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Piscataquis Public Health Council
Executive Steering Committee
January 23, 2008
Mayo Regional Hospital, Dover-Foxcroft

Attending: Robin Mayo, Community Partnership Director; Tom Lizotte, Mayo Regional Hospital liaison; Judy Gerrish, Heartwise; David McDermott, M.D.; Ralph Gabarro, Mayo CEO; Jane Conroy, UMaine Cooperative Extension; Tom Iverson, Piscataquis EMA Director; Bonnie Irwin, Regional Tobacco Coordinator.

Robin provided update on PPHC staffing. Keith Flewelling has departed as the community partnership specialist, and his replacement will start in mid-February. The clinical outreach specialist position is open, with two applicants scheduled for interviews.

Robin reported on the Public Health Work Group's current plans for a statewide public health infrastructure to be developed, with existing resources, over the next 5 years. A key act will be formation of District Coordinating Councils (DCCs) in each of the eight public health districts, as a decision-making entity to coordinate functions to be accomplished at the district level. It is possible that future state funds would come through the DCCs to be distributed to coalitions in our region. The PPHC should nominate 2-3 members from its Steering Committee to serve on the DCC; Tom Lizotte has been suggested as one member.

Robin said 5,500 HMP calendars have been distributed throughout our area schools, primary care practices, hospitals, Penquis, and food cupboards.

The HMP assessment is available for review, and will be sent to the state by late March. UMaine is helping with this process.

Robin discussed the possibility of producing a Bangor Daily News supplement, similar to one done by Bangor Public Health Advisory Board, in order to raise awareness of health and wellness efforts in our areas. The committee questioned whether other approaches might be more fruitful.

Development of the Penquis Public Health web portal was discussed, with Robin noting all four CCHCs in our district are collaborating on proposed content areas. The project completion goal is April 1.

Bonnie Irwin, regional tobacco coordinator for Penobscot and Piscataquis counties, was introduced and discussed her work. A longtime nurse educator, she is exploring how best to use existing tobacco programs/resources to further prevention and control efforts. She is bringing a district-wide focus to enhance work done by the HMPs, as an extension of the Partnership for a Tobacco-free Maine.

Next meeting scheduled for March 11, 2008.

Minutes submitted by Tom Lizotte