



Downeast Public Health Council
Friday May 15, 2020: 10:00 – 11:30 am
Virtual Meeting
Minutes

**Executive Committee
2020**

Meredith Alexander
Community Initiatives Manager
United Way of Eastern Maine

Helen Burlock
Special Projects
Community Health & Counseling Services

Kelly Brown
Associate Director
Next Step Domestic Violence Project

Maria Donahue, SCC Rep
Community Health Director
Healthy Acadia (Hancock)

Angela Fochesato
Community Health Manager
Healthy Acadia (Washington)

Steve Lail
CEO
Down East Community Hospital

Andrew Sankey
Director
Hancock County Emergency Management Agency

Zoe Tenney
Executive Director
Northern Light Blue Hill Hospital

Alfred May
District Liaison
Maine CDC

Maura Goss
Council Coordinator
Maine CDC

Mission: *Promote the health of all our communities by providing public health information, coordination, collaboration, and advocacy.*

Participants at Meeting:

Name	Organization	Meeting Site
Angela Fochesato	Healthy Acadia	Go To Meeting
Andrew Sankey	Hancock County EMA	
Sandra Yarmel	Wabanaki Public Health	
Andrew Braley	Hancock County EMA	
Valerie Sulya	LHO Bucksport	
Clement Deveau	Aroostook Mental Health Center	
Jen Peters	Sunrise County Economic Council	
Jennifer Sheaff	Eastern Area Agency on Aging	
Lois Ann Kuntz	University of Maine, Machias	
Maria Donahue	Healthy Acadia	
Corrie Hunkler	Healthy Acadia	
Lynn Leighton	Mount Desert Island Hospital	
Claire Connors	Community Member	
Kristie Ricker	Tribal Liaison for the Tribal Communities	
Gabe O'Brian	Maine Youth Action Network	
Al May	Maine CDC	
Maura Goss	Maine CDC	



Vision: Downeast Maine Communities are among the healthiest in the state.

Executive Summary

Agenda

- Welcome
- Meeting minutes from [January 17, 2020](#) were approved as written. Motion to Approve by Andrew S; Claire C seconded. All in favor.
- Coronavirus Update
 - Al has been asked to be a Monitor on the new Sara Alert System that will be used for Contact Tracing.
 - [Making Contact: A Training for COVID-19 Contact Tracers](#)
 - [Priority for Testing Patients with Suspected COVID-19 Infection](#)
 - RoundTable: How is/has coronavirus impacting your work?
- Council Coordinator's Update on Websites
 - [Maine CDC Downeast Website](#)
 - [Downeast WordPress Website](#)
 - [Downeast Public Health Council's Facebook Page](#)
- Palliative Care Planning Summit
 - Goal of the Palliative Care committee would like to plan a palliate care summit, the idea came from a meeting last year and the desire to talk more about palliative care.
 - We are currently looking at what the current models are.
- Health Literacy Committee
 - Health Literacy is a big idea and we are trying to move it to a doable level
 - Identified Areas of Concern
- Jen, SCEC - Economic Impact:
 - It has been said that Statewide/nationwide 25% businesses closing. Some communities will be hit harder than others.
 - Sign up for local happenings, resources and opportunities:
www.sunrisecounty.org.
- Emergency Management Updates
 - Andrew Braley, EMA
 - Megan Melville, HCCNM
 - Andrew Sankey & Lynne Dwelley, EMA
- Tribal Updates
 - Sandra Yarmel, Wabanaki Public Health
 - Kristie Ricker, Tribal Liaison to the Tribal Communities
- Maine Prevention Services
 - [Tobacco January – March 2020 Update](#)
 - [Substance Use January – March Update](#)

Agenda

Welcome

Meeting minutes from [January 17, 2020](#) were approved as written. Motion to Approve by Andrew S; Claire C seconded. All in favor.

Coronavirus Update

- [Making Contact: A Training for COVID-19 Contact Tracers](#)
- [Priority for Testing Patients with Suspected COVID-19 Infection](#)



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- Al and the Aroostook District Liaison have been put on the Contact Tracing Team as Monitors for the newly Sara Alert system. Sara Alert is a web-based monitoring tool that contact tracers will use to send daily emails, texts and/or phone calls to cases and identified close contacts throughout their isolation/quarantine monitoring period. This technology enhances the contact tracer's ability to promptly respond and provide guidance to symptomatic individuals.
 - [Astho Training: Contact Tracing Training](#), online, 3 – 4 hours
 - [John Hopkins: Contact Tracing Training](#), online, ~6 hours
 - Term PUI – Person Under Investigation may be unsettling to the public.

RoundTable: How is/has coronavirus impacting your work?

- Jennifer S
 - Serving many more meals on wheels requests. From 8,000 to 13,000 meals in April.
 - Responding requests for people coming back from snow birding who need to isolate. Grocery Shopping Supports & Etc.
 - There are concerns about in-home support PSS, best practices.
 - There are increased calls from family caregivers who carry larger burdens with no respite

- Angela
 - Many cancer patients have had to take different treatments than they were initially expecting, patients are having to go in by themselves, we are finding After/Home Care Treatment is having gaps & patients have misinformation.
 - People who need to be quarantining are having to break their quarantine for essentials like medicines and food.
 - We are seeing increased anxiety in patients who are unsure and asking for consultations.
 - We are working on getting technology in rural areas to older adults to increase their ability to communicate with doctors.
 - Smile Masks: Making face shield masks for people who need to read lips. If anyone is interested in the smile masks or know of who may need them. email me at angela@healthyacadia.org

- Lynn Leighton
 - Hospital has a tent to do testing
 - Care manager more calls to patients
 - A COVID19 Hotline has been created.
 - Different pathways, section off places, cafeteria effected, single point of entry
 - Elective Surgery planning is beginning.

- Sandra Yarmel
 - Tribal Communities have the ability to close off the community, unlike other communities.
 - Working to provide safe drinking water to Elders & others who need it.

Council Coordinators Website Updates

- [Maine CDC Downeast Website](#)
- [Downeast WordPress Website](#)
 - Calendar now has all our meetings on it.
 - Facebook Link



Vision: Downeast Maine Communities are among the healthiest in the state.

- [Downeast Public Health Council's Facebook Page](#)
 - Suggestions for topics to cover: Skin Care, Younger Populations, Sun Screen
 - Please like & share

Palliative Care Planning Summit

- Goal of the Palliative Care committee is eventually creating a palliative care summit, the idea came from a meeting last year and the desire to talk more about palliative care.
- We are currently looking at what the current models are.
- Is the service being provided across the geography. Where are the gaps/holes in
 1. Best way to work with primary care
 2. Existing structure hospice volunteers, volunteering
 3. Bring in FQHCs & Tribal health Centers
 - Valerie – Ellsworth hospice volunteers – interested
 - Sara Morrill form MPAC for palliative care FQHC – Megan Melville; smorrill@mepac.org

Health Literacy Committee

- Health Literacy is a big idea and we are trying to move it to a doable level
- Identified Areas of Concern
 - Conversations with primary care provider and their patients
 - Medication management & understanding
 - When English is not your primary language.
 1. Educating primary care around culturally appropriate language.
 - The information health centers are giving out; Flyers and pamphlets- do they really makes sense, are they are the educational level of the reader.
 - Lois - Shellfish harvesters. People are not understanding the language in the notifications. Bad shellfish gets consumed.
 - Immediate Health Literacy Concerns – related to COVID19 basic facts not being well disseminated.

Jen, SCEC - Economic Impact:

- It has been said that Statewide/nationwide 25% businesses closing. Some communities will be hit harder than others.
- Community Health Economics and Health go together.
- Business advisors very busy advising people about which grants or loans they are eligible for, unemployment questions, lots of help being provided.
- Sign up for local happenings, resources and opportunities: www.sunrisecounty.org.

Emergency Management Update:

Andrew Braley:

- In charge of PPE Requests. Who the state deems priorities. Dentist. Only certain dentists get PPEs. Dentists are being turned away.
- If you need resources, they are willing to assist in looking to find and secure vendors. Local and commercial vendors.
- Respiratory Protection Plan, Fit testing requirement for N95, medical evaluation qualitative test



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Megan Melville:

- RPP – Available to help with creating a Respiratory Protection plan. HCCNM has a template and they are willing to assist organizations.
- Pandemic Planning needs to start now – documenting information, chronologically, it will help in making your plan. Statewide pandemic plan is going to be created beginning in July.

Lynn & Andrew, via Andrew

- Distribution of cloth masks to the Department of Education for lunch people and bus drivers.
- Meal Programs – may continue through the summer
- Public Assistance Grant – working on it, defray covid19 response costs
- A number of zoom meetings
- New round of FEMA federal masks are coming, for Haz-mat high consequence sites.
- Reconstitution efforts, recovery efforts economic and operational are beginning

Feel free to contact us when you need: Andrew B, Andrew S, Megan M, Al May

Sandra Yarmal

- Responses through Wabanaki Public Health in all 5 communities.
- Big Obstacles: Food Water Shelter Safety
- How can we continue to keep tribal members engaged with each other. Virtual Recovery meeting. Expanding Virtual Coffee houses.
- 5 Community Smudge happened last week.
- Traditional Language Classes are being held.
- Colored Paper Project, Elders, Color Coded Needs, they can reach out by color. Need Help, Need Water, Need Disinfectant
- Youth – virtual Earth Day, meetings and activity and a conference, social media, including education

Kristie Ricker

- Tribal Maine CDC call is supposedly happening. – Lisa LaTourner is leading the call.

Maria Donahue

- SCC – March 19 meeting – cancelled. Haven't heard much since then.
- Maine Prevention Services
- [Tobacco January – March 2020 Update](#)
- [Substance Use January – March Update](#)
 - Tobacco policy support in development and improvement has seen a reduction during COVID19
 - We have had some success working with small business – policy development
 - Mini grants 100 – 1000 available
 - Sidekicks – youth program, tools to talk to peers about healthy choices, motivational interviewing, high risk behaviors.
 - New Downeast Youth Program Coordinator, Corrie Hunker
 - Substance Use prevention: Currently doing Safe server trainings

Sandra will communicate with Al and get the Tribal & Downeast Youth Coordinators connected.

Thank you! Meeting Adjourned