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CHAT plans health lectures

NORTH PORT --To educate the public, local Community Health Action Team members are putting together a lecture series on health issues they feel need to be addressed. They discussed topics for the talks at their

Wednesday meeting.

"Some of the ideas we have on the list so far are depression, bird flu, teen issues, nutrition, disaster preparedness, exercise and smoking cessation," said media subcommittee chairwoman Gail Quinn. "Our first one is tentatively scheduled for May, if city hall is available."

A time for the lecture series has not yet been set. Group members want to choose a time that will allow both working and non-working residents to attend.

"We have such a fantastic cross-section of representatives here in this group," said CHAT co-chairman Lee Gross. "I think we can give CHAT members the first opportunity to present lectures."

Other members of the group suggested having special lectures just for teens, as well as some on child care and bereavement issues.

CHAT members said they also hope to revise its goals and objectives during its next meeting.

Processes for the revision were debated during the CHAT meeting.

"It's been reworked differently by different CHATs," said Diane Ramseyer, CHAT coordinator for the Sarasota County Health Department. "Maybe we will decide that we need more specific subcommittees to help keep us on track."

Group members will review the current goals and objectives list and bring their suggested changes with them to the next CHAT meeting.

North Port CHAT is one of three citizen groups that are part of the Community Health Improvement Project, or CHIP. CHIP is a community-

based initiative that began in 2002 with the goal of improving the health of Sarasota and Charlotte County residents.


The CHAT group meets monthly at the Peace River North Port Health Park. For more information, contact Jessica Balos or Kari Ellingstad at 861-2987, or visit their Web site at www.npchat.blogspot.com.

CHAT meets again at 4:30 on April 12 at the Peace River Health Park. The public is welcome to attend.

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By ANNE KLOCKENKEMPER

Staff Writer

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