

Western District Coordinating Council for Public Health

Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 25th

Virtually held on Zoom

Present: Cherie Annis, Allie Burke, Emilee Caradonna, Carl Costanzi, Diane Gallagher, Erin Guay, Hannah James, Sabrina Keene, Katherine Lary, Hollie Legee-Cressman, Katherine Lemieux, Jamie Paul, Chuck Smith, Matthew Wyman, and Shawn Yardley.

Introductions and Deepening Connections: Jamie welcomed participants and opened the floor for introductions.

Participant Check-In: Safe Voices shared their upcoming opportunities for connecting and outreach. They have a resource center with direct services. Their free, confidential, and anonymous 24-hour helpline is: 1-800-559-2927.

Healthy Androscoggin is starting to shift from Covid-19 vaccination efforts. They are now starting to focus on regaining normalcy including work around the Shared Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) planning process and vaccine hesitancy.

Healthcare Coalition of Maine is a state-wide coalition. More information can be found at: <https://www.maineccs.com/> Will be scheduling in-person meetings for the future.

WIC is happy to share that many participants are enjoying the new EBT Cards instead of the former paper checks. Paper checks are still used for the Farmer's Market program. There is an increased amount of funds on the cards of \$35/person for fruits and vegetables for the time being.

Healthy Oxford Hills has hired Hollie as their new Director, and they are hiring a new SNAP-Ed. Healthy Oxford Hills is also starting the Shared CHNA process. They are supporting a hospital food pantry 5 days/week – starting with client/patient-only access and planning to move public. Also discussed a MaineHealth/Statewide initiative to train providers with the necessary skills to address behavioral health needs of patients.

Community Concepts has finished their work with the emergency/Covid-19 shelter, and that is now being supported by Preble Street. Discussed their ongoing efforts around social determinants of health, retroactive rent relief, and mortgage relief (www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/rental/rentaldetail/covid-19-rental-relief-program or email: rentrelief@community-concepts.org). Community Concepts was awarded grant funding to support 190 new safe housing units and they are hiring with a focus on employing those in marginalized communities. Highlighted the importance of the Alternative Response Program: <https://www.ccimaine.org/child-welfare>

River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition identified a gap in food access as a local church had closed. They are organizing a food pantry and are starting outreach for community feedback regarding days and times for the pantry.

Healthy Community Coalition of Greater Franklin County is starting to get back to their normal work as they have transitioned from vaccine clinics 5 days/week down to 1 day/week. The Mobile Health Unit is back, and they will have a food pantry next to HCC. They are also focusing on Narcan/Naloxone distribution and education.

Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice is supporting homebound individuals with wellness checks and Covid-19 vaccines.

Public Health Nursing is supporting home visits as well as hosting pop-up clinics with both Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson vaccines. School-aged childhood vaccination catch-up clinics are being offered during the summer and PHN is highlighting the importance of establishing primary care providers for those without one. Please email Cherrie or Jamie if your community is noticing any vaccine gaps:

Cheryl.Annis@maine.gov or Jamie.L.Paul@Maine.gov

SCC Update: Erin is the Western DCC Representative to the SCC and she updated the Council on the status and efforts supporting the Statewide Public Health Systems Assessment (SPHSA), Local Public Health Systems Assessment (LPHSA) and the new District Public Health Improvement Plans (DPHIP). The SCC is discussing an update to bylaws and membership needs to support diversity/inclusivity. The SCC is also searching for a new Chair.

Western DCC Call for Officers: Western DCC is still looking for a Chair to support the Council. Please email either Jamie or Emilee to nominate someone or for more information: Jamie.L.Paul@Maine.gov or Emilee.Winn@Maine.gov

Upcoming DCC Meetings: All meetings are anticipated to be held virtually at this time. Expecting to meet again in mid to late August. To share ideas for upcoming speakers and topics, please contact Jamie at: Jamie.L.Paul@Maine.gov

The next DCC Meeting is anticipated to be held mid-August. Please keep an eye out for an email from Emilee at Emilee.Winn@Maine.gov regarding a poll for meeting times.



NEED HELP PAYING RENT?

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program helps pay rent and utilities for Maine renters* affected by COVID-19.

One application can pay:



UNPAID & FUTURE RENT

This program can pay rent you owe your landlord back to March 13, 2020. We can also pay the next three months from when you apply.



UNPAID & CURRENT UTILITY BILLS

Eligible utilities: electricity, water, sewer, trash, heat, and internet.

* Eligibility rules apply. Learn more: mainehousing.org/covidrent or call MaineHousing at 1-800-452-4668.



Apply online at mainehousing.org/covidrent or call MaineHousing at 1-800-452-4668 for a paper application.