



**Executive Committee  
2022**

**Angela Fochesato, Chair**  
Executive Director,  
*Beth C. Wright Cancer Center*

**Meredith Alexander, Vice-Chair**  
Senior Analyst, Performance Excellence  
*Association of State and Territorial Health Officials*

**Maria Donahue, SCC Rep**  
Community Health Director  
*Healthy Acadia (Hancock)*

**Helen Burlock**  
Maine Hospice Council  
*President*

**Kelly Brown**  
Associate Director  
*Next Step Domestic Violence Project*

**Andrew Sankey**  
Director  
*Hancock County Emergency Management Agency*

**Alfred May**  
District Liaison  
*Maine CDC*

**Maura Goss**  
Council Coordinator  
*Maine CDC*

*Mission: Promote the health of all our communities by providing public health information, coordination, collaboration, and advocacy*

**Downeast Public Health Council  
Friday, January 20, 2023: 9:00 – 11:00 am  
Virtual Meeting**

**Minutes**

Participants at Meeting:

Name	Organization	Meeting Site
Meredith Alexander	Association of State and Territorial Health Agencies	Twenty Attendees All Virtual
Al May	Maine CDC – Downeast District Liaison	
Andrew Sankey	Hancock County Emergency Management Agency	
Angela Fochesato	Healthy Acadia/Beth C. Wright Cancer Center	
DeAnna Street	Heart of Maine United Way	
Sarah Wright	Aroostook Mental Health Services	
Maria Donahue	Healthy Acadia	
Maura Lockwood	Maine CDC, DHHS, Epidemiologist	
Shawn K. Peterson	Maine CDC Downeast Public Health Educator	
Mia Petrini	Healthy Acadia	
Janet Lewis	Northern Light Maine Coast/Blue Hill Hospitals	
Anna Vietel	NextStep Domestic Violence Project	
Jo Cooper	Transportation Equity for Healthy Aging	

Name	Organization	Meeting Site
Kate Perkins	MCD	
W. Summer Davis	???	
Barbara MacPike	MDI Hospital	
Abby van Ham	Maine CDC- Downeast Council Coordinator	
Leona Alvarado	Tribal Public Health Liaison	
Stephanie Lavigne	Public Health Nurse	
Kara Piper	Infection Prevention NL MCH/BHH	

## **Executive Summary**

### **Deeper Dive**

Topic: Maine Public Health 101, [slides](#)

- Presenter: Al May

### **Business Updates**

- Approval of Minutes.
  - Meeting minutes of September 16 meeting were approved as written.
- Council Coordinator Update
- Executive Committee slate for 2023
- New Staff: Shawn K. Peterson; Public Health Educator, Abby van Ham; Council Coordinator

### **District Updates**

- Maine Prevention Network Services
- Passamaquoddy and Wabanaki Tribal

### **State Initiative**

- Meeting Recap (September 15, 2022 meeting)

### **Prior Deeper Dive Redux**

#### **Infrastructure Building**

- Hancock County EMA
- Healthy Acadia
- Beth Wright Cancer Resource Center

#### **District Health Planning**

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***Vision: Downeast Maine Communities are among the healthiest in the state.***

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**Welcome** Angela Fochesato, Chair

- Review of Agenda, Al May

**Downeast Deeper Dive** Al May

- Goals for 2023, highlight one aspect of public health in each DEPHC meeting. To better understand public health in Maine, and in Downeast

**MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH 101**, Al May, Maine CDC

- **Question:** How are Maine CDC County efforts funded?
  - DL has salary only, and district staff is funded by the State CDC in Augusta, however each role is specific and localized
  - There is currently no state or federal funding
  - Occasionally, grant money comes through, for specific purpose, usually under 100k
    - Grants acquired by partners can be assisted by our districts
- **Discussion:** Medical model and public health efforts work towards the same goals in differing ways. Often made to fight each other for funding and resources.
- **Question:** Where are we Post-COVID as a public health issue.
  - COVID is now a regular issue, it will be a yearly issue. Efforts to vaccinate and prevent are now slowing down, as we move back to not focusing solely on COVID. We are not a COVID agency. It is time to move back towards focusing on the broader health issues.

## **Business Updates**

September 16, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

- Motion to Approve Minutes as Presented; Andrew Sankey. Motion to Accept Minutes as Presented; Maura Lockwood, Seconded; Andrew Sankey. Minutes Approved

Council Coordinator Update

- Introduction: Abby van Ham

Executive Committee Slate for 2023

- Slate will be sent out soon

New Staff: Public Health Educator

- Introduction: Shawn Peterson

## **District Updates**

- **Maine Prevention Network Services**, Maria Donahue
  - New Funding: Focuses on primary prevention and some secondary prevention.
    - A new extension of the Healthy Maine Partnership funding, Maine CDC with work directly with district level partners, one partner received grant in each district. Healthy Acadia received grant and will be working in Hancock and Washington Counties
    - Substance use prevention

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- Obesity prevention/Healthy Eating, Active Living expanded to wider community
- Tobacco use prevention- most funding
- Contracts will be for approximately 10 years, the first 60 days will be used to conduct an environmental scan, developing logic models, developing workplan
- **Passamaquoddy and Wabanaki Tribal**, Leona Alvarado
  - Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness will be moving into a new cultural center in Bangor
  - WPHW is wrapping up their public health needs assessments
  - Leona will be physically traveling to sites and increasing interpersonal relationships

**State Initiative**

- SCC Meeting Recap (September 15, 2022 meeting), Maria Donahue
  - SCC: Statewide Coordinating Council includes representatives for each district, there are also stakeholder groups present; healthcare, DOE , EMS, Public Safety, Foodbanks etc.
    - Oversees Public Health Accreditation
- Provided an overview of themes from the District Engagement Visits
- Themes: Housing, staffing challenges, food insecurity, behavioral healthcare, social isolation
  - All similar to statewide concerns
- Discussion of Statewide Health Improvement Plan,
  - What makes that plan useful in connecting to districts
  - Funding is always a challenge
- Maine Shared CHNA Summits are going to be starting up again in 2023
  - Planned actions in four of the statewide priority areas: Substance Use, Mental Health, Social Determinants of Health, Access to Healthcare

**Prior Deeper Dive Redux**

Evaluation: Is there value to having this section in our meetings as a follow up and/or gaining more information about the topic?

- Should be flexible, not all speakers stimulate follow up. However, those that do should be encouraged to join these meetings regularly.
- ACTION: To encourage engagement outside of meetings, include a section in the Newsletter

**Infrastructure Building**

Each organization shares the following: how they define public health, what they do is related to public health, and what their role is in the public health system.

- **Hancock County EMA**, Andrew Sankey
  - Plan for, Prepare, Respond to, Recover from, and Mitigate disasters
    - Disasters take three forms, natural, technological, human caused, all can affect public health
  - [BAC Primer](#) on history and role of EMA
- **Healthy Acadia**, Maria Donahue
  - <https://www.healthyacadia.org/>
  - Works to empower people to build healthy communities together, to ensure that useful resources are easily available
  - Primarily serve Hancock and Washington Counties

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- Six focus areas: Healthy start, Healthy aging, Active and Healthy Environments, Healthy Food For All, Substance Prevention and Recovery, Health Promotion and Management
- Rely on grants for funding
- Opened warming center in Ellsworth at INSPIRE Recovery Center, 24 Church St, Ellsworth, ME 04605
- **Beth Wright Cancer Resource Center**, Angela Forchesato
  - Serve state of Maine and beyond
  - Provides information, social services, and compassion
    - Provide linkage to other supportive services
  - Public health is a branch of medicine
  - Promote and protect for the health of the community
  - Cancer is not just genetics, but also lifestyle

Next meetings Presenters: AMHC Sarah Wright, TBD, and TBD. Email Al, Angela, and Abby to volunteer

**District Health Planning**, Al May

- DEPHC Goals for 2023
- Shared CHNA Final Reports
  - Priorities: Access to Care, Mental Health, SDOH, Alcohol and Substance Use
- Committee Work
  - Align DEPHC Committees to Shared CHNA priorities
- LPHSA
- Potentially create a better mapping tool to direct stakeholders to resources in the district.
  - For example: findhelp.org is the resource that hospitals in Maine use. Janet Lewis may present on this in the future.

**Evaluation/Meeting Adjourns**

**Evaluation Link:** <https://forms.gle/LCgxazVj6SVzbzpq5>

**HOMEWORK: Please review the membership list and make sure the information is current for 2023.**

**2023 Meetings: Third Friday of month: January 20, March 17, May 19, July 21, September 15, and November 17.**