

**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



**Quarterly Meeting**

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

**Aroostook Public Health Council**

In attendance: **Rebecca Fournier**, AMHC; **Carol Bell**, Penobscot McCrum; **Rachel Albert**, UMFK; **Robin Beckwith**, Seniors Domestics; **Tanya Sleeper**, AHHS; **Gina Brown**, HRH; **Jane Rioux**, NL HCH; **Leah Buck**, NMMC; **Judy Anderson**, AAAA; **Norman Fournier**, County Commissioner; **Heidi Warman**, KVHC; **Marshall VanHollow**, OPTIONS (AMHC); **Justin Martin**, OPTIONS (AMHC); **Ben Torres**, LHO (Houlton); **Bill Sheehan**, MDEP; **Laura Turner**, NL ARG; **Maura Lockwood**, ME CDC; **Sue Powers**, ACAP; **Tim St. Peter**, CEO (Presque Isle); **Trisha House**, Senator Collins; **Stacy Boucher**, ME CDC; **Courtney Wall**, ME CDC; **Harper Chance**; **Leona Alvarado**, Tribal Liaison; **Theresa Dow**, ACAP; **Elizabeth Singer**, CMC; **Christina Wall**, AMHC; **Sherri Dumont**, Pines; **Gabe O'Brien**, MYAN

**Minutes 11/2023**

- Motion to approve Norman – second by Carol.

**District Operations – Maine CDC**

**Div. Public Health Systems Updates**

- Conducted latest virtual Local Health Officer (LHO) training regarding Browntail Moth related issues
- Upcoming RE: health inspection programs
- Sent out municipal requests to update LHO information on site.
- APHC received public health preparedness funds to distribute via competitive application process mid last year. NL ARG was the successful applicant and will be purchasing ultraviolet germicidal disinfection lights to reduce spread of disease.

**Div. Disease Surveillance Updates**

- Respiratory Season – consider source control when needed.
- Downstate – Hepatitis exposure announcement.
- Please consider signing up to receive Maine Health Alert Network (HAN) communications

**Div. Public Health Nursing**

- Conducted training on TST / TB conducted with staff at Northern Maine Medical Center. If organizations need staff trained please reach out to Stacy or Tammy Hatch to arrange for training.
- Tessa Roshto (PHN 1) recently hired for Southern Aroostook Area
- Presently hiring for PHN I & 2 positions or central and northern Aroostook areas.
- Seeking additional referrals for new moms or seniors that need additional medical intervention.

**Tribal Update – Leona Alvarado**

- Healing Lodge detox is opening today and taking referrals. Healing Lodge is a Recovery residence for native partners located in Millinocket. Call for an application.

### **Committees**

#### **Healthy Aging**

- No healthy aging meeting this quarter – a lot of the same members of this committee sit on ACHIP project.
- Stacy attended BOLD webinar regarding dementia screening. There is an identified need to better link treatment options with home workers – BOLD is currently developing those tools.

#### **Emergency Planning**

- Completed pandemic plan for respiratory illness.
- AKEMA is working on extended power outage plan – working with the University on language and how to prioritize who would get power first.
- Continued effort on adapting the Healthcare Coalition (HCC) structure in Maine
- Next Friday – convening impromptu meeting to discuss potential impacts of the influx of people coming to area to view Eclipse and how that might affect hospitals, medical transport, and public health.
- Initiated discussions regarding hazard vulnerability analysis and where our gaps are.
- If you have an interest in preparedness- please reach out as we are expanding membership.

### **Presenters: AMHC**

#### **Residential Treatment Facility (Rebecca Fournier)**

- Relocated the “FARM” to Presque Isle to expand number of beds and change the type of service provided. Not previously a withdrawal management facility and can now provide clinical withdrawal services (must be medically cleared first).
- Hired a nurse and have an MOU with NL ARG to give the proper level of care.
- Went from 8 to 18 bed capacity, however not currently able to be full capacity due to workforce issues.
- Sees a need for medical withdrawal facility in the area but needs to be partnering with a residential treatment facility directly after.
- 70% retention success rate

#### **OPTIONS Liaison (Marshall VanHollow)**

- Empower people to help their community, Aroostook County has a higher overdose rate per 1000 people than Cook County, Illinois (Chicago).
- Conducted a training on how to utilize Narcan
- Narcan distribution through pharmacy, options liaison, or Maine Access Points.

**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



- If any person or organization wants Narcan training, access to Narcan, or information all are welcome to reach out to Marshall.

**Emergency Services & ACSU (Christina Wall)**

- AMHC Adult Crisis Unit located in PI – individuals can self-refer or can have referral from case managers, therapists, physicians by calling directly 207-768-3304. Program is voluntary – client must be willing and med-compliant.
- Move to Academy Street increased beds from 5 to 8.
- Current barriers include lack of staffing to support 8-bed facility and lack of resources to support a safe and stable discharge plan.

**Partner Updates:**

- Theresa Dow (ACAP) – Maine Prevention Network (MPN) update – currently getting approval for 2024 contract year. Tobacco program – had first peer leadership catch my breath training rolls out in Valley and FK middle school. HEAL program still has the lending library program. SUPS program – recently completed 2 community programs for Narcan working with public health district in Bangor and MaineGeneral. In process of getting mail back envelopes for sending in unneeded prescription drugs in Houlton, FK, and PI to safely dispose medications. Doterra bags are available at AAA and can provide to community members if needed. Safe storage containers and lock boxes are also available.
- Judy Anderson – Access Point Project up and running- have signed MOUs with satellite offices. Memory Care center is still waiting to open, but currently taking referrals. ACHIP grant is full steam ahead – work on transportation subcommittee and has been moving along.
- Gabe- MYAN – winter training series for youth engagement best practices. Launched gateway program for youth employment partnering with ACAP.
- Jane HCH – reviving blood pressure clinic and working on getting clinics into different communities.
- Sue Powers – last week Maine Housing announced that they were ending Home Energy Assistance applications on March 1. All outstanding appointments past March 1 were scheduled in February to meet need.

**Next full committee meeting:**

- May 7, 2024