

Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health
Meeting Minutes for June 23, 2011 Meeting, 11:00am-3:00pm
Augusta Armory, 179 Western Avenue, Second Floor

In Attendance:

Members: Deb Erickson-Irons, Joanne Joy, Joel Kase, Robin Mayo, Jessica Maurer, Geoffrey Miller, Kathy Norwood, Dr. Sheila Pinette, Lorrie Potvin, Connie Putnam, Megan Rochelo, David Stockford, Carl Toney, Emilie Van Eeghen, Shawn Yardley, Clarissa Webber

Key Stakeholders: Lee Gilman (American Heart Assoc. of NE), Mark Griswold (Maine CDC Office of Local Public Health), Kate Perkins (Medical Care Development), Tina Pettingill (Maine Public Health Assoc.), Angela Westhoff (Maine Osteopathic Assoc.), Leticia Huttman (DHHS Office of Adult Mental Health Svcs.)

Interested Parties: Judy Gopaul, Al May, Stacy Boucher, Jessica Fogg, Becca Matusovich, Chris Lyman, Mary Ann Amrich, Lisa Sockabasin, Paula Thomson, Jerolyn Ireland, Valerie Ricker, Becky Smith

The meeting was called to order at 11:00am by Joanne Joy, SCC Chair. Dr. Sheila Pinette, the new Director of Maine CDC and State Health Officer, was introduced to the group by Shawn Yardley, SCC Vice Chair.

- Legislative Updates: Becky Smith and Mark Griswold updated the group on key pieces of legislation that were addressed during the session. Becky reviewed advocacy activities undertaken by the Maine Public Health Association (her presentation can be found here: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/olph/scc/index.shtml>). Mark discussed changes to the public health infrastructure legislation, with a follow up on LD 121 (which better incorporates Tribal public health) and LD 1333 (which eliminates the State Health Plan, the Advisory Council on Health Systems Development and the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance).
- Small group discussion: Dr. Pinette and Joanne Joy facilitated a small group discussion process. The meeting split in to small discussion groups to talk about the role of the SCC going forward. Topics for discussion included the following:
 - o Process: Options for convening full SCC Meetings and accomplishing SCC related work as the SCC evolves
 - o System Alignment and Coordination: Developing ways to provide timely input that ensures that public health practice remains aligned, streamlined and coordinated
 - o Expanding Scope: Ways to integrate a broader range of public health topics such as environmental health, infectious disease, emergency preparedness and family health
 - o Reducing Health Disparities: Identify ways the SCC can play a meaningful role in reducing health disparities and promoting health equity

Responses were recorded and can be found here:

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/olph/scc/index.shtml>). Over the summer months, the regularly-scheduled SCC Executive Committee meetings will be used for input. SCC participants are invited to attend these meetings, even if they are not part of the Executive

Committee. Mark Griswold will send an email announcement inviting participation in the July and August Executive Committee meetings.

- Membership: Mark Griswold discussed current membership status and asked members to consider joining the Executive Committee and thinking about officer nominations (Chair and Vice Chair). He will send an announcement over the summer requesting nominations, which will be voted on at the September Annual Meeting.
- District Representatives Connie Putnam and Emilie Van Eeghen facilitated a discussion about district issues, which included the revised HMP structure, potential funding changes and district policy recommendations.
 - HMP reorganization: Andy Finch, Maine CDC HMP Program Manager, discussed changes in the HMP system following that will begin in the new RFP funding cycle. This latest HMP funding cycle included a requirement that HMPs follow district boundaries, and that they have distinct population thresholds. In addition, it was stipulated that each district have a maximum of four and minimum of two HMPs. This resulted in a reduction in the number of funded HMPs. This reduction had the greatest effect on the Downeast District, which went from six HMPs to two. The Penquis and Central Districts were also affected. Another change Andy described related to chronic disease programming. All programming is based upon the US CDC Health Impact Pyramid, with a continued focus on policy and environment change. HMPs were asked to create 5-year objectives based on that model, in collaboration with Maine CDC Division of Chronic Disease staff. Evaluation of state and local HMP activities will be a priority during the coming funding cycle, with an acknowledgement that we need better impact evaluation data, particularly concerning health disparities. Finally, two funding decisions are being contested, both in the Downeast District. One concerning an HMP funding award and another concerning a School Health Coordinator funding award. Those appeals will be decided during July.
 - Funding: The funding discussion was briefer than anticipated, since the funding reductions which had been planned for the Fund for a Health Maine did not occur. Tina Pettingill from the Maine Public Health Association explained that funding cuts were avoided at the eleventh hour because of strong unity and advocacy, which included efforts by MPHA and many other partners. Unity and advocacy will continue to be important in the years ahead to avoid threats to public health funding.
 - DCC Policy Recommendations. DCC representatives to the SCC were asked to develop two policy recommendations, one concerning District Public Health Improvement Plan oversight and the other concerning the advocacy role for DCCs. These recommendations were developed in May and were shared with the group. They can be viewed here: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/olph/scc/index.shtml>. Some SCC members thought that the recommendation concerning advocacy needed further discussion and input. The DCC reps will take this up at their summer meeting and bring a recommendation forward to the Executive Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

Next Meeting: September 22, 2011, 11:00 to 3:00 pm, location to be determined