

Coalition news

An update from



October 2021, Volume XXXVI, Number 2

Our November Forum.....	2
Story Walks.....	2
Coalition Calendar.....	3
Community Outreach Volunteer Training	3
nbCC staff/Job Openings	4

October Forum Was a Time to Catch Up!

In September, nbCC held its annual community needs assessment forum, gathering information from the community in attendance, as well as virtually through a survey. One of the main takeaways from that process, and from stories and anecdotal information shared by those in attendance, was that the community would benefit from improved communication and information sharing. With that in mind, and recognizing the tumultuous nature of the past 18 or so months, the Coalition decided to try something a little different for the October forum. The result was “Keeping Up with the Coalition”, an opportunity for nbCC staff to update the community on the internal changes that have occurred over the past few years. In addition, community members were able to offer some updates of their own to those in attendance.

Coalition staff chose to focus on the last 4 years, as it represented the start of a new strategic plan, and the implementation of some structural and programmatic changes at nbCC. Perhaps the most recognizable of these changes was the removal of individual program names in favor of a more integrated approach. This was done in an effort to

unify the work of the Coalition in order to create an even stronger environment of community support, and to reduce some confusion amongst the community about what the Coalition offers.

In addition to these updates, the Coalition provided an overview on some of the staff changes that have occurred. Losing members of the team is never fun, but with these changes came an assessment of the structure of roles within the Coalition, and an opportunity to adjust. New positions were created, including our Office Coordinator and Program Associate positions, and others were adjusted to encompass a larger area of focus. In time, new staff members joined the team, bringing new ideas, perspectives, and energy.

Last, but certainly not least, the Coalition team gave updates on the many programs that have been added to the nbCC docket in the past 4 years. These programs include new health and wellness initiatives like the bike collective, new youth programs like the Youth Health Collaborative and Youth Empowerment Program, as well as new Spanish language options from our Family Resource Center.

Following the presentation from the Coalition staff, members of the gathered community were able to provide updates of their own. These updates included a message from the Spitzer Center, home of the North Adams Council on Aging, that they will not be shutting their doors, and will continue to offer regular programs for their members. Mayor Bernard also updated those gathered on the city’s efforts to gather information from residents about the best ways to spend COVID relief funds in the coming months. Finally, representatives from the Extreme Model Railroad and Contemporary Architecture team on Main Street in North Adams gave an outline of their long and short term goals in the community. They also extended an invite to north Berkshire residents to come in and see what they have going on at 66 Main Street!

nbCC’s monthly forum offerings will continue in November, with an opportunity to learn about the transportation systems within the region. This forum will take place on Friday, November 12th, at 10:00 am at Terra Nova, 85 Main Street North Adams.

- Tim Shiebler, Youth Development



▲ Check out our new billboard at the UNO Park on River Street!



Northern Berkshire Community Coalition
Community Empowerment • Prevention & Wellness

Our Mission

“Empowering the Northern Berkshire region to enhance the quality of life through our efforts at connecting, convening, and supporting all facets of the community.”

In pursuit of this mission, we place particular emphasis on the following:

- Strengthening neighborhoods and community life
- Preventing alcohol/substance abuse and supporting recovery
- Promoting health and wellness
- Helping families to be strong and resilient
- Supporting positive youth development
- Building bridges between residents and service agencies

Coalition Supporters

Public Sources

- MA Dept. of Children & Families/EOHHS
- MA Cultural Council
- MA Department of Public Health
- MA Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services
- Mass Service Alliance

Local Support

- Contributions from our many individual supporters

The Coalition is a member agency of the Northern Berkshire United Way and the Williamstown Community Chest.



To submit announcements to the Coalition E-zine:

The *Coalition E-zine* is a weekly e-blast, published every Thursday, with news and announcements from Northern Berkshire agencies and organizations. Submissions must be received by 9:00 am Tuesday morning to be considered for inclusion in that week's issue. All submissions are subject to editing and should be 50 words or less. All events related to Northern Berkshire community public health will be considered for publication. Banner ads are available. For more information, please call 413-663-7588, or to submit an announcement, please email pbzine@nbccoalition.org.



Northern Berkshire Community Coalition
Community Empowerment • Prevention & Wellness

COMMUNITY FORUM

Transportation in North Berkshire County

Friday, November 12

10:00am-noon

Terra Nova, 85 Main St., North Adams



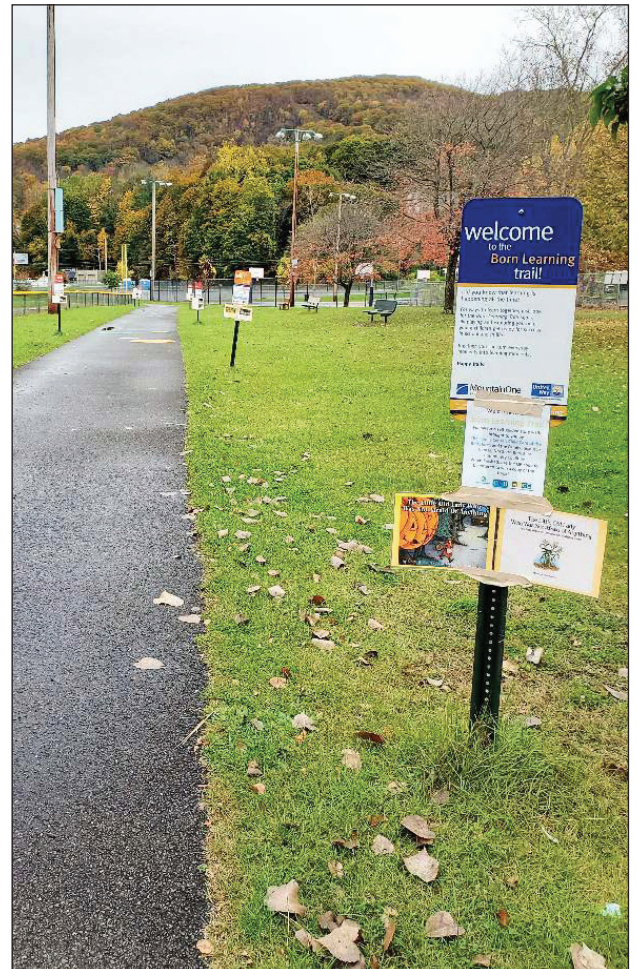
Do you have questions about transportation services in North Berkshire?
Join us to ask your questions and learn more about transportation resources available! Can't make the forum? Email your questions to info@nbccoalition.org or join us via Zoom at bit.ly/novemberforum

Story Walks:

As COVID continues, the nbCC Family Resource Center has stayed dedicated to creating space for families to engage with each other, while staying safe and maintaining physical distance when appropriate.

nbCC has teamed up with The Family Center-Child Care of the Berkshires, for monthly “Story-Walks”. Our teams have collaborated monthly throughout the year, to create fun and engaging walks that lead children and their parents through a storybook while on the Born Walking Trail right outside of the Child Care of the Berkshires building. This is a chance for families to be outside, to view the colorful pages of a storybook, and use their imaginations to bring each story to life. After viewing the book, families are encouraged to complete a brief survey to win a copy of the book they just read.

Be on the lookout for November’s Story-Walk; “Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story” by Kevin Noble Maillard.



Just around the corner: Our November 2021 Community Forum, Transportation in North Berkshire County

Friday, November 12, from 10:00am-12:00pm
Terra Nova, 85 Main St., North Adams

Do you have questions about transportation services in North Berkshire? Come and join us to ask your questions and learn more about transportation resources available! Can't make the forum? Email your questions to info@nbccoalition.org or join us via Zoom at bit.ly/novemberforum.

nbCC Bike Collective Open Hours

Mondays, 3:30-5:30pm
The Armory, 206 Ashland St., North Adams (look for the garage doors in the back)

Bring your own bike or work on a bike at the bike collective. You'll have the opportunity to learn from other community members on basic bike fixes, or team up with more experienced bike mechanics to rebuild a bike. Tools and stands are provided. All residents from Northern Berkshire are welcome! For more info, call Jessi at 413-663-7588.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

First & Third Tuesdays, 4:00-6:00pm
nbCC's Family Resource Center at 61 Main St., N. Adams

This is a group for grandparents who are actively parenting their grandchildren giving them a safe and confidential space to share similar experiences with other grandparents. A light meal and childcare are provided, but you must register beforehand. Unvaccinated individuals, and those under age 12, must wear masks. For more information or to register, call 413-663-7588 or email dsenecal@nbccoalition.org.

Beacon Recovery Resource Community Meetings

In-person BRCC All-Recovery Meetings at Terra Nova (85 Main Street, North Adams) happen on Wednesdays, from 10:00am-2:00pm (note new time!). ALL are welcome.

All-Recovery phone-in/Zoom meetings continue on Mondays, 1:30pm-2:30pm. The information for logging in follows:

ZOOM meeting link: bit.ly/BRCCmeet
MEETING ID #: 859 1443 5166
or call in via one of these numbers: 312 626 6799, 929 205 6099, 301 715 8592, 346 248 7799, 669 900 6833, 253 215 8782

If you have any questions about this meeting or other recovery resources available during these challenging days, please contact us at 413-663-7588 or lrosa@nbccoalition.org.

Fall 2021 nbCC Youth Programs

The Youth Leadership Program (YLP) is designed to give young people an opportunity to learn about themselves, build on skills that they possess, and find ways to impact their communities. This program is an opportunity for people ages 14-19. The Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) is designed as a way for young people to explore and build their skills. This program is for students in grades 6-8. The Teen Writing Workshop (TWW) lets participants write for the sake of writing, share their work with the group, and offers the opportunity for them to share their work at public reading events and in a printed literary journal. All three programs meet weekly. Call us at 413-663-7588 for more information, or fill out this application online at bit.ly/nbCCYouth21.

nbCC Offices will be Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday on November 25th and 26th.

Todos los bebés lloran. [All Babies Cry]

3 de noviembre, 4-5pm

Comunicarse con un recién nacido también significa saber colmar sus necesidades. Responda siempre a los llantos de su recién nacido, ya que es imposible malcriar o mimar a un bebé tan pequeño por dedicarle demasiada atención. Contrariamente, las respuestas rápidas a los llantos de los bebés les hacen saber que ellos son importantes y que merecen ser atendidos. Intente consolar a su bebé. Algunos bebés se calman con el movimiento, como el balanceo o que alguien los pasee por la habitación, mientras que hay otros que responden mejor a los sonidos, como música suave o el zumbido de una aspiradora. Es posible que tarde algún tiempo de averiguar que es lo que calma a su bebé durante esos estresantes momentos.

UNO Community Center Coffee Time

Each Friday in November 1-4pm
UNO Community Center, 157 River Street, N. Adams

Come on over and join the UNO neighbors for coffee and conversation. All are welcome.

Budget Holiday Meals Workshop

November 15th
11am - 3pm
nbCC's Family Resource Center at 61 Main St., N. Adams

Pre-Registration required. Come and join other families in the opportunity to learn how to purchase and prepare a family holiday meal on a shoestring budget. Each participant will be invited to help with meal preparation, learn about the costs associated with the meal, enjoy a holiday meal with their kids & neighbors, as well as leave with a Holiday Meal Recipe Book. Child care is not available. The meal shared together is for participants only. Call nbCC at 663-7588 or email dsenecal@nbccoalition.org to register.

Coming in January. . . Community Outreach Volunteer Training!

Are you a community-minded individual? Do you want to learn more about the services and resources available in north Berkshire? Apply to join the 2022 cohort of Community Outreach Volunteers!

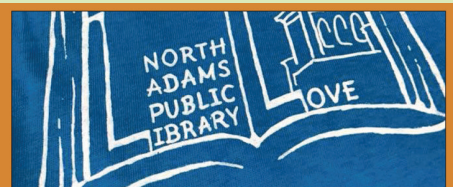
This training is open to all Northern Berkshire residents interested in exploring or expanding their community leadership by learning more about the available

services and assets of the communities we live in. Participants will also learn how to be a resource to others in our community, using what they learn in this training.

Another value to be gained from the training is the professional development workshops that are interwoven throughout the process. Workshop topics include Community Organizing, Conflict Management,

Sustaining Involvement, Public Speaking, and more.

If you are interested in joining a network of over 120 Community Outreach Volunteers and increasing your involvement in your community, please email bhantman@nbccoalition.org or call nbCC at (413) 663-7588. The application deadline is December 20th!



Coalition Staff

Executive Director

Amber Besaw: abesaw@nbcccoalition.org

Business & Administrative Staff

Liz Boland: lboland@nbcccoalition.org

Bri Hantman: bhantman@nbcccoalition.org

Lindsey Rosa: lrosa@nbcccoalition.org

Youth Development

Tim Shiebler: tshiebler@nbcccoalition.org

Carrisa Sacherski: csacherski@nbcccoalition.org

Health & Wellness

Jessi Byrne: jbyrne@nbcccoalition.org

Family Resource Center

Stephanie Puc: spuc@nbcccoalition.org

Donna Senecal: dsenecal@nbcccoalition.org

Carlota Serre: cserre@nbcccoalition.org



We're hiring! Our current open positions....

2 Family Support Workers

Communications Coordinator

Clinician

Prevention & Recovery Coordinator

HEALing Communities Coordinator (Temporary, Full Time)

Visit <https://nbcccoalition.org/employment-opportunities/> for more information.

nbCC is
supported by:



Find this newsletter
online at www.nbcccoalition.org

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition
Community Empowerment • Prevention & Wellness
61 Main Street, Suite 218, North Adams, MA 01247



U.S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit Org.
Permit #35
North Adams, MA
01247