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Piscataquis Public Health Council
Executive Steering Committee
May 28, 2008
Mayo Regional Hospital, Dover Foxcroft
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Attending: **Robin Mayo**, Community Partnership Director; **Dianne Rosell**, Clinical Outreach Specialist; **Christie Whitten**, Community Partnership Specialist; **Tom Lizotte**, Mayo Regional Hospital Liaison; **Patricia Kelleher**, Division I Leader, Charlotte White Center; **Dawna Blackstone**, School Health Coordinator, Union 60; **Tom Iverson**, Emergency Management Association, Piscataquis; **Ralph Gabarro**, CEO, Mayo Regional Hospital; **Judy Gerrish**, Heartwise, Mayo Regional Hospital

Robin Mayo presented the list of potential candidates for the District Coordinating Council. Those nominated on the list include:

Dawna Blackstone, Union 60, Greenville
Tom Lizotte, County Commissioner, Mayo Regional Hospital
John Simko, Town Manager, Greenville
Tom Iverson, Piscataquis Emergency Mgt. Dir.
Robin Mayo, MPH, RN, Piscataquis Public Health Council
Troy Brown/Dennis Walsh; CA Dean Memorial Hospital
Cindy Freeman-Cyr, WomanCare
Richard Brown, CEO, Charlotte White Center
Jane Conroy, Cooperative Extension Services

The first meeting will be held June 3, 2008. Not all nominated members have confirmed that they will be attending, but those that have confirmed have shown great interest and excitement at the opportunity. The County Commissioners meeting will be held the same day in Greenville, preventing some members from attending the first meeting, but those affected members have committed to attending subsequent meetings. Ralph Gabarro volunteered to cover positions when needed. Tom Iverson expressed his concern with the lack of role representation from Piscataquis and Penobscot County, as there is only one official and one emergency management official from the county. The group is in the beginning phases of development and if this becomes a grave concern for representation and voting authority for Piscataquis County, it will be explored further. At this time the group is open and broad. Ralph suggested attendance requirements for members of the group. Robin agreed that that would be helpful. Ralph also suggested that there be a Physician from this area to attend. Although this may prove to be very helpful, there is a struggle in finding a person that has the time to devote to this undertaking.

Robin announced that at a meeting on Friday the HMP's were secure and contracts were being extended. She stated that the initial contract budget was supposed to be proposed for the next ten months. At the same meeting, it was disclosed that the quarterly budget from January – March be submitted and then an estimated budget for April, May and June. This will give Piscataquis Public Health Council a twenty-two month budget period. Robin felt that the budget estimations were going to be heavier on the second half of the twenty-two month period rather than the first half due to having staff vacancies. Robin stated that if there are funds left over there is an area on the budget that allows those funds to be used if they have been allocated to an initiative prior to June 30, 2008 with the approval of the state project manager. All funds following will be returned and given to the District. At this time, the District does not have a 501(c)3 designation and it is unclear where the funds will be dispersing from there. At this time, despite many budget cuts and future budget cutbacks the HMP's are secure in their funding.

Since September 2007, there has been additional funding from the outside grants coming to the Piscataquis Public Health Council. Greenville Police Department wrote and was awarded a grant in the amount of \$14,000.00. This grant will allow the Greenville Police Department to spend more time policing known areas where underage drinking is happening. The Partnership for Tobacco Free Maine awarded \$32,000.00 to Piscataquis Public Health to fund a position for Diane Rosell to do Clinical Outreach in the area. The American Legacy Grant awarded \$32,000.00 for a production in the Piscataquis Region and a recent \$4,286.00 grant was awarded for Colon Cancer Screening. Robin stated that there has been an increase in specific initiative funding coming to the Piscataquis Public Health Council. She stated that on Friday she was asked to begin a working with funds on Lead Poisoning. Robin stated that public health is evolving and that people are beginning to see the benefits.

Robin expressed concerns with the minigrant process and suggested beginning to look at other means of utilizing the funding. Robin felt that the minigrants have decreased over time and the workplan objectives are becoming much more defined. It has also been a challenge in getting grantees to report back and provide the appropriate documentation. She stated that after a recent audit it would be detrimental if the appropriate documentation was not in place. Tom Lizotte expressed that one entity had been given a lot of funds in the past, but there was no reports or documentation, despite several attempts to collect these, and stated that there was going to be less funding or no funding available in the future. Minigrant funding would be more effectively used if funding one sixteen hour position. This part time health educator position would utilize existing resources and begin work promoting work site wellness and doing health risk appraisals, along with doing community outreach education. This position would eliminate the some of the need for minigrant funding as the work would be done by a PPHC staff person. There has been a decline in the amount of applications for minigrants, with only five applications this month. With the evolving structure of the HMP work plan, the minigrant applications at this time do not fit as easily into what is currently being required by the workplan. There are few if any other HMPs that are still able to utilize funding for a minigrant process.

Pat Kelleher discussed the challenges with Charlotte White Center beginning their Wellness Committee. She stated that the program is costly and there is not a lot of senior level support with regards to the financial

requirements of the various elements of a worksite wellness program. Although, many of the Charlotte White Center employees indicated that they wanted more health and wellness programming. Pat stated that there was a large population of employees that are smokers and overweight. Ralph stated that the last time Mayo Regional Hospital attempted to get Work Site Wellness, there was not a lot of interest. Robin stated that she had been working with the Chamber of Commerce and had been getting increased calls for Work Site Wellness recently. The Piscataquis Public Health Council will be focusing on small employers, those with less than fifty employees. Ralph stated that he would like to have the Well Region Designation by having over 30 % of the workforce involved in Work Site Wellness.

Tom Iverson brought up that his position as facilitator of a Prostate Cancer Support Group brought him to the realization that there is no support group or education around Prostate Cancer in Piscataquis County. He stated that although people know what it is and that it exists, no one really wants to talk about it and early detection is essential. Tom announced that Saturday, May 31, 2008 will be Cancer Survivor Day in Bangor.

The group brainstormed answers to the following questions.

What does a healthy community/county/region mean to you?

- Positive cultural identity
- Safe place to live and raise children
- Outdoor recreation embraced by those in the local community as well as those from other areas
- Better public health bench marks than those set by state government
- Adequate resources
- Resources for education
- Information and education on area resources and their abilities as well as limitations
- Appropriate electronic information
- Clinical/health educational services
- Buy in on quality of life information

What are important characteristics of a healthy community?

- Economic Health
- Things to do – Walking Trails
- Safety
- Cultural Awareness
- Caring Community Environment
- Access to Health Care
- Access to Clinical & Educational Services
- Connection to large community
- Positive School System

Collaboration

How do you envision the local public health system in the next five to ten years?

- Evolving
- Beginning to be up and running
- Great opportunity
- Apply to future
- Fear that it will disappear with the current state financial crisis
- Continued monies to support Public Health System
- 10 Essential Public Health Services
- Integrated health systems
- Evidence based practices
- Prevention focused
- Education focus on prevention rather than treatment
- Emergency Preparedness
- Greater Capacity to Work Together
- Contained Healthcare Costs

Tom Iverson announced that on June 9, 2008, Meals for Me is hosting an Emergency Preparedness Survival in Greenville. This will allow participants to learn to survive for 92 hours during an emergency.

Next meeting scheduled for July 22, 2008 from 2:00-3:00 in the Piscataquis Room at Mayo Regional Hospital.

Submitted by Christie Whitten