

Hello Cumberland District Public Health Council Members and interested parties,  
As you may be aware, all eight public health districts in Maine have embarked on the development of a District Public Health Improvement Plan, with linkages to both the state health plan and the local community health improvement plans that are being developed by the Healthy Maine Partnerships.

Over the past few months, the CDPHC has identified several priorities for improving how our public health system in this district functions and several priorities for population health improvement based on opportunities to prevent avoidable hospitalizations and reduce health care costs. These population health priorities focus on flu and pneumococcal vaccination, high blood pressure & high cholesterol, tobacco, and access to primary care & preventive services.

I am writing on behalf of the council to ask for your input about the priorities and the opportunities you see for greatest impact as well as your help in identifying other partners in the district that play a role in impacting these priorities. There are many good initiatives already being implemented by many partners across Cumberland County and we want to avoid duplication of effort and competition for limited resources - our goal is not to establish new programs or projects unless there is truly a gap to be filled. We are confident that by identifying partners who share common objectives related to these priorities, we can instead invest our energy as a council to increase the reach and impact of the good work that is already happening.

Whether you are a member of the council or not, whether you've been attending meetings for years or are just hearing about it for the first time, your input is important for this first district public health improvement plan to be successful. In order to gather broad input, we have created a survey that can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3CVW5V9>

Please take advantage of this opportunity to share your perspective on the priorities and help connect us to others you know in the district who share an interest in them. The survey will remain open for 2 weeks (through August 18<sup>th</sup>). Please feel free to forward this email to others you think might be interested – we know that this plan can only be successful if we work across all sectors including public health, health care, community agencies and coalitions, employers, education, and anyone else who is committed to improving the health of people in Cumberland County. Pasted in below this email is a list of council members and interested parties who are receiving this initial email – scanning this list may help you to think of people or organizations you may want to suggest in your survey responses who we may not yet have reached.

Please feel free to email or call me (contact info below) if you have any questions or would like more detail regarding this planning process.

Thanks!

-Becca

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