

**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

Galan Williamson
Executive Director
Northeastern Workforce
Development Board

Stacy Boucher
District Liaison
Maine Center for Disease
Control and Prevention



Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Aroostook Public Health Council

In attendance: Galan Williamson, **NWDB**; Cyr Martin, **ARTS**; Rachel Albert, **UMFK**; Dawn Roberts, **NL AR Gould**; Norman Fournier, **Aroostook County**; Leona Alvarado, **Tribal Liaison**; Ben Torres, **LHO Houlton**; Bill Sheehan, **MDEP**; Carol Bell, **Penobscot McCrum**; Cyr Martin, **ARTS**; Ellen Bemis, **AMHC**; Heather Pelletier, **FRRH**; Heidi Warman, **KVHC**; Judy Anderson, **AAAA**; Laura Turner, **NLARG**; Leah Buck, **NMCC**; Renee Chalou, **MCDC**; Sarah Duncan, **United Way**; Sue Bouchard, **FRRH**; Sue Powers, **ACAP**; Tanya Sleeper, **AHHS/VHHS**; Theresa Dow, **ACAP**; Traci Rogers, **Pines**; Elizabeth Singer, **Cary**; Jane Rioux, **NLHCH** Stacy Boucher, **MCDC**; Courtney Wall, **MCDC**, James Markiewicz, **MCDC**, Maura Lockwood, **MCDC**

Minutes 8/2024

- Motion to accept & second.

District Operations – Maine CDC

- DCC Votes
 - Inclusion of workforce development sector as APHC voting member (defined by bylaws)
 - Galan Williamson, NWDB as primary rep
 - Nomination of Traci Rodgers as primary rep from Pines Health Services
 - Nomination of Cyr Martin as primary rep from ARTS
 - Reappointment of Sue Bouchard as Aroostook rep to the SCC
- District Public Health Improvement Plan
 - ACTION: Ballot of potential local public health improvement activities will be forwarded for member prioritization vote.
- Epidemiology:
 - Pertussis HAN recently released. Providers are encouraged to test for pertussis when presented with persistent long-term cough. Remember to wear bug spray for arboviral diseases.

Tribal Update – Leona Alvarado

- Elder Expo – November 7, 12pm-4pm
- Narcan Training – November 13 (open to any person over 55)
- Harm Reduction Committee – How can we deal with drug and alcohol use in community?
 - Setting up a meeting for January if you know of anyone that may be interested in joining.

Committees:

Healthy Aging

- Reconvened last month (October)
- Public Health Nursing – quick survey revealed home visitors were utilizing screening tools that are not consistent across agencies for cognitive assessments.

- PHN has started to draft a protocol to make this process more uniform. Feedback being sought.

HCC – Aroostook District Chapter

- Aligning membership
- Sharing Hazard Vulnerability Assessment Report with members and organizations it would benefit
- Recruiting underway for an Aroostook representative for the HCC-ME steering Committee

Presentations:

Galan Williamson – Executive Director, Northeastern Workforce Development Board

“Health care and related workforce challenges and current strategies for Aroostook”

- See presentation [here](#)
- Link for more info on good jobs: [Good Job Principles \(dol.gov\)](#)

Sarah Duncan – Executive Director, United Way of Aroostook

“Understanding financial hardship in Aroostook through ALICE data”

- ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed
- Households that earn more than the FPL, but less than the basic cost of living for the county.
- See presentation [here](#)
- [Aroostook ALICE reports](#)

Roundtable:

ACAP:

- Maine Prevention Network (MPN)
 - Training 20 youth to assist with “Catch My Breath”
 - Social Emotional Learning with youth in schools including Washburn
- Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL)
 - Working to get Nutrition program back on its feet and make connections
 - Lending Library: can share resources with businesses or events
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
 - Application now [online](#): complete application and upload documents so they can be put into the queue.
- High 5 Turkey Drive
 - 11/6-11/8 you can make donations and will go directly to the food pantries for holiday

Norman Fournier:

- Aroostook will be receiving \$2.6 million in Opiate Settlement Funds.
 - Have received \$700,000 so far
 - First \$300,000 will be used for a round of grants in categories of Treatment, Recovery, Harm Reduction, Prevention – each category will have a limit of \$75,000.

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- Check out information and fill out letter of intent on the website [here](#)

- Established Task Force of community members who will determine how funds will be distributed.

NL AR Gould:

- Maine Cancer Foundation grant – if any organization needs a sunscreen dispenser reach out to Dawn.
- Health Aging Luncheons – November 14th on Mediterranean Diet
- Health Fair last month

Cary/Pines

- Flu Vaccine Clinics
 - Not as many flu shots given as expected, however have heard in the community that more people are getting them at primary care offices and other places.
 - Have provided school clinics at local schools
- Big Bang Theatres
 - In honor of Veteran's Day – free for all, movie about soldiers who guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- Age Friendly Caribou
 - Sat, November 16 will be delivering sand buckets to aging community in neighboring towns.

Northern Light Homecare Hospice

- Providing vaccines to the homebound community, reach out to the Aroostook Agency on Aging
 - Providing flu and covid vaccines

Next full committee meeting:

- February 5, 2025