



## South Shore Community Partners in Prevention

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**South Shore Community Partners in Prevention (CHNA 23)  
Wednesday, November 10, 2021  
8:55 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.  
Zoom Meeting  
Minutes**

In attendance: Nancy DeLuca, Health Imperatives and Steering Committee Member; Abby Foley, Gosnold, Director of Care Management and School Based Programs; Sean Halpin, Plymouth Public Schools - Director of Student Support Services; Charlette Tarsi, Plymouth County HUB - Program Manager; Kim Scotland, United Way of Greater Plymouth County and SSCPP Coordinator; Amy Sylvia, South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center; Jennifer Cantwell, Community Programs Coordinator, Plymouth County DA's Office; Kelley Meaney, Matthew's Gift Inc; Malissa Kenney, Healthy Plymouth Community Engagement and New Heights at Algonquin Heights; Colleen Kennedy-Mello, Director of Southeast Tobacco Free Community Partnership; Nicholas Mott, Intern at High Point Treatment Center; Linda Gabruk, Bridgewater State University's School of Social Work; Erin Morley, Assistant Director Coordinated Care Network; Catarina Lima from DEAF, Inc. Regional Director of Independent Living Services for Southeast and Cape and the Islands; Susan West BID-Plymouth Family Education Dept.; Mike Jackman from Congressman Keating's office and the chair of SSCPP, Jenn Hoadley, Regional Manager of Southeastern MA with the Alzheimer's Association; Carvel Kellum, Child Requiring Assistance Clinician for the CRA Diversion Program located within the Brockton Family Resource Center; Rhiannon Thai, Nurse Case Manager, Plymouth Schools; Katelyn McSweeney, High Point Prevention Services; Kathleen Considine, NAMI

Mike kicked off meeting at 9:10am. All encouraged to introduce themselves in the chat.

All voted to approve the October general meeting minutes.

### **Mini Grants Outcome Report: Matthew's Gift**

Kelley Meaney, Founder shared an outcomes report.

- Matthew's Gift donates resources to hospitals to help families faced with stillbirth and neonatal death. SSCPP grant was used to help families at local hospitals with the family support program.

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- Resources are given to all members of the family. Moms get a book called *Loved Baby* and dads receive *Grieving Fathers*. Parents also get a book called *Empty Arms*.
- Siblings get their own kits. It is very important to help the siblings as well. They receive a box with a weighted teddy bear, a notebook to use as a journal, crayons/colored pencils, a worry animal, and a book that guides them through the process called *These Precious People*.
- Forty-eight people were helped through the SSCPP grant.
- More information can be found on the website: [www.matthewsgiftinc.org](http://www.matthewsgiftinc.org)

## **Major Topic: Deaf Culture**

Guest Speakers: Samantha Kistner, Cultural Broker, Our Deaf Survivors Center, Inc. and Catarina Lima, Regional Director of Independent Living Services for Southeast and Cape and the Islands, DEAF, Inc.

Wendy and Anna served as interpreters.

- The mission statement of [Our Deaf Survivors Center](#) is to provide culturally affirmative support services to Deaf survivors of sexual and domestic violence through education, empowerment, and advocacy; and to promote awareness of cultural and linguistic considerations to service providers working with Deaf survivors.
- Samantha shared an overview of the staff at the center. With proper education and training, all public resources should be accessible and accommodating to the Deaf and hard of hearing survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV).
- It is a violation of the ADA to decline services due to disability including accommodations needed due to a disability.
- There are two agencies in MA that provide deaf advocacy. Both services are state-wide and based in Worcester. Shared some important resources:
  - Safelink- 1.877.785.2020. This line cannot respond to emergencies but can share resources.
  - [www.thedeafhotline.org](http://www.thedeafhotline.org)- 24/7 video phone hotline services. A deaf person can call directly and sign with a person without the need of an interpreter through this service.
- Abuse is prevalent in the deaf community. Twenty-five percent of women in the general population experience domestic violence in their lifetime. For deaf women, it is fifty percent.
- Some obstacles include fear of not being believed, resources are inaccessible, or delays in getting DV services.
- The best way to prevent delay in service is to hire deaf staff that can respond immediately.

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- Shared about audism. Audism is discrimination or prejudice against individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and can lead to language deprivation.
- Catarina shared about [DEAF Inc](#) (501c3). Their mission is to inspire people to achieve personal and professional goals through accessible programs and services. They build bridges across communities by increasing communication access and awareness.
- They receive funding from the MA Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and other funds. They focus on helping folks gain independent living skills. Have offices across the state and are headquartered in Allston.
- Offer the DHILS (deaf and hard of hearing independent living services) Program which provides advocacy, skills training, information and referral, and peer counseling. Also help with housing, legal issues, and communication access. Help folks access state assistance such as SNAP.
- DEAF Inc. does a lot of advocacy work including legal aid, support with health insurance enrollment, support for parents with schools and children's services, and advocacy in the medical system. Also offer skills training such as communication coping strategies, financial management, obtaining and using equipment such as alarms for deaf people, fire alarms, etc.
- Offer an ASL program and provide classes for folks to learn ASL and about deaf culture. Host monthly socials.
- Discussed appropriate terms of communication. The phrase "hearing impaired" is often considered rude. Recommend asking people what they would like to be called.
- Will share list of interpreters fluent in our area. There is a provider shortage across the state. Always used a certified ASL interpreter.
- For more information, contact [frontdesk@deafinonline.org](mailto:frontdesk@deafinonline.org) or 617-505-4823.
- Opened for Q&A with Samantha and Catarina.

Opened the floor for sharing of announcements.

Next Meeting: December 8<sup>th</sup>

Adjourned at 10:20am.

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