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Piscataquis Public Health Council
Executive Steering Committee
November 13, 2007
Mayo Regional Hospital, Dover-Foxcroft

Attending: Robin Mayo, Community Partnership Director; Tom Lizotte, Mayo Regional Hospital liaison; Judy Gerrish, Heartwise; David McDermott, M.D.; Cheri Snow, Penquis; Keith Flewelling, Community Partnership Specialist; Pat Kelleher, Behavioral Health Services, Charlotte White Center; Ralph Gabarro, Mayo CEO.

Robin reminded members to complete conflict of interest statement and board evaluation forms.

Robin led a discussion on the Public Health Work Group's identification of gaps and proposals for changes to public health duties. It was noted that the DHHS district health forum in Bangor, on Oct. 16, reviewed how the local health officer system might be revitalized. The local health officer system, especially in rural areas, seems to exist largely on paper. Another possibility could be to align the health officer position through the county, as a regional service comparable to how EMA is structured.

The group discussed the ideal composition of the Executive Steering Committee, which now consists of health care, social service, education and emergency management representatives. The consensus was that the right sectors were represented, although actual attendance at meetings could be improved.

The committee discussed endorsing an EPA Brownfields grant for \$200,000, submitted by the Piscataquis County Economic Development Council, which would be used to rehab former industrial sites in our region. The committee endorsed the grant application.

Members discussed the application/review process for PPHC mini-grants. Robin said fewer funds are available this year compared to past years. Funds include \$16,000 for HMP activities, \$9,000 for CCHC development and \$12,000 for specific substance abuse evidence-based activities. The priority use for the total \$37,000 available is to meet strategies identified in the PPHC work plan. Robin noted that with the reduction in funds available to local schools, she expects more requests for mini-grants from education. Those requests must be balanced against the need to support environmental change at a societal level.

Bonnie Irwin has been hired as Regional Tobacco Coordinator for Penobscot/Piscataquis counties, and began her job Nov. 6.

Next meeting: Jan. 23, 2008.

Minutes submitted by Tom Lizotte

