



NEWSLETTER

Coalition News

Vol V, #3

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.

November 1990

November Coalition Meeting

First Baptist Church of North Adams 131 Main St No Adams
Please Enter via Eagle St Entrance

Friday November 9th 10:00 AM to Noon

Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Introduction of Participants : **Who's Who of Who-Man Services**
- III. What's Happening : **Announcements by Coalition Membership of interest to all**
- IV. Coalition Topic : **Counting the Casualties : *With the election over, let's spend our meeting time talking about what we need to do both individually and collectively to keep the Coalition mission alive.***
- V. Other Business
- VI. Adjournment and Conclusion

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 membership and friends (over 300 at this point). Announcements submitted to the newsletter will reach our entire mailing list. So, take advantage of this unique, free mechanism for informing our membership of news important to all. Please submit these announcements to Al Bashevkin, Coalition Coordinator, P.O. Box 1417, Bennington, VT 05201. For insertion into the December newsletter, your announcements should reach Al Bashevkin by November 28th.

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What's Happening!

- October's Events

October Meeting

Candidates for seats in the Massachusetts House from the 1st and 2nd districts of Massachusetts, along with the State Senate candidates from Berkshire County all squared off in debate during the Coalition's October meeting. Present during the meeting were first district incumbent Dan Bosley and his opponent, Bob Norcross; Second district candidates Ken Warren and Shaun Kelly; and State Senate candidates Sherwood Guernsey and Jane Swift. Candidates sparred about a variety of issues. All offered assurances that the kindler and gentler spirits will prevail and that health and human services for the area will not suffer the pain more than other sectors of state financing in light of the state budget problems. Our thanks go to the panel of questioners, Chris Hunsinger, Terry Louison, and George Mercier; all of whom directed specific questions to the candidates. Al Nelson served as the timekeeper, and Al Bashevkin was the moderator for the forum.

Budget Crisis Information

It's getting pretty near crunch time for the election. If you want to volunteer to advocate for health and human services, and to educate the public about question 3, then contact David Langston, 458-4227. Work is needed in neighborhood leafletting (1-2 hours) and also in working the polls on election day. **And don't forget to vote on November 6th.** Remember the chant, Vote no on 2, 3, and 5 to keep human services alive!

Candidates stated their positions on Questions 2, 3, and 5 during the October forum. A yes statement means a vote in favor of the referendum issue, a no vote means a vote against, a ? mean they have not decided yet, and a ? followed by a no means a vote against with some reservations. Here they are :

Question #	2	3	5
Shaun Kelly	yes	no	yes
Ken Warren	no	no	? no
Bob Norcross	?	yes	yes
Dan Bosley	no	no	no
Jane Swift	no	no	no
Sherwood Guernsey	no	no	? no

Task Force about Volunteerism

Do we need to look more to volunteers to supplement our workforce, and are there volunteers who can help? There's a shrinking workforce of volunteers, with an increased need for their assistance. Let's talk about this. A committee of Coalitioners has scheduled a **November 1st meeting at 1 PM at the office of AdLib, 85 Main St, Room 304**, to discuss this issue and suggest ways the Coalition might be helpful. If this is of interest to you, your attendance at the November 1st meeting will be super-helpful. For more information, contact Pam Knisley (448-8242) or Al Bashevkin.

Task Force About Violence

Northern Berkshire Coalitioners concerned about a rise in violence as a means to settle disputes had their first meeting to explore the issue on October 22. It is a problem of astounding proportions, affecting our school and community environment. The task force is at work defining the issues and hopes to provide community solutions to the problems of rising violence. The next meeting for the task force about violence will be **Tuesday, November 13 at 1 PM** at the Haskins Community Room. For more information, call Maggie Bittman at 664-6104.

Neighborhood Focussing



A very successful neighborhood meeting for the River Street / Bracewell Avenue area of North Adams was held on October 1st at the Salvation Army. The meeting was attended by landlords, neighborhood residents, city councillors, Coalitioners, the press, and others. Residents of the neighborhood spoke about their concerns at seeing their community lose its appeal. Residents are fearing for their own safety, are seeing increasing litter and vandalism, and a general disrespect for the neighborhood. People in attendance were angry. Members of the neighborhood association formed a number of committees that are addressing public safety, housing, and family issues. Chris Hunsinger of the North Adams CDC, Art Kelly of the Public Safety Department of North Adams, Al Bashevkin of the Coalition, Terry Louison of Community Action, Bob Ronnow of the Family Life Support Center,

and Marsh Rosenthal of NASC have all assisted with the various subcommittees of the Neighborhood Association. A newsletter has been published by the CDC. The next general meeting of the River St / Bracewell Avenue Neighborhood Association will be Monday, December 3 at 7 PM at the Salvation Army. The neighborhood is invited to participate, so help us get the word out. For more information, contact Chris Hunsinger (664-6369) or Al Bashevkin (802-442-5200)

NEWS AND VIEWS


Northern Berkshire United Way Campaign Is kicking . . .

Hundreds of volunteers working in the Northern Berkshire United Way campaign have raised more than \$250,000 (as of October 26) which is 50% of their goal. The Volunteer Appreciation Campaign Celebration Report Meeting will be held Friday, November 30 from 5:30 - 8 PM at the North Adams Public Safety Building (the firehouse), American Legion Drive in North Adams. Light buffet reservations will cost \$6, and reservations can be made through the NB United Way office, 85 Main St, NA (663-9062)

 **Put Up or Strut Up**  Northern Berkshire Community Action is sponsoring a fun(d) raiser for its food pantry which is in desperate need of replenishing. The Put Up or Strut Up is a 5K (3.1 miles) road race to be held Thanksgiving Day (November 22) at 9:30 AM. The race starts from the Pitcher's Mound on Ashland Street in North Adams. Entry fee is \$7 in advance and \$8 the day of the race.

There's a special category for those choosing not to run (Calvin Coolidge), the Couch Potato Division. Entry fee for this division is \$7 in advance and \$8 the day of the race. The winner of the couch potato division will be determined by a raffle.

Awards will be given for the team who brings in the most canned goods or non-perishable food items. First 300 entrants will get a collector's item, painter's hats with the official race logo. Entry blanks are available at the Pitcher's Mound and the Sports Corner in North Adams, Northern Berkshire Community Action, 85 Main St, North Adams, and at other locations. They are also looking for volunteers to work the race course. For more information, call Ken Swiatek, 458-5651, or Northern Berkshire Community Action, 663-3014. Remember, you are what you eat.

 **Health Care News** . . . The Greenery Head Trauma Rehab Center in Massachusetts has established a contract with Mass Medicaid and fund in full medically necessary neurological rehab efforts. . . Elder Services of

Berkshire County will take over the role of screening all persons being considered for nursing home care effective in March of 1991. This was a function previously done by the Long Term care Connection. The new program title : Managed Care Program.

⇒ *Questions about the Coalition that you'd like to bring to the steering committee's attention ?*

Coalition Steering Committee members are :


Neil Novik	Meg LeRay	Al Bashevkin
Linda Trala	Fred Nicholaev	George Mercier
Maggie Bittman	Theresa Louison	Al Nelson


✉✉ *Newsletter News* ... a new newsletter has come into fruition as the result of efforts in the River St / Bracewell Ave section of North Adams. Do you have some info that you'd like to get into that newsletter ? If so, contact Al Bashevkin.



🏠🏠 *It's Annual Meeting Time for the North Adams Community Development Corporation* . . Chris Hunsinger, Director for the CDC, announces the CDC will hold its Annual General Membership Meeting, Wednesday, November 14th at 7 PM at the American Legion, American Legion Drive in North Adams. The meeting is open to the public, and is an opportunity to become a member of the CDC and elect new board members. For information, call the North Adams CDC at 664-6369.


🧶🧶 *Are you a knitter ?* The Third Annual Knit-a-thon will be held on November 4th from 1 - 5 PM at Yesterday's Memories, 100 Main St, North Adams. All materials have been donated, so this is an opportunity for all to knit and know their items will help keep the needy of Northern Berkshire warm. For more information, call Crystal Scholtz or Mary Kurpaska at 664-8300 or 663-8970.



✚ *From Health Care for All* ... Health Care for All (advocates for Universal Health Care in Massachusetts) will hold its First Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, November 14 from 12:30 PM until 4:30 PM at the Hancock Conference Center at 40 Trinity Place in Boston. The meeting will feature Dr Arthur Flemming, former secretary of HEW and a strong proponent of Universal Health Care, and Dr Gordon Guyette, a Canadian physician and advocate for a more democratic health care system. For information, call Health Care for All, 617 350-7279.

 **News from Mass Coalition of Human Service Providers . . .** The MCHSP 15th Annual Convention will be held November 20 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. There are a host of workshops scheduled covering the issues of executives, management, and direct care. Keynote speakers will be Arnold Reiman, Editor in Chief of the New England Journal of Medicine, and the Honorable Paul G. Garrity, former justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court. For information about the convention, call MCHSP at 617 542-8479.

 **Substance Abuse Prevention . . .** The Western Mass Tri-County Community Partnership to prevent substance abuse has been awarded a grant from the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention (OSAP). This means that the counties of Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire plan to develop and implement long range comprehensive and self sustaining substance abuse prevention programs through the creation of local community partnerships. Berkshire AHEC will be the lead agency for Berkshire County. Berkshire AHEC is working closely with area resources, and in particular the Berkshire Council on Alcohol and Addictions in developing this grant. It is anticipated that the first Berkshire County Meeting about this grant will meet in December. A limited number of small mini-grants will be available to assist with local substance abuse prevention services.

  **OK all you theater activists . . .** On December 7th and 8th, at 7 PM at Drury High School, the Drury Drama Team in conjunction with NASC and the the Williamstown Community Theater and under the direction of Len Radin will present the Diary of Anne Frank. The "team" is a group of students and volunteers. They will use the money raised to carry on projects concerning teen suicide, pregnancy, etc.

 **Hospice of Northern Berkshire Presents . . .** Coping Strategies for Caregivers helping the Dying and Confronting Spiritual Issues and Meaning in the Face of Death. This is a full day training to be held on Friday, November 9th from 8:30 AM until 4 PM at the Orchards in Williamstown. For information, contact Hospice at P.O. Box 171, North Adams, MA 01247.

  **For Parents . . .** A parent's support group has begun at Louison House in Adams. The cost is free and is another program in conjunction with the McInerney Parenting Center of Pittsfield. Transportation can be provided. The Parent's Support Group will run every Thursday from 10 AM until 11:30 AM at Louison House. For info, call 743-7957 or 664-8279.



Compulsive Gambling a Problem ?

The Mass Council on Compulsive Gambling is a non-profit health agency which provides information and education on the prevention and reduction of the illness of compulsive gambling and provides support services to compulsive gamblers and their families. For details about how the staff of the Council can help you or your organization, call them at 617 426-4554 or 1 800 822-7773.

/// It's Coalition Supporter renewal time again for

Coalitioners. Responses are beginning to be mailed in. Last year, we saw fifty-five individuals and organizations who joined in support for the Coalition and raised over twelve hundred dollars to help with expenses. If you have already offered your support this year, thanks, and we hope to continue to meet your needs. If you haven't signed up yet, then please consider joining. It's a worthwhile cause. Membership scholarships are available. See membership application later in the newsletter.

1990 - 91 Coalition Supporters

ORGANIZATIONS

Berkshire Center for Families and Children
Commonground, Citizens Advocacy Program
VNA of Northern Berkshire

INDIVIDUALS

Esther Tauber
Dr Len Radin
Warner L. Smith
Peg Keller
Bob Ronnow
Gale Mason

YES, SIGN ME UP AS A COALITION SUPPORTER for 1990-91 !

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov 1** - **Volunteerism in the NB's** : Office of AdLib 85 Main St
Room 304 North Adams 1 PM
- Nov 4** - **Knit-a-thon Yesterday's Memories** 100 Main St
North Adams 1 - 5 PM
- Nov 6** - **Election Day Vote, Vote, Vote .**
- Nov 8** - **FACT Meeting:** (note new day of week) Haskins
Community Center Noon
- Nov 9** - **All Coalition Meeting** : Counting the Casualties
Baptist Church North Adams 10 AM to Noon.
- Nov 13** - **Task Force on Violence** : Haskins Community Center
Conference Room North Adams 1 PM
- Nov 22** - **Put up or Strut Up 5K Road Race to benefit
Northern Berkshire Community Action's Food Pantry**
Pitcher's Mound North Adams 9:30 AM
- Nov 27** - **Steering Committee** NA City Hall 1 :30 PM
- Dec 3** - **River Street / Bracewell Avenue Neighborhood Meeting**
7 PM Salvation Army