



Midcoast Public Health Council
Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2021
ZOOM
DATED 02-09-2021



Council Members: Cathy Cole (Chair) -- LincolnHealth, Penobscot Bay Medical Center and Waldo County General Hospital; Drexell White- Maine CDC; Marianne Pinkham- Maine Association for Consumer Sciences; Kate Martin (Vice Chair)- Healthy Lincoln County; Becky Dinces – Penquis CAP; Connie Putnam- Knox County Community Health Coalition (KCCHC); Christine Lyman- MCDC retired, Community Advocate Brunswick; Katie Tarbox- Making Community Happen, Inc; Sue Campbell – OUT Maine; Caer Hallundbaek, CHA, Program and Grant Administrator

Stakeholders/Guests: Jennifer Gunderman (presenter)- UNE; Dora Anne Mills (presenter)- MaineHealth ; Gabby Tilton- LincolnHealth; Claire Berkowitz – Midcoast Maine Community Action; Katy Hiza – MMCA Head Start; Kate Perkins – MCD; Jane Conrad -- volunteer and board member MaineHealth Care at Home; Elizabeth Foley – MCD; Nate Miller, Spectrum Generations; Leigh Anne Keichline, Restorative Justice Projects; Chelsie Mitchell - The Highlands in Topsham; Sarah Bennett - Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency; Pinny Beebe-Center - Starbuck Associates; Roy Hitchings – retired; Chris Rector - US Senator Angus King’s office, covering Knox, Waldo, Hancock and Washington Counties; Dale Cook - Kidspeace, Ellsworth Maine; Becky Hayes Boober - KCCHC Tobacco Prevention; Ed Molleo, Healthcare Coalition of Maine - Northern Chapter; Ellen Blake - Maine CDC, substance use prevention; Phoebe Downer - MPH Candidate, former Midcoast resident; Tina Streker - new volunteer; Court Dwyer – Midcoast resident; Jennifer Giroux – Volunteers of America, Northern New England; Sue Childress – Chewonki Foundation; Donna Kelley – Waldo CAP; Mercedes/Sadie Faucher – Maine CDC; Maura Goss – Maine CDC; Alfred May- Maine CDC; Patrick Bouchard – State of Maine; Denis Howard – did not sign in; Melissa Chretien – did not sign in; Catherine Burch – did not sign in; Randy Domina – did not sign in; Mark – did not sign in; Fred – did not sign in; 12073284212; 16037038755

Council Staff: Julie Daigle- Maine CDC

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	ACTION(S) AND RESOURCES
Welcome/Introductions	New attendees: Ellen Blake, has been working for the Maine CDC in Substance Use Prevention for one year. Maura Goss- Council Coordinator for the Maine CDC for the Aroostook, Downeast, and Tribal Districts. Ed Molleo- was the Maine CDC	

	Volunteer Manager, now the Northern Maine Chapter Coordinator for the Healthcare Coalition of Maine, within the Maine CDC All Clear Emergency Management Group, a public health emergency preparedness coalition.	
Consent Agenda/Council Minutes	<p>No revisions to the minutes were recommended; minutes accepted as distributed.</p> <p>Al May provided an update on the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act- authored by Senator Collins- building a public health infrastructure around Alzheimers. MCDC worked with Maine’s Alzheimer’s Association and one other organization. Received BOLD grant under the Healthy Brain Initiative; 3 year grant, one of 15, beginning of 2020. Focus is to 1) Develop a position at Maine CDC, a leader in public health, working with Alzheimer’s. 2) Revise current state plan; integrating or basing it in the Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map that the US CDC has put out. There is a hiring freeze at the state, so this first year is mostly in-kind work. Large stakeholder group including folks from UNE, Jax Labs, others, etc. working on this and operating as the starting point for work moving forward. If anyone is interested in being on one or more of these committees, contact Alfred.May@maine.gov.</p>	If anyone is interested in being on one or more committees focused on Alzheimer’s work in Maine, contact MCDC District Liaison Alfred.May@maine.gov.
Presentation: <i>Vaccine Hesitancy</i>	<p><i>Jen Gunderman</i>- Maine AHEC Director, Asst Clinical Director at UNE; was directly connected to the MPHCC in a previous position. Covered the Midcoast and Downeast districts before Al May and Drexell White.</p> <p>Topic is vaccine hesitancy and specifically a discussion about the infodemic’s role in this.</p> <p>WHO has a group, SAGE Vaccine Hesitancy Working Group, studying the scale of vaccine hesitancy and threat it poses.</p> <p>Discussion about the “stages” in vaccine hesitancy- delay in acceptance for some, delay in acceptance for all, and refusal of services for some or for all, due to complacency, confidence, or convenience factors. Confidence example- lack of confidence in policy makers. Complacency- perceived risk of side effect higher than disease. Convenience- logistics are not built around equitable or equal access.</p>	Julie will share slides that Jen forwards.

	<p>Influences- socio-ecological model- other factors play a role.... Who we hang out with, organizations we are involved with, community norms, wider social policies, and SDOH. Research is strong in that people of higher SES are more apt to be vaccine hesitant.</p> <p>Infodemic- this is not a new phenomenon, and is listed in the Merriam Webster dictionary as “Words We Are Watching.” WHO: “Mis- and disinformation can be harmful to people’s physical and mental health; increase stigmatization; threaten precious health gains; and lead to poor observance of public health measures, thus reducing their effectiveness and endangering countries’ ability to stop the pandemic.”</p> <p>Misinformation is increasing. It involves a little truth in some untruths. Driving force is instant messenger apps like WhatsApp.</p> <p>Motivations for spreading it: financial gain, political gain, experimental manipulation: “just to see what happens.”</p> <p>Solutions: Combat the source. For example, on social media- report misinformation to sources. Tackle the infodemic as an outbreak.... Collect ongoing data, urgency, devote resources, etc. In public health we talk about the stages of change- precontemplation, contemplation, preparation, action, and maintenance: we have a role to play in this process, in keeping the conversation going and providing correct information.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>What role does isolation play in encouraging misinformation?</p> <p>Answer: It can go either way, depending on where people are getting their information.</p> <p>What do you tell someone who reads the paperwork before taking the vaccine and see that it states that the FDA has yet to approve it?</p> <p>Answer: This isn’t brand new medical phenomenon. There are some risks. Nothing</p>	
--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

	<p>works 100% for 100% of population 100% of the time.</p> <p>Has there been a shift in childhood vaccine rates because COVID big in the news right now?</p> <p>Answer: We have some data that show higher vaccine rates among children who had Medicaid as insurance. There's also a lot more data around childhood vaccines that is available.</p>	
<p>Presentation: <i>MaineHealth's COVID 19 Vaccination Efforts</i></p>	<p><i>Dora Anne Mills</i>- Many Council attendees are involved with vaccine clinics and may have more on-the-ground information. MaineHealth has 10 vaccine clinics open to the public, 9 in Maine and 1 in North Conway, NH. Decided early on that MH would open their vaccine clinics to the public. Have the capacity to do 5k vaccinations per day (25k-30k per week) between the 9 clinics in Maine. Supply is the limiting factor at the moment. The vision is to have the healthiest communities in the nation.</p> <p>Are doing about 2k per day at the moment, but anticipate getting up to 3k shortly. Vaccines 70 and older: just received permission to start about 3.5 weeks ago- census data indicates there are 195k who are 70 and older in Maine. About 30% had been vaccinated (at the time of the Council meeting). The registration system has been a challenge- initially were anticipating that there would be a coordinated federal system.</p> <p>Registration number is: 877-780-7545. Call on Thursday or Friday for an appointment the following week. Callers will be put into a virtual queue. Watch for a callback from an 877 number.</p> <p>MH is making sure that the Midcoast is getting enough vaccine, holding to an equal distribution across the state, proportional to population.</p> <p>Long term care: staff rates are lower than residents- 37% nationally. We are doing better here in Maine, however, due to, in part, a lot of town halls and provider</p>	<p>Getting vaccination information in Lingala and other town hall resources- email: mejohanson@mainehealth.org</p> <p>MaineHealth Coronavirus info: https://www.mainehealth.org/Coronavirus-COVID-19/Vaccine</p> <p>Can also email Council Coordinator julie.daigle@maine.gov or Dora Anne Mills Dmills1@mainehealth.org</p>

education. Providing training in other languages as well, but staff rates remain lower than resident rates.

Given the new, more contagious variants, the goal is to get vaccines into people as quickly as possible. This is anticipated to help blunt the severity of health outcomes if someone does contract one of the new variants, like B11K. The South African variant has been detected in Maine.

Contagious vs virulent: the new strains are more contagious; they may or may not be more virulent. But the models show that the more people who have contracted the disease, the more people who will then contract severe disease: exponential growth.

Likely to see Johnson and Johnson vaccine by early march. Want to have that available- one shot, more like flu vaccine, and with fewer specific needs around handling. The current vaccine handling needs are not appropriate for a drive-through vaccination model.

Getting vaccination information in Lingala, two other languages and other town hall resources- email Merrin Johnson mejohanson@mainehealth.org

Questions:

Will the callback involve scheduling with a live person?

Answer: *did not catch the answer*. You may be asked for proof of employment if you are getting vaccinated as a healthcare worker.

Resident Court Dwyer shared that it's important to close your answering machine; there will not be a message left on a machine. You have to answer your phone to get the appointment.

	<p>Cathy/Dora- MaineHealth has a link to an FAQ and other Coronavirus information on their webpage. https://www.mainehealth.org/Coronavirus-COVID-19/Vaccine</p> <p>Also, you can email Julie at julie.daigle@maine.gov and she will gather questions for Dora; or you can email Dora directly, but keep in mind that responses will not be immediate, due to COVID 19 responsibilities and email volume.</p> <p>Dmills1@mainehealth.org.</p>	
Break		
Administrative Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Elections</i> 	No additional names were suggested and all candidates were approved as shown on the election slate.	
Collaborations	If anyone would like to be on the council, reach out to Julie, either by email julie.daigle@maine.gov , or by leaving contact information in the chat box.	
Wrap Up & Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.	

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Zoom- March 9, 2021
Next MPHCC Meeting: Zoom- April 13, 2021