

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew,  
Ph.D.



Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
11 State House Station  
286 Water Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
Tel; (207) 287-8016; Fax (207) 287-9058  
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

## Aroostook Public Health Council Quarterly Meeting

May 3, 2023

9:00 am – 11:30am

Virtual Meeting

The mission of the Aroostook DCC is to be the district-wide representative body for collaborative public health infrastructure development in Aroostook County by:

- ensuring the effective and efficient delivery of the 10 EPHS in Aroostook County
- creating and sustaining partnerships and shared public health resources
- promoting county-wide collaboration in public health assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation;
- continually enhancing the quality of public health services provided

### Minutes

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

**Rachel Albert**, APHC Chair; **Sue Powers**, ACAP; **Sue Bouchard**, FRRH; **Tim St. Peter**, City of Presque Isle; **Maura Lockwood**, Maine CDC- Epidemiologist; **Carol Bell**, Penobscot McCrum; **Dawn Roberts**, A.R. Gould Hospital; **Jane Rioux**, NLHCH Clinical Manager; **Stacy Boucher**, DL Aroostook; **Ellen Bemis**, AMHC; **Leah Buck**, NMCC; **Judy Anderson**, AAA; **Abby van Ham**, Aroostook Council Coordinator; **Ben Torres**, LHO, Houlton **Meg Hegemann**, ACAP; **Tanya Sleeper**, UMFK Nursing Faculty; **Laura Turner**, NL AR Gould; **Trisha House**, Sen. Collins; **Lynne Pelletier**, FRRH; **Darren Woods**, Aroostook EMA; **Tammy Hatch**, PH Nursing; **Sarah Dymont**, Northern AHEC; **Leona Alvarado**, HBMI Tribal Public Health Liaison; **Melissa Chase**, Houlton Regional Hospital; **Norm Fournier**, Aroostook County; **Yolanda Brooks**, Waste water surveillance program; **Dr. David Jones**, Northern Light Home Health and Hospice, **Mathew Grillo**, MNCC

Welcome – Dr. Rachel Albert, Chair, APHC

- Minutes from August 03 Vote
- Minutes from Feb. 01 Vote
  - Motion to approve both sets, Norm, seconded by Jane. Minutes approved as written.

**Topic: Hospice: An Option for Care at the End of Life** [Slides](#)

**Guest Presenter: Dr. David Jones, MD**, Northern Light Health Homecare and Hospice & Hospice Medical Director

#### District Operations

- Maine CDC Update – Stacy Boucher, Maine CDC
  - Hiring Staff for Public Health Unit
    - Aroostook Public Health Educator Position
  - Local Public Health Systems Assessment



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- Preliminary Strengths, weaknesses, and Opportunities (SWO) findings and analysis has been completed. Drafts of the full report should be available at next meeting (August)
  - Immediate Changes made as a result:
    - A research section has been added to the ERT, to feature a best practice research article.
    - Incorporating new clinical research in with care, so patients have opportunity and access to clinical trials. – this is an opportunity that will be occurring at the new memory care center in partnership with Dr. Singer, Northern Light Acadia Hospital
    - The Emergency Planning Committee will be seeking to expand membership / engagement with broader number of specialty providers
- Council Coordinator Update – Abby van Ham
  - Membership / Steering
    - Two votes since last district meeting:
      - To approve the LPHSA SWO findings
      - To fill vacant seat on steering committee – welcome Leona Alvarado
- Tribal Public Health District Update – Leona Alvarado, HBMI
  - On June 24 HBMI is hosting a Health Fair 10am-2pm
    - Booths are still available, reach out to Leona
  - Leona will soon start site visits on the 26 of May to Tribal Health Centers

#### APHC Committee Updates

- Public Health Emergency Planning – Darren Woods
  - Working on updating plans; seeking feedback on the Aroostook specific Pandemic After Action Report,
  - Considering / seeking space to pre-stage and store equipment in Aroostook
- Healthy Aging – Judy Anderson
  - Planning Health Exchange seminar trainings, Caregiver Support, Vaccination Awareness, Reframing Aging and Age Positivity. First Topic will be Caregiver support, tentative date of July 18 2023
- Maine Prevention Network – Summary of quarterly progress – Meg Hegemann
  - Environment Scans, Logic Models have not been completed.
  - Tobacco Prevention Plan and Substance Use Prevention Plan are awaiting final approval.
  - Healthy Eating Acting Living Workplan should be completed by the end of May.
  - Just opened North St. Teen Center
    - Will be staffed by 4 college age senior staff, 8-9 High School age junior staff, 3 onsite community educators
    - Open House 3pm-6pm Tuesday 23 May 24 North St. Presque Isle

#### Topic: Wastewater Surveillance in Aroostook County and Maine



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**Guest Presenter: Yolanda M. Brooks, PhD**, Wastewater Surveillance Epidemiologist, Maine Center for Disease Control [Slides](#)

- 3 wastewater surveillance programs in Aroostook
  - [CDC NWSS](#)
  - Holton - 1996
  - Presque Isle -2000
  - Fort Kent – 1994 Not always on the map
    - Fort Kent is less than 3000 people, so the Federal CDC needs approval to include the site on the website. They should issue approval and add the site soon.
    - In the meantime, [Biobot's website](#) will have an combined graph that displays the averages for all three sites in Aroostook County. [Maine CDC's](#) website will also contain the reports with the most recent data from Fort Kent.
- Wastewater Scan:
  - York
  - Portland
  - Brunswick
  - Bangor-coming soon
- Open to adding wastewater surveillance sites in Aroostook county to federal surveillance program

### Roundtable – Partner Updates

Dawn Roberts– A.R. Gould

- Preparing for hospital week next week May 9 - 13
- Hosting UNE med students May 17-19
- Healthy Aging Senior Luncheon – registration full. May 30 Vi Belanger from AAA on memory care and the new Memory Care Center
- Healthy Aging Senior Luncheon – registration open. July 25 The Aging Eye with Dr. Marcicin
- Fall Health Fair Oct 7. Flu shot, clinic and health fair at Northern Maine Community Collage

Judy Anderson- AAA

- Recently awarded vaccination awareness grant, so new work coming down the line. Promoting vaccinations for Aroostook County Residents, support services, awareness and vaccination clinics.
- Memory care center will soon be open and is currently taking referrals
- Access point project is going through final approval
- Undoing the benefit increase that occurred during covid



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Maura - Epidemiology

- Sign up to the [Maine HAN](#).

Norm – County Commissioner’s Office

- Reviewing applications for American Recovery Act funds awarded to the County. Currently supporting broadband, public health, water and sewer. Applications available to view under American Rescue Plan Act Heading. [Aroostook County website](#).
- Another round of funding of ~2.2million in 2024.

Adjourn 11:28 motion to adjourn. Motion and a second. Approved

**Next APHC meeting – August 2, 2023**



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