

**For Immediate Release  
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**“Seacoast 20/20: A Community Vision” draws a capacity crowd to first community session**

Portsmouth, NH - There’s a new partnership in town, and it’s creating quite a buzz. “Seacoast 20/20: A Community Vision” is a partnership of 15 organizations ranging from businesses, to foundations, nonprofits, rotary organizations and networking groups that is looking to change the way the Greater Seacoast approaches problem solving.

Next Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m., guest speaker Joseph “Jay” Connor from [The Collaboratory](#), will explain how the community can take advantage of all of its assets in order to reach new heights, using as examples his successes in communities across North America.

Like many communities trying to address community issues, the Greater Seacoast is confronted with privatization, frustration with seemingly fragmented services, turf struggles and calls for accountability that demand more collaboration, partnerships and cross sector efforts - with a more diverse set of players - than has ever been tried before.

Recognizing the need to take community collaborations to the next level, the Seacoast 20/20 partnership joined together to invite guest speaker Joseph “Jay” Connor to introduce the region to a new approach to addressing complex community problems. By creating more locally-based solutions that include businesses, foundations, individuals, and nonprofits working together, Seacoast 20/20 believes the community can make real change happen.

Reservations for seats at the event, hosted by Sheraton Harborside Portsmouth, filled up quickly, and it is now at capacity with over 125 people expected to attend. To be placed on the waiting list, contact Helen Long at 436-5554 ext. 135. For those interested in attending a future session, another community workshop is scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Event partners include: AARP New Hampshire, Allies in Substance Abuse Prevention, CATAPULT: Young Professionals Network, Dover Main Street, Foundation for Seacoast Health, Fuller Foundation, Leadership Seacoast, Northeast Credit Union, Rockingham County Community Resource Network, Sheraton Harborside Portsmouth, Strafford Network, Sunrise Rotary, United Way of the Greater Seacoast, Women Aid, Workforce Housing Coalition.

**Seacoast 20/20: A Community Vision “Let’s Work Differently”**

February 19, 2009

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside

(Press is invited to attend, please let Liza Dube at [ldube@uwgs.org](mailto:ldube@uwgs.org) or 436-5554 ext. 123 know if you are planning to attend the meeting).