

**Meeting Minutes**  
**COPC Environmental Justice & Health**  
**Sub-Committee Meeting**  
**August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007**  
**COPC Office 1816 Main St.**

In Attendance: Theresa McCabe, Jill Shuey, Charles A. Walker

**I. Welcome / Introduction**

Jill Shuey welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dr. Mary McCourt with Niagara University's chemistry department as agreed to take on the position of faculty coordinator for the COPC Environmental Justice and Health COPC area. Theresa McCabe introduced herself. Theresa is a new public health educator with the Niagara County Health Department Health Neighborhoods Program

**II. Updates**

**a. GreenLine**

- Jill Shuey will be attending the Niagara Beautification Commission's monthly meeting on August 16<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Jill will continue to follow up with Marge Gillis to further discuss the Niagara Beautification Commission's interest in partnering with the GreenLine to help promote both their organization and the GreenLine to the community. Marge had expressed interest in promoting the adoption of certain blocks for clean ups as well as other beautification projects.
- The GreenLine has been receiving regularly calls concern graffiti removal and the Mayor's "Light it up" initiative to remove obstructions from street lights such as tree branches and also to get National Grid to repair damaged and broken street lights. The promoting of the GreenLine number through Niagara Falls Weed & Seed and the Mayor's initiative are helping to promote the GreenLine number to the community and we are now getting several calls per week regarding other matters such as illegal dumping and rodent issues in gardens. To date, the GreenLine has received 81 calls.

**b. Home Assessments**

- Dr. Mary McCourt to date has 41 students registered for her class for the 2007 fall semester. Mary teaches a non-majors course "Chemistry in Society". The class is offered in both the fall and spring semesters. Dr. McCourt has agreed to add a service component to her course for the fall 2007 semester and students from her class will be going out with staff from the Healthy Neighborhoods program to do home assessments and testing. Theresa McCabe asked Jill to follow up with Mary McCourt regarding a time when the three of them could all meet to discuss students' hours for the fall.
- Working with NU's chemistry department, COPC hired two summer student workers this summer who are chemistry majors. The students have been working with NU professor Dr. Ronny Priefer. The students are going out doing home assessments with the Healthy Neighborhoods program staff as well as testing for environmental factors in one's home that

may trigger asthma attacks in children with asthma. The students are analyzing air samples taken at NU's campus labs. The students last day will be by August 25<sup>th</sup>. The student will put a final report together on their findings for COPC and the Healthy Neighborhood program.

### c. Urban Environment

- Jill will have a NU social work student placed at COPC next semester to complete her senior social work practicum. One project area that Jill will have the social work student work in is the gathering of data concerning locations of vacant lots and illegal dumping. Jill and the student will work with block clubs and gather data from Weed & Seed's neighborhood tours. Jill and the student will follow up with Marge Giles and the Niagara Beautification Commissions regarding data gathered as part of their March 15<sup>th</sup> "Reality Bus Tour".
- If COPC partners have addresses for vacant lots and or places where illegal dumping is occurring, they should forward that information to Jill.

### III. Workshop Topics

- Charles Walker asked Jill to review the workshop topics outlined in the COPC grant. Jill listed the following workshop topics: lead poisoning, mold and mildew, asthma, smoking and second hand smoke, drinking water contamination, food safety and cardiac health.
- Jill stressed that she felt it was important to work with existing groups such as the Independent Health Foundation's "Good for the Neighborhood" program. Jill would like to approach the Independent Health Foundation regarding providing workshops at their events. Charles and Jill are both attending the Good for the Neighborhood kick off event on August 16<sup>th</sup> and will try to approach representatives at the event.
- Charles mentioned focusing on heart health topics such as healthy eating, blood pressure and heart disease and stroke as well as diabetes. He added that we could organize a one day event focusing on the "New You" offering information to individuals regarding their physical, spiritual and economic well-being. Charles stated that he would look to see what workshops the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center could provide and then get back in touch with Jill. Charles suggested asthma as the first topic.
- Places mentioned to hold workshops included community centers, faith-based institutions, the NACC, boys and girls clubs, The Doris W. Jones Family Resource Building and Packard Court Community Center.
- Mary McCourt had mentioned at the sub-committee meeting in June that she was part of a group of investigators working on a Heart project with Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center (NFMMC). This group could present topics related to heart disease. Mary stated that she would contact the members of the group to come up with a list of topics for community talks. Jill will follow up with Mary regarding interest of the investigators in presenting workshops.

**Next EJ Green Team Meeting: September 25th, Tuesday, 2:00 PM, NEW COPC office, 1816 Main Street. Task for the next meeting: Continue to work on organizing workshops.**