

Western District Coordinating Council for Public Health

Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 25th, 2022

Virtually held on Zoom

Present: Allie Burke, Emilee Caradonna, Carl Costanzi, Michelle Couillard, Shannon Craig-McDaniel, Jennifer Edwards, Diane Gallagher, Lindsay Gannon, Sabrina Keene, Jason Labbe, Katherine Lary, LeeAnna Lavoie, Hollie Legee-Cressman, Katherine Lemieux, Hamdi Omar, Jamie Paul, Jemma Penberthy, and Brendan Schauffler.

Introductions: Jamie, District Liaison with the Maine CDC, welcomed participants and opened the floor for introductions.

Steering Committee Vacancies: Currently, the Chair, Vice Chair, Statewide Coordinating Council Representative, and the Franklin County Representative positions are vacant. Androscoggin County Representative is Shawn Yardley with Community Concepts, Inc. (term: January 2023) and Oxford County Representative is Stephanie LeBlanc with Oxford County Mental Health (term: January 2023). Please see attached document for more information on these positions and email Council Coordinator, Emilee, at Emilee.Winn@Maine.gov to nominate someone or learn more.

DCC Meeting Dates & Times for 2022: The group agreed that Friday mornings worked well and to send out a poll to acquire input from those who could not make the meeting. [Please use this link to select the best day/time for the Western DCC meeting in June.](#)

Community Health Needs Assessment Updates: As the Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) took place in the fall of 2021, local hospitals are currently working on their Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs):

Representation from Healthy Androscoggin noted that the CHIP Manager for the local hospital was not at the meeting but shared that the hospitals are working on their report noting subcommittees of health care partners are identifying strategies.

Representation from MaineHealth in Franklin County shared that they are also working on their final report. They are limiting strategies to narrow the focus but are looking to expand beyond the health systems. Focal points include mental health and youth including ACEs and access to care, highlighting that there is no urgent care facility in the area.

Representation from Oxford County and Western Maine HCC shared that they, too, are in the process of developing an implementation plan. They are working with the MaineHealth's Data Reporting and Evaluation team to identify impact and develop a strategic system with a focus on mental health in adults.

DCC Priorities & Purpose Discussions: As the DCC is looking forward, discussion between the participants about what the group should prioritize and focus on. The DCCs will be tapped to offer input in the Local Public Health Systems Assessment (LPHSA). This group participated in one LPHSA

meeting prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the assessments will restart in the last summer/early fall. Members also noted that the Council could align with the LPHSA outcomes and the local hospitals' CHNA priorities. Some participants noted the benefits of networking and connecting that this group can offer – in which members started sharing some updates and resources:

The City of Lewiston was awarded a Choice Grant for \$30 million focusing on supporting childhood lead exposure and supporting families in poverty.

Healthy Oxford Hills received a HRSA grant for support around vaccine hesitancy. They are connecting with community health workers and community champions to identify the cause of hesitancy as well as building relationships to build trust around vaccines.

Safe Voices is establishing relationships and connecting those who experience domestic violence to providers and resources. If you would like to connect with Diane and have her present at a meeting, please email: dgallagher@safevoices.org

Healthy Androscoggin is pleased to announce new staffing updates including that Corrie Brown is their new Executive Director. They also have a new lead numbers and an updated dashboard: <https://healthyandroscoggin.org/>

River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition had a food pantry close due to Covid-19, but they are pleased to announce a new space located at the old Holy Savior School on 115 Maine Avenue in Rumford. They are open daily with fresh produce.

Healthy Oxford Hills Youth Engagement Coordinator shared updates around their youth policy board connections – including a snowshoe and bonfire event (stipends available for those who may need), as well as their “Bootcamp Translation Project” which supports an effort to communicate health needs and information from community members to community members through facilitated discussions. They are working with a graphic designer and will begin to disseminate the messaging – stay tuned! Email Brendan for more information or to connect: brendan@healthyoxfordhills.org

Healthy Community Coalition of Greater Franklin County's Substance Use Prevention is focused on opioid support with case managers and connecting resources around MAT, housing, and basic care. Hoping the program will support a mobile needle exchange program in the near future.

Drug Take Back Day is April 30th! From 10am-2pm, Livermore Falls Police Department is hosting a Shred event in alongside their Drug Take Back Day.

The City of Auburn is supporting a prisoner re-entry network across Androscoggin County. They offer monthly Zoom meeting in Auburn which is a great place to connect to resources.

For those interested in learning more, or who may be unfamiliar with Recovery Friendly Workplace initiatives, the [Recovery Friendly Workplace](#) initiative in New Hampshire has made great progress and was featured as one of the [breakout sessions at Governor Mills 3rd Annual Opioid Response Summit in July of 2021](#).

Snap-Ed is offering three virtual classes. They are going back to their in-person support in some schools. Let's Go! Coordinator, Tobacco and Substance Use Prevention are working with schools to update policies.

Members continued the discussion around what the DCC can support. A member mentioned the work from Lakes Region Collective Action Network (LRCAN) who have focused on problem solving and suggested the DCC could offer a similar framework.

Adjournment: All meetings are anticipated to be held virtually at this time. Please use the Doodle Poll (linked above) to enter in availability for the upcoming June DCC Meeting. Officer Elections will be held virtually – please stay tuned for future correspondences around that. To share ideas for upcoming speakers and topics, please contact Jamie at: Jamie.L.Paul@Maine.gov