

**MINUTES OF
LEWISTON-AUBURN PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, April 1, 2010**

Members Present: Rene Dumont, Ned Claxton, Ronnie Paradis, Phil Nadeau, Marcia Miller, Sherry Russell, Holly Lasagna, Kirsten Walter, Dave Divello, Craig Phillips, Larry Marcoux, Dot Meagher, Tin Barton-Caplin, Rachel Black, Dave Kell, 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	<p>Following a motion by Ned & seconded by Dave, a unanimous vote approved the minutes of March 4, 2010.</p> <p>Dottie informed the group that 13 people approved the 2/4/10 minutes that had been sent out through Survey Monkey; quorum was met.</p>			
New Business	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Local Food for Lewiston Presentation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>A presentation was provided on the collaborative, community-based food assessment currently going on citywide in Lewiston. Numerous people/entities are involved—to include Bates College, the Downtown Education Collaborative, and Healthy Androscoggin—with an aim of effectively addressing community food security needs through research, assessment, and the identification of solutions.</p> <p>Funding from a USDA Planning Grant supports the research and assessment phases of the project. The assessment effort also has additional matching and in-kind support of over \$60,000.</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Local Food for Lewiston Presentation	<p>A presentation was provided on the collaborative, community-based food assessment currently going on citywide in Lewiston. Numerous people/entities are involved—to include Bates College, the Downtown Education Collaborative, and Healthy Androscoggin—with an aim of effectively addressing community food security needs through research, assessment, and the identification of solutions.</p> <p>Funding from a USDA Planning Grant supports the research and assessment phases of the project. The assessment effort also has additional matching and in-kind support of over \$60,000.</p>	
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The assessment is currently in the first of three phases, ending with a Food Charrette on May 18th. The second phase involves a community planning process, and the third phase will focus on the comprehensive bigger picture of what to do.

The 41% Lewiston child poverty statistic recently in the news was mentioned, and it was stated that there is tremendous need involving food, nutrition, and hunger. Resources and gaps need to be focused on.

Ronnie Paradis added that it's also important to focus on the elderly with some of them eating dog food & cat food so they can purchase their medications.

Census 2000 data, as well as other data, is being utilized, and the areas of food accessibility, availability, and affordability are being looked at. Avenues of assessment include course work, thesis work, Mt. David Summit, focus groups . . . whole host of diversity. Clear themes that have already evolved including transportation, affordability, and food being culturally appropriate.

Scenarios that occur: free cans of food but have no can opener or only two bags of groceries are allowed on the bus. It's important to learn what can impact & influence food accessibility.

On May 18, 2010, from 4 – 7 p.m. at Callahan Hall at the Lewiston Public Library, a Food Charrette will be held to share the information gathered over the last two years and discuss ways to improve access to healthy food, support local producers, and make lasting changes in our food system.

Raw data is important for initial analysis.

Outcomes:

- Baseline data – can leverage funding

- ❑ GIS tools for correlations – bus lines, stores
- ❑ Building energy/momentum is very important
- ❑ Academic, health, and community partnerships – innovative and recognized as a model

Phil Nadeau said this is all very exciting and will really answer questions on various levels; will save a lot of guessing. He said hopefully the work could serve as a template. He added that Bates' participation demonstrates the college's capacity to engage like this.

Ronnie gave an example that some folks need to know **“how”** to cook frozen vegetables. Holly added that sometimes people do not know how to go about preparing healthy foods and stated that education/awareness is important.

A strategic approach will be utilized, to include peer-to-peer education with immigrants. Ronnie suggested approaching staff who go into homes on a daily or weekly basis.

Craig noted the depth of the resource and said it does serve as a model; perhaps there could be implementation broader than Lewiston.

Ronnie said that rural areas are often very poor with problems regarding food.

Forces of Change Tool

Tin did a Forces of Change presentation, noting they are forces that are or will be influencing the health and quality of life of the community and the work of the local public health system. This is being used as part of a strategic planning process by Healthy Androscoggin; similar to a SWOT analysis (opportunities, threats, etc.). David Kell is serving as an intern on this project.

The categories are: trends, factors, and events (latter “one time” occurring or changing).

A general conversation surrounded the following questions to think about:

- *What has occurred recently that may affect our local public health system?*
- *What may occur in the future?*
- *Are there any trends occurring that will have an impact?*
- *What forces are occurring locally? Regionally? Nationally? Globally?*
- *What characteristics of our jurisdiction or state may pose an opportunity or threat?*
- *What may occur or has occurred that may pose a barrier to achieving the shared vision?*
- *What are some forces identified in other discussions, assessments, surveys, etc., that you have been a part of or know about?*

Thoughts Shared:

Rene: A lot of us say “*we want that*”

Phil: Don’t think Americans can easily change their lifestyles, such as eating sugar

Rene: People need to consider mindsets as to why they do some things

Dave: Perception isn’t all that good

Phil: Start in schools

Dot M.: Way too much processed food

Dot M.: Today people see things as disposable; values used to be cherished

Phil: 23 states use non-pasteurized milk

	<p>Ronnie: Ethical things need to be thought about</p> <p>Others: Can't afford things like we used to; attract higher rate housing in downtown; high # of folks in poverty; Maine asthma rate is above average. Tin asked that LAPHC members spend some time completing the "Forces of Change Brainstorming Worksheet" and then forward the worksheets to Rachel at Healthy Androscoggin by April 26th. Tin said the information would be used to generate health priorities.</p>	<p>Dottie will send out the worksheet & remind the group of the deadline.</p>
Sub-Committee Reports		
H1N1 Sub-Committee		
	No updates given.	
Public Awareness		
	No updates given.	
Childhood – Adolescent Health		
	No updates given.	
Member Updates		
	<p>VA Clinic – Craig said it would help people with accessibility. Craig also announced a public health forum is planned for April 13th.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p><i>Dottie Perham-Whittier</i></p> <p>Dottie Perham-Whittier Community Relations Coordinator City of Lewiston</p>	

