

**Aroostook Public
Health Council**

Steering Committee:

Dr. Rachel Albert, RN
Chair,
Nursing Professor
University of Maine at Fort
Kent

Susan Bouchard, RN
SCC Representative,
*Director of Clinical Quality
& Risk Management*
Fish River Rural Health

Laura Turner
*Director of Community
Outreach*
NL AR Gould Hospital

Carol Bell
Hiring Manager
Penobscot McCrum

Leah Buck
*Dean of Continuing
Education*
Northern Maine Community
College

Ellen Bemis
Chief Executive Officer
Aroostook Mental Health
Center

Jane Rioux, RN
*Clinical Manager –
Aroostook North*
NL Home Care & Hospice

Stacy Boucher
District Liaison
Maine Center for Disease
Control and Prevention



Steering Committee
Wednesday, November 1, 2023
Aroostook Public Health Council

In attendance: **Stacy Boucher**, Maine CDC; **Courtney Wall**, Maine CDC; **Kathryn Harnish**, AAAA; **Mark Wright**, AAAA; **Abby van Ham**, Maine CDC; **Maura Lockwood**, Maine CDC; **Norman Fournier**, **Carol Bell**, Penobscot McCrum; **Timothy St. Peter**, Presque Isle; **Kim Champagne**, ACEMA; **Robin Beckwith**, Senior Domestic; **Ben Torres**, Houlton; **Derrick Ouellette**, AKEMA; **Laura Turner**, NL ARG; **Jane Rioux**, NL Hospice; **Lauren Gauthier**, Maine CDC; **Judy Anderson**, AAAA; **Sue Powers**, ACAP; **Sarah Dymont**, AHEC; **Renee Bragdon**, ACAP; **Leah Buck**, NMCC; **Ellen Bemis**, AMHC; **Leona Alvarado**, Maliseets; **Sue Bouchard**, FRRH

Steering Committee Minutes

Minutes

- Minutes reviewed and motion to accept the minutes from Norman Fournier, second from Carol Bell.

District Operations – Maine CDC

- **Div. Public Health Systems Updates**
 - Courtney Wall – new district Public Health Educator
 - Federal Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) funds will now be retained within the Maine CDC PHEP program rather than contracted. Distinct chapters to align with PH districts.
 - Holds potential extra money to help us with planning.
 - Deliverables, goals will be shared by APHC Emergency Planning Committee and Maine CDC PHEP program.
 - LPHSA
 - Available for public consumption on the ME CDC website, under Aroostook Public Health District. If you would like a hard copy, please contact us to.
 - Infrastructure Improvement Funding
 - Have been scored, but not yet released decision on awards. Excited about prospect that we will be funding.
- **Div Disease Surveillance Updates**
 - Please sign up for Maine HAN, best way to communicate updates.
- **Div. Public Health Nursing**
 - Nurses working closely to conduct school vaccine clinics.

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- Working with Loring Job Corps to work with students on sexual reproduction and health education as well as tuberculosis education.
- Doing more outreach with the CradleME program.

• **Member Awards - Congratulations**

- Dr. Rachel Albert – Outstanding Alumni at UMFK
- Leah Buck – 2023 Aroostook Achievers Award
- Commissioner Fournier – ACAP is naming a new facility after him.

Tribal Update – Leona Alvarado

- Visit from Dr. Va (ME CDC) Oct 3– conducted local tribal site visits, more visits to tribe sites in the future.
- Facility in Millinocket – having issues with finding providers.

Committees

- **Healthy Aging**
 - Postponed Oct meeting
- **Emergency Planning**
 - Update on PHEP
 - identified what sectors would benefit from increased direct communication – optometrists, dental providers as gaps
 - Asking people to volunteer quarterly for an hour in establishing member sectors.
- MPN (Maine Prevention Network)
 - Healthy Eating, Active Living – utilizing several mini grants – lending library, sensory bins – recently received grant to expand lending library for new snowshoes.
 - Nurture by Nature – wanting to create community garden in Caribou.

Aroostook County Health Improvement Partnership (ACHIP):

- Kathryn Harnish & Mark Wright (AAAA)
- 1 year grant funded project (June 2023-May 2023) – to design and implement and system to look at health related social needs in rural communities to better support “whole person care”.
- Focused on 4 populations – older adults, behavioral health, lower income, and single parents.

Discussion:

- ACAP – working with AMHC upcoming healthy aging luncheon focusing on Substance Use Disorders, Narcan distribution and training.

Next steering committee meeting:

- February 7, 2024