

**MINUTES OF
LEWISTON-AUBURN PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, January 7, 2010**

Members Present: Larry Marcoux, MaryAnn Amrich, Karen Palin, Rene Dumont, Cathy Liguori, Connie Jones, Ned Claxton, Dot Meagher, Craig Phillips, Tin Barton-Caplin, Jim Lawler, Dottie Perham-Whittier, and Special Guest Holly Lasagna

Unable to Attend: Those who had RSVPd that they'd be unable to attend: Fatuma Hussein, Marcia Miller, Joanne Potvin, and Ronnie Paradis

Recorded By: Dottie Perham-Whittier

Moderator: Ned Claxton, Co, Chair - LAPHC

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP
Call Meeting to Order	The meeting was called to order, and special guest Holly Lasagna, Assistant Director of Bates Harward Center for Community Partnerships, was introduced.	
Review of Minutes	At the close of the meeting, Ned made a motion to accept the minutes with revisions noted; Cathy Liguori seconded the motion; unanimous vote to accept minutes with revisions. Some wording had been revised when Dottie sent out the draft minutes.	
New Business		
	<p>Today's meeting focused on "where do we go now?"</p> <p>Holly Lasagna explained that her work focuses on community-based learning and research, along with sustained programming – how something will look after the involved students are gone. She added that Bates students can provide much in regards to research.</p> <p>Background (Phil Nadeau added to what was actually discussed at the meeting): The group provided Holly with a summary of how the LAPHC first began. The genesis of the LAPHC began when Phil Nadeau, Dr. Gina</p>	

Wilson, and others came together when there was a 2007 confirmed TB case at Edward Little High School. Because of the presence of TB within certain refugee populations from East Africa & given the presence of Somali refugees in this community, discussions ensued as to what the City's response might need to be if these topics were discussed in public. Those meetings continued, and Dr. Wilson felt that a public health department needed to be created. Phil stated that the chance of either Lewiston or Auburn creating a new department with new staffing was very remote & suggested that alternatives to a formal health department be considered. Those discussions eventually led to the pulling together of folks that are now part of the established LAPHC.

It was noted that the group first looked for quick successes, as they did not want to be known as just a thinking group. Examples of the group's quick successes: H1N1 awareness, flu shot clinics, child & adolescent school hand washing campaign, joint planning, health focus night in the park, smoking ban, recommendation on the chicken ordinance.

Now the group's focus is: **What do we do next?** In regards to making a fundamental change in the public health system, Holly said that from her perspective, it's to the group's advantage to remain nimble, providing the expertise to react quickly to health concerns. She told the LAPHC that they needn't feel pressured to become something else.

Ned explained that the group wants sustainability to continue to make a difference. In regards to Holly inquiring about funding, Ned said that we want to have funds if there's something we need funds for.

Holly asked if we have written grants or want to consider that. Folks explained that our current partners have a little bit of a funding stream for our efforts; the city's source of funding for LAPHC is extremely small. Holly said realizing our funding needs might define what the group could do—knowing up front what our capacity is.

Rene said he doesn't envision the group with large grant dollars. He foresees dollars available through various entities with the support of each other.

MaryAnn inquired if we should decide our focus, figure our needs, and then decide how to get there or should we do it the other way around. Holly said both can be done. She added that our efforts can be written into existing grants of our community partners. She said it's like a jigsaw puzzle with pathways of funding/needs.

Renee inquired as to what would drive the agenda or perhaps we go through this saying, *"This committee isn't focusing on . . ."*

Ned commented on the importance of knowing our mission and leadership role. Mental health services were mentioned; could we support their efforts?

Holly asked if the group could be a convener; she said the LAPHC can get people to the table and stressed that's very valuable.

MaryAnn added that we want to keep our ability to respond promptly, especially to the City Council of either city.

Ned said there's no need for infrastructure such as in Boston/Portland, and we have no money to proceed that route anyway. He added that although we'd be glad to take money, the issue is sustainability.

Rene referred to the group as *"virtual public health,"* calling it sustainability in its simplicity.

Holly said she needs the themes of this group, and MaryAnn then inquired if we should look at health assessments; do we become very formal?

Holly asked what our **“felt needs”** are, adding that strength would be built if someone did a health assessment but pointed out it takes considerable time, energy, and money.

Cathy talked about the roles of nurses in the public schools and noted that our group finds resources throughout the entire community.

Rene said we need to know what our next priority area is; what is the next important health issue? He wants the LAPHC to be proactive and not wait.

Cathy stressed that the LAPHC needs to be proactive **and** reactive. Holly again pointed out the group’s ability to access resources and its collaborative knowledge.

Rene doesn’t want us to be viewed as unsettled with just quick successes.

MaryAnn pointed out that data sets already exist, such as through Healthy Androscoggin, versus an actual needs assessment. She said various entities utilize such data sets. It was also pointed out that we went to Healthy Androscoggin as to the smoking ordinance language.

Holly asked questions about who is doing what, as well as how other places are doing similar things.

Cathy said she values the fact that other groups/entities are coming to the LAPHC and consider us a resource to the Twin Cities.

Holly spoke about being constrained/bureaucracy. She described the LAPHC as a collaborative group with much information sharing with a goal to move forward & connect.

Dottie asked Cathy if within the schools, there is one teen “standout” issue that could possibly be focused on; she said no, as there are so many important issues.

Connie said she feels that health wise, we need to really look at the community. She hopes that we’ll continue to be nimble so that we can focus on what we want our cities to look like.

Cathy talked about prevention, and Holly said she feels that is a broad concept that entails a wealth of information/education.

MaryAnn brought up the importance of the health of our seniors and children.

Rene inquired as to how are we different from Health Androscoggin; how do we leverage, yet not duplicate. MaryAnn praised Healthy Androscoggin but said they are not all encompassing.

It was pointed out that the LAPHC lends credibility.

Connie said in regards to a grant, we are definitely a public health entity that has real collaboration with a community focus.

Ned said we could certainly participate in a grant application if we already have needs in mind. Holly added that we could also support a grant application. Cathy suggested helping each other out without the group actually doing it.

Rene said it’s not either or. He said we need to describe our vision but also respond, not just A, B, C, D. He said we need to see what fits with our vision.

Holly said the DEC (Downtown Education Collaborative) could be a funneling process. MaryAnn added that a website would be appropriate for LA Public Health. LAPHC has its logo now that could be incorporated.

Holly, Ned, & Rene talked about participatory goals, strategic planning, the fact that needs keep changing, monthly donations from entities depending on size; temporary grants for visioning, such as through Maine Initiatives.

Ned said the Maine Center for Public Health worked with Bangor & Portland; asked if we fit into something like that.

Karen: She praised our ability to react with credibility and remain nimble. It was also pointed out that we shouldn't be scattered; we need to be focused.

Tin said that there needs to be a balance of nimbleness and direction. We need to know the scope of our parameters. We have power in our interconnectedness, and we should have the same message in our schools, workplaces, and public places. He said we also have the ability to mobilize folks around an issue.

Holly talked of short-term working groups convening & collaborating. Ned added that working with major health players is important, along with consistent messages and responding to requests such as the request for a LAPHC recommendation about the chicken ordinance.

Connie said the fact that we're sanctioned by the Twin Cities provides much power. We have the ability to provide a perception of public health and portray a persona to our community. Holly added that reporting about quick successes also defines public health.

	<p>Rene said we are like being on the edge of a puzzle. What pieces fit? Holly stressed the importance of an outline in order to complete the puzzle. MaryAnn suggested revisiting our vision for the future. Holly said that the culture within the LAPHC is firm for the decision-making process.</p> <p>Ned said we've had deliverables, Holly called it concrete successes, and MaryAnn said, <i>"We are here!"</i></p> <p>Ned said we need to have a list of our accomplishments, and he agreed with MaryAnn that we picked strategies when we saw what needed to be done.</p> <p>Holly said that at the February 4th meeting we'll start to give some structure to all this. Rene said we have basic homework to do; Holly needs input; doesn't know what to ask.</p> <p>Tin stated that two reports were commissioned separately for Lewiston & Auburn; he will send them to Dottie.</p> <p>Information regarding the Ten Essentials and vision/mission need to be forwarded to Holly. Ned, Holly, and Rene will also get together before the next full LAPHC meeting.</p> <p><u>NEXT FULL MEETING:</u> February 4, 2010, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room at Lewiston City Hall.</p>	<p>Tin will send these reports to Dottie.</p>
Sub-Committee Reports		
H1N1 Sub-Committee		
	No report given	
Public Awareness		
	No report given	

Childhood – Adolescent Health		
	No report given	
Member Updates		
	Respectfully submitted, <i>Dottie Perham-Whittier</i> Dottie Perham-Whittier Community Relations Coordinator City of Lewiston	