

**MINUTES OF
LEWISTON-AUBURN PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, March 4, 2010**

Members Present: Rene Dumont, Larry Marcoux, Dot Meagher, Ronnie Paradis, Casey Nguyen, Tin Barton-Caplin, Heather Lindkvist, MaryAnn Amrich, Denise McCarty, Amanda Hutchins, and Dottie Perham-Whittier.

Recorded By: Dottie Perham-Whittier

Moderator: Rene Dumont, Co, Chair - LAPHC

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP
Call Meeting to Order	Rene Dumont called the meeting to order.	
Review of Minutes	As not enough folks were present for an LAPHC vote, Dottie was asked to circulate the February 4 th meeting minutes through Survey Monkey.	Dottie will circulate the 2/4/10 minutes through Survey Monkey for a vote.
New Business	<p>Tin discussed the “KeepMEWell” initiative that the Governor launched at the end of June; it is a universal wellness initiative. This includes health risk assessments for adults via a “live” web based opportunity. This is meant to be particularly helpful for the under insured and the not insured. The assessment will identify health risks and then link individuals to resources, to include 211. Healthy Androscoggin is starting an inventory of free or wireless computer access points.</p> <p>KeepMEWell posters will be distributed, and there will also be a public awareness health fair on March 27th at the Auburn Mall. An LAPHC table is an option, and KeepMEWell assessments will hopefully be accessible at that location. There is no guarantee of computer use accessibility, however, and Ronnie suggested using an empty store at the mall. Access is definitely needed, as KeepMEWell is completely web based. Denise mentioned a Verizon Wireless daily rate for an access connect card.</p>	

MaryAnn said a presence at the mall would provide education about the LAPHC, providing *“nice visibility.”* Although no formal vote was thought needed, the group’s consensus was to be involved on March 27th. Ronnie said that Phil Nadeau has the group’s banner. The time needed for coverage is 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Places to tap for help could include the Director of Nursing at Central Maine Nursing. Ronnie also suggested Bates students, and Heather will send the info out to faculty members. Tin asked Dottie to send out an e-mail to LAPHC members asking if they could donate time at the health fair table.

Another thought is capacity building training for use in the workplace. Ronnie noted that with state health risk assessments, there is a 5% benefit incentive.

Forces of Change Tool: Tin explained that Forces of Change is a public health assessment that would end with an action plan. Healthy Androscoggin is very involved with this, and he said *the purpose is to identify what are the forces in our community that shape public health or public health status?* Tin said it would be great if the LAPHC participated and said it’s something like a SWOT analysis. This will focus on all of Androscoggin County to include rural areas.

It was the group’s consensus that Tin could take the lead representing Healthy Androscoggin to do a presentation about Forces of Change at the April LAPHC meeting. It was anticipated that the assessment presentation would take about one hour.

On March 30th, Tin forwarded Dottie the Forces of Change Tool. He asked that this be forwarded to the LAPHC and that members be asked to review the document & be prepared to discuss the Trends, Forces and Factors, etc. Tin has lined up David Kell to facilitate this topic at the April 1, 2010, LAPHC meeting.

Heather will send fair table assistance requests out to Bates faculty.

Dottie will send an e-mail to LAPHC members to see who can assist with the fair table.

	<p>Tin has also shared other plans with us, to include the LA Health Improvement Plan. There will also be a compiled community health profile ready by July with United Way and HA working together to do a comprehensive community profile, including a community health assessment.</p> <p>Local Food for Lewiston: It was announced that Holly Lasagna, of the Bates Harward Center, would like to do a presentation for the LAPHC. She contacted Dottie stating, <i>“I am a member of the steering committee of Local Food for Lewiston, a community food assessment currently going on in Lewiston. The group asked me to find out if it would be possible for a small group of us who have been working on this community based research project to present, briefly, to the L/A Public Health Committee about this work. I think it would be wonderful for them to know about the rigorous research being done in this community around the issue of food insecurity and healthy food systems. Also, the methods we are using that integrate academics and community expertise are unique to this project. We will be doing a formal presentation to the community about the work in May.”</i></p> <p>The group agreed that Holly could utilize the first 20 minutes of the April or May meeting & asked Dottie to contact her in that regard.</p> <p>Larry stated that 211 calls for January experienced food security moving to the top. Food mapping and the Nutrition Center were also mentioned, and Ronnie mentioned University of Albany public health web seminars.</p>	<p>Dottie was asked to contact Holly Lasagna about her requested local food presentation.</p>
<p>Sub-Committee Reports</p>		
<p>H1N1 Sub-Committee</p>		
	<p>No report given</p>	

Public Awareness		
	<p>The Public Awareness Subcommittee has been focusing on the web site. It was noted that Phil has all the foundational LAPHC documents/language. Wanted to keep going with web site development & have been working with Christine Lechter: warm & safe; carbon monoxide; H1N1 clinic dates, and KeepMEWell. Healthy Androscoggin is handling set-up and maintenance.</p> <p>Promotion will be underway with web site promotion for www.lewistonauburnpublichealth.org Dottie will proceed to have that link put on the electronic message board on East Avenue (LHS entrance). Dottie had also sent an e-mail requesting names & contact information for the web.</p> <p>Ronnie mentioned that posters/promotion could be at computer accessible sites such as the libraries, CMMC, LA College, B Street, Starbucks, & kiosks. Web site information will also be promoted at the March 27th health fair LAPHC table.</p> <p>MaryAnn spoke about US CDC marketing guidelines for social marketing; will follow up at next Public Awareness meeting.</p>	
Childhood – Adolescent Health		
	No report given	
Member Updates		
	<p>Healthy Homes/Healthy Families March 24 – 26 from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Nutrition Center & FREE; will be a Healthy Androscoggin event Focus: lead, food safety, pesticides, etc.</p> <p>Ronnie asked how outreach is measured; how are things working? It was pointed out that great strides, for example, have been made as to lead awareness and prevention. Trying to enhance outreach to Somalis and Somali Bantu.</p>	<p>Heather will send Dottie a flyer about this event to circulate.</p>

Dot Meagher noted that unemployment benefits will run out in June, peaking in April – 3,000 in Androscoggin County. Mary LaFontaine at the Career Center is trying to put together resources for those who are unemployed.

Rene talked of sustainable places and how they are impacted by the economy. Ronnie said that some Portland schools are devastated.

Larry shared that in January, it was the first time that 211 surpassed 700 calls (to include EITC & H1N1 calls); provides a good snapshot of the local economy. It was noted that the lines at DHS are also very long.

Tin praised the LA **“One Book, One Community”** interactive reading/dialogue that is focused around community activities about healthy eating via the book, **“Animal, Vegetable, Miracle.”** Several community partners are involved with One Book.

Tin talked about substance abuse prevention funding. There has been a huge drop in successful funding. Community forums will look at this. Was previously \$157,000; now around \$30,000. Ronnie expressed concern about alcohol & pot usage.

Tin also highlighted Safe Schools/Healthy Students. He also pointed out that for the first time in a long time, Healthy Androscoggin is fully staffed.

Tin spoke about the citywide assessment, including both physical activity and nutrition. There will probably be other stakeholder meetings; will look at youth obesity prevention modes; and will stress consistent messaging in various venues. Hopes to bring **“Let’s Go”** to Androscoggin County.

Amanda Hutchins introduced herself as the new Healthy Androscoggin Child/Adolescent Coordinator.

MaryAnn said that H1N1 clinics are winding down. The Western District Public Health Council sponsored a large focus group that was great. Online at the ME CDC, each of the eight districts are listed with online surveys. The ME CDC is hoping for a May or June report.

April 13, 2010 – Western District Public Health Council will sponsor a presentation of the new State health plan from 9:30 – noon at L/A College. It will include performance quality indicators. MaryAnn will send an invitation to Dottie who will in turn forward it to the group.

Respectfully submitted,

Dottie Perham-Whittier

Dottie Perham-Whittier
Community Relations Coordinator
City of Lewiston

Dottie will send out information about this when she receives the invitation.