

Minutes – March 13, 2009  
9:00 a.m. Helen Hunt Health Center  
Old Town, Maine

**Present:** MaryAnn Amrich (Office of Local Public Health), Charlie Newton (Penquis), Michael Peterson (Sebastiancook Valley Hospital), Sara Yasner (United Way of Eastern Maine), Edward B. French (United Way of Eastern Maine), Jessica Fogg (Penobscot Valley Hospital), Micah Robbins (Jobs for Maine's Graduates), Allison Bankston (Penobscot Valley Hospital), Dyan Walsh (Eastern Area Agency on Aging), Lenard Kaye (UMaine Center on Aging), Penny Townsend (MSAD 48), Dawn Littlefield (SVH-SVHCC), Bob Morin (MSAD 67), Tom Malcolm (Millinocket Fire Department/LHO), Bonnie Irwin (Bangor Region Public Health and Wellness), Madeline Martin (Tribal Public Health Liaison), Francine Stark (Spruce Run), Willow McVeigh (River Coalition), Pamela Jacobson (Charlotte White Center), Greg Swett (EMCC), Elisa Madore (American Cancer Society), Doris Seger (River Coalition), June Fiske (River Coalition), Bea Szantyr (Physician), Tom Lizotte (Mayo Regional Hospital/Piscataquis County Commissioners), Diane Vatne (Greater Old Town Communities That Care), Jamie Comstock (City of Bangor), Shawn Yardley (City of Bangor)

**Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review:** Dawn Littlefield (SVHCC) called the meeting to order and reviewed agenda items. Members or their alternates introduced themselves.

**Panel Presentation:** Shawn Yardley (BH&CS) and Jerry Whalen (EMH) presented information regarding public health assessments that their organizations have performed, the responses received and the difficulties they encountered during the process of performing the assessments. They also discussed how the data can be interpreted differently depending on the perspective of who is interpreting the data.

Shawn Yardley was asked how the information was used after it was compiled. He explained that the information became a foundation to help develop a coalition. It helped different organizations to be engaged in a different way that they had not thought about as part of the public health infrastructure. Representatives of organizations such as EMH, CHCS and others, were brought together, given the information and they took it back to their respective organizations and talked about it and then they moved from there.

Jerry Whalen explained that his organization is still in discussions about how to use the geographic data; whether it should be by town, county or district. They are more than willing to collaborate with the Healthy Maine Partnerships in collection of data. Why can't the health systems gather the information and the HMPs tackle the local public health assessment and MAPP process to gather information?

***Vision Statement:***

The Penquis DCC will be the unified voice for collaborative public health in the Penquis District.

***Mission Statement:***

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Dawn Littlefield explained that when she wrote her RFP this information was not available. She has met with selectmen from the towns in her district to see if they are willing to buy-in to help with the health surveys. Without community buy-ins you don't make changes. All the best information can be made available, but unless there is community buy-in changes won't be made.

Jerry Whalen explained that the data can be classified anyway to help the HMPs. He asked how he can work with the HMPs to make their job easier. Dawn Littlefield explained that he is talking about a high level of people; the HMPs have to go to the individual for the information.

There was a discussion about having the Health Systems partnership with the HMPs and structure it along the lines of the districts. There are differences between rural areas and less rural areas and it is important to keep this in mind. Jerry Whalen said that they went to various sources for the names and addresses of the participants for this assessment. It was also suggested that social service agencies, such as the Union Way, could join in the assessment to provide information regarding their areas of work.

**Brief Overview of MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships):** MaryAnn Amrich (District Liaison, ME-CDC, Office of Local Public Health) explained that each district is beginning to discuss who will be invited to participate in the MAPP assessment meetings. There will be participants from all areas of the districts. MaryAnn explained the four assessments that will be done and what they involve.

**Panel Presentation:** Current status of Healthy Maine Partnership MAPP  
*Dawn Littlefield, Sebasticook Valley Healthy Communities*  
*Willow McVeigh, for BPHW, Piscataquis Public Health Council, and Partnership for a Healthy Northern Penobscot*

Dawn Littlefield then provided copies of the MAPP assessment sheets that her HMP has had completed. She has been working with the Central District with the MAPP assessment and has already held meetings and collected data. She explained the process that has been followed in collecting the information and the type of information collected and how that information has been compared. She said that she has found that the people in the communities, especially town officials, are interested and excited about the information that has been collected.

She has been working on "branding" and working with the legislatures. Without them being educated about the work the HMPs are doing and not supported the Fund for Healthy Maine, the funds could disappear.

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Willow McVeigh explained that the River Coalition is just beginning to work on MAPP and to brand themselves with their local officials and legislatures.

Robin ? reported that they are working on underage drinking using funding that they have received.. They are also working on the cardiovascular section of the work plan. Additionally, as a district they are working with the other HMPs on additional funding. They are looking for partners all the time to support.

Dawn Littlefield added that workplace wellness is another area where the district will be working on. They are not able to provide direct service, but are a resource to guide them to places for more information.

Jamie Comstock reported on the Penobscot County Substance Abuse task force which was a meeting of public safety officials to talk about underage drinking. Willow added that additional funding was received and they brought all the police agencies together to talk about how to collaborate with public officials to deal with underage drinking. They will be meeting twice a year.

**Discussion/ Q&A:** moving forward with district public health assessment & planning

MaryAnne Amrich reported that a new report has been released entitled “Shortchanging America’s Health a State by State Look at How Federal Public Health Dollars are Spent” .What this shows for Maine is that Maine ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the amount of state public health funds per capita, which includes the Fund for Healthy Maine. If that is taken away, Maine ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in state spending. Maine ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the amount of USCDC dollars per capita that are received. Maine ranks 19<sup>th</sup>, just below the national average, for the amount of PERSA dollars and 9<sup>th</sup> in the county for the amount of federal funds going to hospital pre-therapies. Maine has one of the highest rates for health insurance and the lowest rates of STD’s. Maine is noted as having high rates of asthma and low rates of childhood immunizations. This information will be disseminated by a number of agencies and is available for organizations to use.

There have been questions about how the federal stimulus money will be used for healthcare. Part of it will be used to instead federal medical assistance (Medicaid), extending COBRA. There is a movement to make all medical records electronic within the next five years and these funds may help towards this. There is also funding to look at immunizations. She suspects that some of this money will be used to support the wellness programs.

She also explained about the stickers program “This is Public Health”.

**Wrap-up** and next steps - *Plans for the next meeting*

The next DCC meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2009 at Helen Hunt Center.

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