

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D
Commissioner



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 District Coordinating Council for Public Health (DCC)

Quarterly Meeting

May 6, 2020

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: Dawn Roberts, ACAP; Ellen Bemis, AMHC; Chief Mike Gahagen, Caribou Police Department; Bill Sheehan, DEP; Norm Fournier, County Commissioner; Kristin Simas, American Red Cross; Heather Mazzero, UMFK; Kim Parent, Power of Prevention; Tanya Sleeper, AHH/UMFK; Alain Bois, Northern Maine Medical Center; Beverly Wardwell, Public Health Nursing; Carol Bell, Community Representative; Ellen Bartlett, Houlton Regional Hospital; Sarah Ennis, United Way of Aroostook; Dr. Rachel Albert, UMFK; Joy Barresi Saucier, Aroostook Agency on Aging; Leah Buck, Northern Maine Community College; Megan Melville, Health Care Coalition of Northern Maine; Tammy Hatch, Public Health Nursing Supervisor; Stacy Boucher, Maine CDC; Maura Goss, Maine CDC

Review Minutes

Meeting minutes from the February 5, 2020 meeting. No objections or concerns. Meeting minutes were passed as written.

District Operations Update:

- One letter of support was written since the last time we met.
- Aroostook DCC, AMHC and PHN collaborated on a PPE Donning and Doffing Training.
- Health Inspector – Inspections would be done around the state if suspicions of a restaurants or tattoo parlor was not following the rules. No such suspicions have yet to be reported in Aroostook.
- PHN has been assisting Epidemiology
- DL/CDC is available for resource assistance &/or back up for people who may test positive for COVID-19.

Partner Updates

Darren Woods, Emergency Management Agency

- PPE Requests from Stockpile
The systems is working and is monitored for new requests multiple times a day. PPEs come directly from the Augusta stockpile, but you must make your request through EMA
- PPE Requests: eoc@aroostookema.com



Inspiring Leadership, Engaging Communities, Improving Health

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- If requesting N95 to speed up the request please clearly state that your organization has a respiratory program and has been respiratory cleared.
- Fit Testing
 - AMHC is having trouble getting someone to do the fit testing for staff.
 - If you put in the request for fit testing now until approx. May 15th Darren W. will set your organization up to have the National Guard come and do fit testing.
 - If you need fit testing please contact Darren at darren@aroostookema.com or (207) 493-4328
- There are shortages and the best way to get what you need is to do an internal swap between organizations.
- Department of Corrections: Manufacturing face shields, cloth-based masks and PPE fit helmets
- Maine Janitorial (Caribou) has PPE Supplies (Gloves & Surgical Masks)

Joy Barresi Saucier, Aroostook Agency on Aging

- Remote operations continuing their services.
- Administrative support is in the office supporting the PSSs
- On a programming side there additional funding coming from the Federal and State Government. Funding will be used to strengthen the Home-Delivery program, increase virtual services provided, getting technology in the hands of clients who currently are isolated or in need of more regular virtual services.
- Increase in nutritional services being offered. Home-delivered meal program has increased to accommodate the homebound people over 60.

Jane Rioux, Northern Light Home Care and Health

- Currently seeing clients in a more modified virtual way.
- When needed home visits can be done. Staff is fit tested and NL HC&H has N95s
- Getting donations of clothe masks
- Teams available to respond to COVID-19 positive hospice patients should that be needed.

Ellen Bemis, AMHC

- In need of cloth masks for staff & residents at facilities. Trying to conserve & wash cloth.
- Peer recovery services offered online
- Therapy happening in expanded telehealth options. Hoping to continue this service after social distance rules are relaxed. Meeting with many people & increase in people attending meetings.
- Residential Treatment facilities are taking referrals. Strict admission screening for COVID-19 in place.

Tammy Hatch, Public Health Nursing

- Two PHN's working on investigations and assisting Epidemiology
- Two PHN's working with clients. Virtual Services have increased.
- PHN ready and available to support facilities in setting up respiratory protection plans.
- Working with 211. Eleven school nurses are going to be supporting 211 by answering clinical questions from the public.



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Bill Sheehan, Department of Environmental Protection

- Office closed.
- No routine compliance checks being done, still have chemical and oil responders
- Struggling to get PPEs to staff
- We are through Aroostook's Flood Season.
- Focus on waste water treatment and working to prevent dumping of unused potatoes (approx. 1.3M potatoes?lbs?). Unused potatoes dumped in rural areas can and does affect well water.

Megan Melville, Healthcare Coalition of Northern Maine

- Available to assist partners in respiratory protection planning
- Today's Long Term Care call has been cancelled
- Next meeting is Wednesday, May 13th. The meeting has been shortened to 9-10:30am

Heather Mazzero, UMFK

- Is interested in any trainings or educational opportunities that might be of interest to their Nursing or Behavioral Science students to take this summer/next fall to continue their engagement.

Joy

- Maine Council on Aging has a daily briefing.
- Will send along information on training information post meeting.

Post-Meeting follow-up:

- <https://www.asaging.org/generations-journal-american-society-aging>
- [Volunteer Flyer](#)
- [Social Inclusion](#) Flyer
- [Home Delivered Meals](#) Flyer

Norm Fournier, County Commissioner

- Prompted a discussion on what partners were planning to do at the June 1st phase of opening up.

Kristin Simas, American Red Cross

- Is still responding to disasters. Feel free to reach out to contact Kristin or Darren with any requests.

Aroostook DCC Committees

- Healthy Aging
Has been on hiatus with the COVID-19 response but is planning a quarterly meeting, please look out for an invitation.



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- Public Health Emergency Preparedness
Born from previous pandemic planning and a desire to continue planning by numerous partners a collaboration with EMA, we will be convening a meeting next Thursday.
 - To be discussed: Alternate Care Sites and Surge Planning

Ellen Bartlett, Houlton Regional Hospital

- Update Submitted Post-meeting
- We are screening everyone who enters the facility, (staff and patients) for symptoms/ fever at the door. We have also implemented universal masking. Doing OK on supplies, continuing to get small shipments in. Smith and Wesson recently manufactured and donated over 1000 face shields that were split between the four county hospitals. The county hospitals have been meeting weekly to keep each other updated on what is going on at each facility. We are trying to encourage our community to take care of their other health care needs not covid-19 related by letting them know we are providing a safe place for them to receive health care with the safety measures we have implemented. We also have telehealth available for primary care. Our health services foundation director along with a team of employees here have also been working very hard to keep our employee morale up. Their efforts are being received wonderfully by the staff as everyone tries to make the best of these uncertain times.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, August 5, 2020.

- In-person versus virtual meeting TBD

Meeting Adjourn.

