

*Special Action Group  
Meeting Minutes  
May 22, 2002*

**Welcome & Introductions**

Marilynn welcomed the group members and had everyone introduce themselves.

**Border Health ;SI! Update**

Lisa Staten reported that the the College of Public Health technical team wrote a contract grant proposal for the coming year. It is due at the end of the month. The proposal calls for a Community Development position to work out of the Cooperative Extension office. The Community Development person will begin working in July and will participate with the partners to find funding sources & writing grants for implementation of the action plans. The grant was a legislative appropriation that was specifically intended for the U of A College of Public Health so they feel confident they will get the grant. This person will be separate from the SAG group, he will be participating frequently but not often enough to interfere with the two funding sources.

**Preister Conference**

Marilynn Johnson spoke about the Preister Conference she recently did a CHAPS presentation for. The conference took place in Orlando, Florida, and was provided for extension agents throughout the nation. It involves Agriculture agents, home economic agents, nurses, and physicians throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii. One significant event she saw at the conference was the national heads of agencies such as Medicaid, Medicare and Food stamps were asking attendees of the conference, what they thought was needed in their community.

Marilynn spoke of the presentation that included CHAPS partner Robyn Harris from the College of Public Health and her extension partner Linda Block, from Pima County who are working with the Green Valley community Sharon Hoelscher-Day from Cooperative Extension in Maricopa County, speaking of the Bone Builders project and Marilynn's part was to explain the SAG in Nogales and Yuma. She created a Jeopardy game in PowerPoint that was about CHAPS, the SAG Groups, U of A, county highlights and healthy community facts. Everyone enjoyed the game and she will be e-mailing to people across the U.S. Sharing information from the Preister Conference, she handed out a flyer about "Healthy People, Healthy Communities", the national initiative with Cooperative Extension. An issue they are looking at is community development, this is an issue SAG members are also looking at to help develop a healthy community. Marilynn also spoke about an exercise pyramid similar to the food guide pyramid used in schools. She also spoke about new walking groups started in communities and schools across the U.S. and as well as in Arizona. She handed out a flyer for "Walk Across Arizona" and spoke in detail about the program in Pima County.

## Community Reports/Announcements

Marilynn spoke about a new organizational chart printed in the *Nogales International*, she believes was created by the new county manager Greg Lucero. Apparently, this would be to spread out the funding more evenly in county government. One of the departments was Parks & Recreation. Although this is not in the budget this year, Marilynn is happy that the organizational chart is in the planning stages. No one in the group had any more information about this topic. She briefly spoke about recreation programs the schools will be having during the summer.

Joyce Hubbard spoke about the Baby Fair. She believes it was a success. The Police Department fingerprinted fifty children; the Nogales Fire Department handed out almost all of their information, and the early Head Start Program registered three families they believe could not have been reached any other way. They had great door prizes and interesting booths and although they had a great turn out, Joyce believes they could have reached a few more families.

Marcel Bachelier spoke about the city recreation summer programs that will begin June 3. They will be having little league baseball, and softball for girls of all ages, swimming, and more. The most popular is the dance class. The arts & crafts classes will be at the Hilltop Gallery. There is no charge for the use of the swimming pool, but there is a twenty-dollar charge for recreation programs. Registration will be at City Hall. This year they will be trying two new sports, which are, street hockey and bases. The game bases is similar to baseball but with a little twist and street hockey is a very inexpensive and fun sport.

In response to some questions, Mr. Bachelier mentioned that they are planning to have a clinic on safety issues at the grand opening of the skate board park. They do not have anyone to enforce rules with the children at the skate park to wear their helmets and kneepads. They do not have any cheerleading clinics at this time.

George Liniero reported that they are still in the gathering information and planning stages for the Growing Smarter Plan. He did not have much information for the group at this time. They are planning to have more public participation and starting a study session that would be open to the public with City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission. They are planning to set up a booth at the Fourth of July festivities to get feedback from the public. A tentative date for the study session is set for June 19. Marilynn would like the Platicamos Salud promotoras to attend. Mr. Lineiro said he would contact Marilynn to notify her of the actual date and time of the study session, because it would not be advertised in the newspaper. Meetings for Planning & Zoning are advertised approximately seven day's before the actual date.

Rich Polheber reported that Carondelet Holy Cross has retained a consultant to look at elder care. They are looking at what will be happening in the next ten to fifteen years in our community. There were some issues and they will be looking at identifying people in the community to gather information. He asked if anyone was interested in elder care to please contact Rich Polheber at the hospital for more information. Mr. Polheber also spoke about the shortage of nurses and because of the shortage they will be bringing in nurses from Hermosillo to be licensed in the US. Discussion took place about the shortage of nurses and the amount of money they are getting paid.

Kelly Grekin commented that rather than bringing nurses from other parts of the world to work in the U.S., why not pay more for nurses in the U.S. The response was that it is a much larger problem than nursing pay, it also includes other staff. Mr. Polheber happily reported that a Spiral CT scanner would be arriving soon to Carondelet Holy Cross Hospital. They have also donated equipment to Nogales, Sonora to improve patient care. The belief is, if it is improved in Mexico, citizens would not come to the U.S. for treatment.

JoJean Elenes reported that Platicamos Salud would be having a youth program in conjunction with WIA . They are targeting about 30 kids in the Nogales area. They will be paid, because they are kids who help support their families. They will have to qualify by income. They will have training in different components, for example: leadership program, CPR certification, HIV Education, Tobacco education, body image and many more. They will have the Work Investment Act, Search and Rescue, SEAHEC will also have a component, and media literacy will concern body image and tobacco cessation. This program will go from June 17 to August 1. They are hoping to create and encourage kids to become involved in the medical field. She also reported the American Legacy Foundation has funded them last week for a \$300,000, three year grant for the tobacco cessation program..

Ana Doan reported she would be leaving Little Red School and that Marilyn should contact David Peterson the new Superintendent, around June 5<sup>th</sup> (as he begins June 1<sup>st</sup>).

Bonnie Shipatalo reported they would be providing meals for summer programs free of charge, throughout the county.

Kelly Grekin handed out flyers for a strategic planning session, concerning abuse, set for June 5, 2002. They will be looking at issues like child abuse, elder abuse, intimate partner abuse & sexual assault and decreasing violence in our community. Discussion took place about the topics and self-esteem issues.

## **Future Planning**

Marilynn Johnson spoke about SAG having an impact in our community. She would like to see SAG moving forward because she feels we have come to a slow down. She would like SAG to send out a message to the community. One of the ideas she brought back from the Preister Conference for our community was Walking Across Arizona. Cooperative Extension is doing this program in Green Valley, but could be incorporated in Nogales. This could be incorporated in schools and walking clubs. She would like SAG to send the message to the community of the kind of behavior that is needed to create a healthy community. SAG can help promote this.

Promotoras already have a walking program that could be expanded, and Extension could do collection data or promotion. Extension has funding for this. Yuma County did this type of program, named "Yuma on the Move", This was a media campaign targeting the "couch potatoes" in their community. It has now expanded to include all members of the community to encourage physical activity through the formation of walking groups. Schools could form walking teams that walk from Nogales to the Grand Canyon (in miles, not reality). The teams

keeping track of the miles they walk. She would like the group to gather ideas for the next meeting as to where they would like SAG to go. Similar to what was done at the beginning of SAG process, in creating an action plan.

She then spoke about an article about obesity in the Wednesday's edition of the Arizona Daily Star. The article reported that Arizona was the second worst in physical activity. Lisa Staten expressed her thoughts on the article and perhaps how they came up with the figures.

Marilynn thanked the group and the date set for the next meeting was July 31<sup>st</sup> at the United Church Village.

Note: June meeting is cancelled and July 31<sup>st</sup> is the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month