

[www.mayohospital.com/pphc](http://www.mayohospital.com/pphc)

Piscataquis Public Health Council  
Executive Steering Committee  
March 11, 2008  
Mayo Regional Hospital, Dover-Foxcroft  
1:00-2:00 p.m.

Attending: Robin Mayo, Community Partnership Director; Tom Lizotte, Mayo Regional Hospital liaison; Tom Iverson, Piscataquis EMA Director; Christie Whitten, community partnership specialist; Diane Rosell, clinical outreach specialist; Dawna Blackstone, Greenville SHC; Dennis Lyford, Piscataquis YMCA.

Robin introduced new program staff: Christie Whitten, community partnership specialist, and Diane Rosell, filling the new clinical outreach specialist position, which will work with healthcare providers on tobacco reduction efforts.

Dennis Lyford from the YMCA presented a proposal to partner with the PPHC in forming a Piscataquis Wellness Network. This entity would invite non-profits and health organizations to collaborate on meeting the wellness needs of county residents. Three major goals for the network were stated: create a wellness campaign to encourage adoption of health lifestyles; conduct a wellness survey to identify assets and gaps; and create a wellness website to list wellness resources town by town.

Robin noted that the Penobscot/Piscataquis public health district is working on a regional wellness web portal, and the Piscataquis Chamber of Commerce is also redesigning its web site to focus on workplace wellness. Additionally, the PPHC has previously conducted a wellness survey to list resources throughout the area, and plans are already underway to update that work. The idea of a unified wellness campaign involving the PPHC, YMCA and other fitness organizations does have merit, and it was agreed to follow up on this issue.

Robin provided a legislative update. The latest state budget crisis has caused lawmakers to propose using part of the Fund for Healthy Maine for purposes outside of prevention, and volunteer advocates are needed to protect this funding source.

Robin reported on the first meeting of the Public Health Statewide Coordinating Council, and the hiring of three district public health liaisons. Potential representatives are also being identified for a District Coordinating Council for our two-county region.

Christie Whitten shared results from her ongoing work on the HMP assessment.

Robin presented information on "Essential Tools for Essential Services," a conference on improving public health performance scheduled for four sessions in March, April and May through the Maine Center for Public Health.

Next meeting: May 28, 2008.

Minutes submitted by Tom Lizotte