in Review Channel 7 7:30 PM
- June 6** - **FACT Meeting** Haskins Community Center Noon
- June 7** - **Family Life Support Center Advisory Board** : Louison House 2:30 PM
- June 8** - **Northern Berkshire Tonight** : Coalition Year in Review Channel 7 8 PM
- June 15** - **4th Coalition Annual Meeting**
- June 21** - **Committee To Work Towards Voter Registration** NB United Way 85 Main No Adams 11 AM
- June 21** - **Steering Committee** NA City Hall 1:30 PM

Each year, we look at the mailing list (over 300 names) to be sure we are as streamlined as we can possibly be. Those who are Coalition supporters have helped us to finance this publication. **If you have not sent in your support and plan to do so, please send it in now.**

If you are not a Coalition Supporter and want to continue to receive your monthly issue of Coalition News, please return the following to : Northern Berkshire Health and Human Services Coalition, PO. Box 931, North Adams, MA 01247.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

**Please Continue to send me
Coalition News**