

The Bangor Beacon Community (BBC), comprised of 12 Partners and led by EMHS, is working to improve the health of chronically ill people in the Bangor region through sustainable care coordination that is facilitated by health information technology (HIT). More than a dozen additional statewide collaborators are working to ensure that the improved outcomes brought about through BBC learning and health information exchange, are extended throughout the State of Maine. The BBC is supported through a three year, \$12.75 million grant from the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for HIT.

### **Collaborative Highlights**

BBC held its public Launch and inaugural Statewide Advisory Committee meeting on September 30.

Aaron McKethan, PhD, Director of the Beacon programs nationally, addressed the crowd at the Launch. A panel of Partner leaders shared personal stories about health information technology and how the community and their agencies will benefit from Beacon. Dora Anne Mills, MD, Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also spoke. Representatives presented congratulatory letters from both Senator Olympia Snowe and Senator Susan Collins. Partners also set up exhibit space to share information about their programs with the attendees. The public Launch was well attended and received media attention from all three local television affiliates and the Bangor Daily News.

Michelle Hood chaired the inaugural BBC Statewide Advisory Committee, which was attended by 47 people representing a wide range of organizations across the state, including many state leaders. Dev Culver facilitated a discussion of the BBC vision and Jim Leonard led an exchange on how the committee can assist the BBC and how the BBC staff can facilitate that.

BBC is attending a national Beacon meeting focused on Clinical Transformation in New Orleans October 13-14.

### **Grant Management**

Most of the contracts with our Partners have been signed and work is continuing to document time spent on the grant. We created a BBC brochure that was distributed at the Launch. Copies are available for Partners and committee members for their use. We continue to expand our website ([www.bangorbeaconcommunity.org](http://www.bangorbeaconcommunity.org)) and social networking (Facebook and Twitter). Andrea Littlefield, our Communications and Outreach Specialist, is developing plans with each of our partners, primary care offices, and care managers. Bangor Beacon continues to meet ONC deadlines and actively participates in ONC conference calls.

### **Challenges/Opportunities**

Pleased to be bringing some visibility to the Community, we also report progress being made by the Clinical task forces who are working to ensure that we set the right targets and begin with accuracy; it is here that we already benefit from open and collegial dialogue to ensure that as many as possible benefit from our work with chronic illnesses. Given the demand for a highly interactive and collaborative environment which is easily accessible to all, we will be initiating an online BBC portal (workspace) to facilitate this requirement; ensuring that everyone is apprised of activities and responsibilities.

### **Bangor Beacon Community Partners**

EMHS  
The Acadia Hospital  
Community Health  
and Counseling  
Eastern Maine  
Community College  
Eastern Maine  
HomeCare  
Eastern Maine  
Medical Center  
HealthInfoNet  
Maine Primary  
Care Association  
Penobscot  
Community  
Health Care  
Ross Manor  
St. Joseph  
Healthcare  
Stillwater Healthcare