



**Cumberland District Public Health Council**  
**Full Council Meeting**  
**January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Virtually held on Zoom**

**Present:** Peggy Akers, Cathy Bean, Liz Blackwell-Moore, Anna Bullett, Emilee

Caradonna, Sarah Elhassan, Nick Farley, Lyvia Gaewsky, Rachel Gallo, Barbara Ginley, Alice Gormley, Caity Hager, Olivia Harris, Dr. Tina Holt, Lori Huot, Kristine Jenkins, Marin Johnson, Courtney Kennedy, Katie Kerr, Gail Kezer, Mike Koza, Grace Lapika, Jessica McCurdy, Nina Misra, Karen Oravitz, Tina Pettingill, Dr. Brendan Prast, Grace Price, Bridger Rauscher, Chelsea Robbins, Katie Rutherford, Naomi Schucker, Grace Tezo, Alfredo Vergara, Lilian Vitale, Andrew Volkers, Kristina Wilson, and Carol Zechman.

Topic	Discussion	Notes/Actions
<b>Welcome and Council Update:</b> Cathy Bean, CDPHC Chair; and Kristine Jenkins, Maine CDC	<p>CDPHC Chair, Cathy Bean with Northern Light Home Care and Hospice, welcomed participants and introduced today’s agenda.</p> <p>CDPHC Members voted electronically and approved three new Council members: Alfredo Vergara with Portland Public Health, Barbara Ginley with MaineHealth and Andrew Volkers with Preble Street.</p>	<p><b>Notes:</b> If you or someone you know would like to be a Voting Member of the CDPHC, please email Kristine at <a href="mailto:Kristine.L.Jenkins@Maine.gov">Kristine.L.Jenkins@Maine.gov</a></p>
<b>Project ECHO Presentation by Nadi Nina Kaonga, PGY-4, MMC:</b> <b>Brendan Prast, MMP</b> Family Medicine Physician and Preventive Medicine Fellow; <b>Marin Johnson,</b> Director of Prevention Programs, Preventive Medicine Enhancement for Maine, Maine	<p>Kristine Jenkins, Maine CDC, introduced the Project ECHO team: Dr. Brendan Prast, Marin Johnson, and Dr. Christina Holt. We viewed, and discussed, a 15-minute-long pre-recorded presentation by Nadi Nina Kaonga, PGY-4, MMC Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology, PGY-4, addressing maternal, newborn and child health concerns specifically highlighting the lived circumstances of immigrants and BIPOC persons, and its impact on pregnancy-related health, the importance of cultural sensitivity, and the role of the Community Health Workers (CHWs).</p>	<p><b>Notes:</b> For more information on Project ECHO: <a href="https://www.mainehealth.org/Healthcare-Professionals/Project-ECHO">https://www.mainehealth.org/Healthcare-Professionals/Project-ECHO</a></p>

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<p>Medical Center;  <b>Christina Holt</b>, MD,  MSc, MMP Family  Medicine Physician,  Director of Leadership  in Preventive Medicine  Residency Program</p>		
<p><b>Community Case Study:</b> Grace Lapika, Community Health Worker, Community Informed Care Initiative, MMC Preventive Medicine Enhancement for Maine</p>	<p>Grace Lapika, a Community Health Worker, followed up with the presentation to share a story of an immigrant to Maine’s journey, and the challenges she faces regarding health for herself and her family- with a focus on the critical role of Community Health Workers in addressing these.</p>	<p><b>Notes:</b></p>
<p><b>Walkthrough of CDPHC Statement on Housing and Vulnerable Population Health and Roll-Out Discussion:</b>  Kristine Jenkins,  Maine CDC</p>	<p>At the November CDPHC Meeting, a working group was established to address the issue around the end of the Emergency Rental Assistance. The working group met weekly and contributed to a statement document. CDPHC Members electronically voted to approve of the document. The document was adopted as written with a simple majority.</p> <p>Courtney Kennedy, CDPHC representative to the State Coordinating Council (SCC), suggested that since the need for housing is not unique to Cumberland District, the document could be shared at the upcoming Statewide Coordinating Council Meeting in March.</p> <p>Another discussion evolved around analyzing the financial impact of not taking action, as an argument in support of the asks. Members shared that it may be beneficial to bring this document to local legislatures and that data could be used to support the document.</p>	<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p>Find the CDPHC Statement here:  <a href="https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/lphd/district2/documents/cph-statement-document-unhoused-2023-1-20.pdf">https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/lphd/district2/documents/cph-statement-document-unhoused-2023-1-20.pdf</a></p>

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	<p>Discussion developed around difficulties faced by many unhoused families and the benefits of the Housing First Model:  <a href="https://www.thecommunityguide.org/news/housing-first-programs-lead-net-economic-benefits.html">https://www.thecommunityguide.org/news/housing-first-programs-lead-net-economic-benefits.html</a>  <a href="https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Housing-First-Research.pdf">https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Housing-First-Research.pdf</a></p> <p>Participants also discussed recent mis-communications between IMPACT and EPIC emrs. A document or “patient passport” is being developed by a collaborative group in hopes to streamline communication between providers around care.</p>	
<p><b>Member Updates:</b>  Cathy Bean, CDPHC  Chair</p>	<p>GSFB shared that the emergency SNAP benefit is ending due to the Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which will impact about 10,000 families across Maine, as well as our local farmers and suppliers.</p> <p>Access to Care emphasized that there will also be a change in Medicaid benefits after the expiring Public Health Emergency funding. Encouraged anyone working with individuals who may be impacted to learn more. Visit <a href="http://www.CoverME.gov">www.CoverME.gov</a> for more information on Special Enrollment Period.</p> <p>MaineHealth shared that their food pantry will be opening to patients and soon to the public:  <a href="https://www.mainehealth.org/Maine-Medical-Center/Patients-Visitors/Food-Pantry">https://www.mainehealth.org/Maine-Medical-Center/Patients-Visitors/Food-Pantry</a></p> <p>City of Portland shared a <a href="#">link to their Community Health Improvement Plan</a></p> <p>WIC shared a <a href="#">link to their annual report</a> and a <a href="#">link to their Breastfeeding Coordinator position</a>.</p> <p>WIC Community Health Workers are in the community – if you would like to give them a tour or your facility and explain your program, reach out to their supervisor, Lilian Vitale at <a href="mailto:Lilian.vitale@opportunityalliance.org">Lilian.vitale@opportunityalliance.org</a></p> <p>WIC office in Portland, in partnership with UNE Dental and Dental Hygiene students, will be hosting half day oral health clinics on Wednesdays one a month starting in February for WIC children ages 1 – 3 years. Promotional materials will be available. Contact Anna Bullett for more information at: <a href="mailto:anna.bullett@opportunityalliance.org">anna.bullett@opportunityalliance.org</a></p>	<p><b>Notes:</b></p>

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	<p>WIC office in Portland, in partnership with Presente!, will host one Tuesday evening a month for exclusively for Spanish speaking and Latinx-identifying families starting in March.</p> <p>WIC offers well-water testing kits. They are addressing some complications that have arisen, but please remember the kits do not test for lead.</p>	
	<p>The next Cumberland District Meeting is scheduled to be held on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and may be in-person. Details to come.</p>	