



September 7th Issue

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The **deadline** for the next MPHA Enews is **Thursday, September 13th** the September 14th issue.

Please contact Michelle Caliandro with content or questions about this publication at mcaliandro@mainelung.org or 1-800-499-5864 x 103.

Advocacy Alerts

APHA Legislative Alert

I. Timing on SCHIP Conference Uncertain

With Congress returning from its month-long August recess, the House and Senate return with a full plate of legislative challenges in the coming months. One of the biggest challenges, and one of APHA's priorities for the year, is the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Both chambers passed legislation prior to the summer recess, but the bills have significant differences. The House bill would expand coverage to 11 million children, while the Senate bill would expand coverage to 9.8 million

children. Both bills pay for the new coverage for previously uninsured children through an increase in the federal tobacco tax. The Senate bill would raise the cigarette tax by 61 cents, while the House bill increases the tax by 45 cents per pack. The House bill would also achieve savings by reducing overpayments to Medicare Advantage programs, private insurance programs that currently receive up to 12 percent more than traditional Medicare for the same services. The House bill also includes a number of other Medicare-related provisions supported by APHA including increased access to preventive health services and new tools to analyze and identify racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in the health care provided by the Medicare program. APHA is advocating for the strongest possible bill that maintains the House-passed Medicare provisions and also provides health care to the greatest number of children. You can send this message to your members of Congress, by visiting [APHA's advocacy site](#)

II. Senate Looks to Farm Bill Reauthorization

With the House having passed its version of the Farm Bill reauthorization legislation in July, the action now turns to the Senate. The Senate Agriculture Committee is expected to begin its consideration of the legislation in mid-late September. One major issue that could potentially delay action is the split among key Agriculture Committee members regarding efforts to make any substantial changes to farm subsidies provided under the law. A group of Agriculture Committee Senators, lead by Sen. Kent Conrad, are pushing to maintain the status quo. Other key Senators, including Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin, are looking at ways to make some reforms to the subsidy programs. APHA has been meeting with numerous Senate offices over the past several weeks to ensure that APHA's priorities are included in the Senate's version of the bill. Specifically, APHA is seeking increases in the USDA's fresh fruit and vegetable snack program, as well as the Department of Defense's Fresh Program, which provides fresh fruits and vegetables directly to schools. APHA and its allies are also pushing to get language in the bill that would allow the USDA's Food Stamp Nutrition Education program to incorporate public health interventions and education in order to increase the likelihood that food stamp recipients will choose diets consistent with the Dietary Guidelines. APHA will continue its efforts to ensure these programs and other important public health provisions are included in the Senate's version of the farm bill and in the final conference report later this year. You can send a message to you Senators in support of APHA's priorities in the Farm Bill by visiting [APHA's advocacy site](#)

III. Appropriations Outlook

Quick movement on the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, which funds the vast majority of federal public health programs and agencies like CDC and HRSA, remains unlikely. With the House having passed the bill and the Senate having passed the bill through the Appropriations Committee, it is unlikely that the Senate will have the time to consider the bill on the Senate floor in the near future. Additionally, president Bush has threatened to veto the bill because it exceeds his request outlined in his budget earlier this year. According to Congressional staff, the chances of the bill being wrapped up into a larger "omnibus" spending bill later in the year, continues to increase. APHA staff will continue to monitor the situation and will send out periodic updates as we move into the fall. Please continue to send the message to Congress urging passage of a strong Labor-HHS-Education bill to adequately fund important public health programs. You can send a message to your Representative and Senators by visiting [APHA's advocacy site](#):

Act Now to Support Wind Power in Maine

Did you know that New England currently depends on fossil fuels for 60 percent of our electrical power generation?

Wind power will help reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. The 54 MW Black Nubble Wind Farm would create as much healthy power as is used by 21,500 Maine households annually and contribute toward moving Maine to renewable energy sources and healthy air for all Maine people.

The threat of global warming caused by our continued reliance on fossil fuels is real. More than 470 mountains have been destroyed in Appalachia from mountaintop removal of coal, and our dependence on coal, oil, and natural gas is causing global warming. Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) needs to know that Maine people want healthy power from the winds that blow across our state, including from the Black Nubble project.

In addition to The American Lung Association of Maine, more than 20 organizations have endorsed the Black Nubble Wind Farm, including the Natural Resource Council of Maine, the Maine Council of Churches and the Maine Chamber of Commerce.

If you support healthy energy, then there are two things we ask you to do today.

Write a letter to Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission in support of the Black Nubble Wind Farm. Even a short letter can make a difference! Address your letters to:

Land Use Regulation Commission, Attention: Catherine Carroll, Director, 22 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333 (or LURC@maine.gov)

Plan to attend a public hearing to testify in support of the Black Nubble Wind Farm at Sugarloaf Ski Area on the evening of [September 19th and/or 20th](#).

Now is the time for you to share your voice with the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC). So that we can track our efforts, we would appreciate it if you would let us know if you have written a letter. Please email Michelle Caliandro at mcaliandro@mainelung.org if you are able to attend the public hearings in September!

To reserve a seat on the bus going to Sugarloaf for the hearing, contact Sara Lovitz at slovitz@nrqm.org.

Ultimately, we are all in this together. We need to move quickly and collaboratively to reduce air pollution so we can build a future marked by energy independence, healthy air, and healthy lungs.

Michelle A. Caliandro, Public Policy Assistant, American Lung Association of Maine phone: 207-621-4059 x103 or 1-888-241-6566 x103, fax: 207-626-2919 www.lungme.org

Learning Opportunities

Prematurity Campaign Summit 2007

Women's Health and Preconception Care Between Pregnancies: The Development of Internatal Care Programs

Dinner and Presentation -- October 4, 2007, 6:00 – 9:00 PM, Spectacular Event Center, 395 Griffin Road, Bangor, Maine

The incidence of preterm birth in Maine continues to increase. In 2003, there were 1,394 preemies. Please sponsor me in WalkAmerica, our premier fund raising events by making a donation at www.walkamerica.org/sharons.

Sharon Schulberger, Director, Program Services, March of Dimes, 60 Gray Road, Unit 8, Falmouth, ME 04105, (207) 878-1199 or (800) 668-5678, fax: (207) 878-1166, ssschulberger@marchofdimes.com

Information

MPHA Annual Meeting

The Maine Public Health Association will be holding its annual meeting on October 23, 2007, at the Augusta Civic Center. This year's theme is "Public Health Emergencies for EVERYONE involved in the health of Maine people"

The brochure can be found on the [MPHA website](#)

Online registration -- [click here](#)

Please feel free to distribute widely to all those who you feel would be interested. Thank you.

Invitation from Governor Baldacci

Please join Governor Baldacci and public health leaders from across Maine on the Capitol Steps in Augusta on **Friday, September, 14 from 11:00 - 12:30** to kick off the new Healthy Maine Partnerships and to celebrate Maine's emerging, more effective, efficient and streamlined public health infrastructure.

For more information, email Dr. Mills at dora.a.mills@maine.gov.

Hope to see you there! Trish Riley, Director of Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance and Dora Anne Mills, MD, MPH, Director, Maine CDC/DHHS.

Cover the Uninsured

Please visit www.CoverTheUninsured.org to find resources for people seeking health coverage, as well as news and information about this year's campaign and the importance of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey

The Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey Committee has developed an on-line questionnaire to gather input from schools and other local stakeholders for the 2009 survey. The Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey will be replacing the MYDAUS/YTS and the YRBS, but will retain content from both. The new integrated survey is further described in Informational Letter # 11 sent to school superintendents from the Commissioner of Education, Susan Gendron.

Link to the [Superintendents' letter](#)

The link for the Questions List is embedded in the Informational Letter. We appreciate your feedback to this work in progress. Thank you in helping us in this process.

Kathy Wilbur, Maine Department of Education

Forum for Healthcare Leaders

The Muskie School's Graduate Program in Health Policy and Management is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Forum for Healthcare Leaders on October 3, 4 and 5. The theme for this year's meeting is: "Our Healthcare Workforce: Continuing to Care in the 21st Century".

Some updates to our recent e-mail communications and brochure:

1. Gerald Cayer, MPH, Vice President and COO at Franklin Memorial Hospital, will be joining the Reaction Panel to Dr. Arnold Relman's keynote address. Jerry will bring important public health and rural hospital perspectives to the discussion.

2. David Hartley, MHA, PhD will join Andy Coburn and John Dorrer in the opening session: Maine's Healthcare Workforce. Prof. Hartley will describe his work around workforce issues in Maine which was recently published with Prof. Charles Colgan: "Chapter 4: The Two-Edged Scalpel- Health Care and the Rural Economy", in Health Care and Tourism: A Lead Sector Strategy for Rural Maine, Maine Center for Economic Policy. April, 2007.

3. Check our web site for the biographical information about all the speakers at this year's forum.

More information about [registration](#) or contact Angela Foss at afoss@usm.maine.edu

Leadership in Action Award Dinner

Hold the date! Jeff Goldsmith will speak at our Leadership in Action Award Dinner on November 5.

The Institute for Civic Leadership, in partnership with The Daniel Hanley Center for Health Leadership, is proud to announce that America's premier healthcare futurist, Jeff Goldsmith, will be the keynote speaker at our Leadership in Action Award Dinner on November 5. Please hold the date!

Jeff Goldsmith analyzes issues facing the healthcare industry offering his advice to leaders like you. Through his books and keynote engagements, Jeff shares his expertise on topics such digital medicine and implications for health care leaders, and the multifaceted impacts of aging baby-boomers on our economy and communities. Recent commitments included AARP, Mayo Clinic and Siemens. His address is planned to assist you and your organization in dealing with your concerns about the future of health and healthcare in Maine. Please save the date and plan to join us on November 5th at 6 PM at the Marriott to welcome Jeff Goldsmith to Maine.

At ICL we recognize collaborative leadership through our awards programs. The Hanley Center honors leadership in health care. Together, the Leadership in Action Award Dinner will honor an individual or organization and recognize their collaborative leadership in health or healthcare. We are seeking your nomination. Please forward your nomination and a brief

explanation of why you think this person or organization should be honored, to Ellen Grant at egrant@civicleadership.org. Feel free to contact Ellen if you have any questions.

We welcome your thoughts and look forward to seeing you on November 5th.

Maine Dental Access Coalition

The Maine Dental Access Coalition has a new web site at www.mainedentalaccess.org. The site has been expanded to reflect a greater emphasis on policy and legislative developments, and help for consumers as well as advocates and practitioners. Additions include sections on Public Policy, Finding Dental Care, an expanded Resources section and as well as an updated What's New.

Help us keep this site the place to go for the latest news, best resources and current thinking on access to oral health care in Maine. Send your information to MDAC@mcd.org and post a link to www.mainedentalaccess.org at your web site.

Rates of Bipolar Diagnosis in Youth Rapidly Climbing, Treatment Patterns Similar to Adults

The number of visits to a doctor's office that resulted in a diagnosis of bipolar disorder in children and adolescents has increased by 40 times over the last decade, reported researchers funded in part by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Over the same time period, the number of visits by adults resulting in a bipolar disorder diagnosis almost doubled. The cause of these increases is unclear. Medication prescription patterns for the two groups were similar. The study was published in the September 2007 issue of the Archives of General Psychiatry.

[Full press release](#)

See also "[NIMH Perspective on Diagnosing and Treating Bipolar Disorder in Children](#)" :

Report Release -- State of Working Maine 2007

The Maine Center for Economic Policy released State of Working Maine 2007, its annual report on the status of Maine workers. Data shows that into the fifth year of economic recovery, both Maine and New England are experiencing slow growth relative to the nation. FMI:

<http://www.mecep.org/view.asp?news=299>

Suicide Prevention Week

September 9-15 is National Suicide Prevention Week and September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day

September 05, 2007 -- Media Contact: SAMHSA Press Office, 240-276-2130

Suicide Prevention Services Supported by SAMHSA

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) provides prevention support, training, and information resources. Through 877-GET-SPRC (438-7772) and info@sprc.org, visitors can consult with prevention specialists. Visit the SPRC at www.sprc.org.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national, 24-hour, toll-free suicide prevention service available to all those in suicidal crisis who are seeking help. Individuals seeking help can dial 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Learn more about the Lifeline at: www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

World Rabies Day – September 8, 2007

The first World Rabies Day will be observed on September 8, 2007, with the theme, "Working Together to Make Rabies History." On this day, CDC and its global partners will celebrate successes in rabies prevention and control, while recognizing the challenges of global canine rabies elimination, human rabies prevention, and wildlife rabies control. Events are planned in at least 61 countries and will include educational presentations, animal rabies vaccination clinics, rabies awareness campaigns, and fundraising activities.

[Additional information about World Rabies Day](#)

Career Opportunities

Manager, Health Promotion -- American Lung Association of Maine

Description:

The position will oversee the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of health promotion activities for the American Lung Association of Maine in Augusta.

This position will also have the opportunity to work collaboratively with other Lung Associations in New England on identified initiatives.

Educational and Experience Requirements:

This is a full time leader/manager position in health promotion. It requires professional preparation in the field of community health or public health with a Bachelor's degree required. Required experience includes: program planning, implementation, evaluation and demonstrated ability to work independently as well as collaboratively. Also required is a minimum of 5 years of progressively responsible experience in the field. CHES preferred. Some background in environmental health a plus!

Competitive salary. Excellent benefits.

Application:

Please send resume with cover letter via email to: lscott@mainelung.org

Deadline for submission is September 21, 2007.

Systematic Review Research Fellows

The CDC/Guide to Community Preventive Services seeks candidates for multiple positions as Systematic Review Research Fellows. These are contract positions with the Federal Government based in Atlanta, GA USA.

Description: The successful candidates will assist with the conduct of systematic reviews of the effectiveness of population-based and community-based health promotion and disease prevention interventions. Specific tasks

include the use of scientific methods to identify, screen, appraise, and analyze the literature on the health outcomes for these interventions. In addition, participants will be expected to use available database programs to assist with the management of literature and study and outcome data. The candidate will participate in communicating and disseminating the results of these reviews and other related reviews to diverse audiences using diverse formats. Persons with an interest in systematic reviews, critical assessment of scientific literature, program evaluation, or translating knowledge (research) into action who also have excellent oral and written communication skills are ideal candidates for this position.

Qualifications: Graduate level training in public health, epidemiology, behavioral and social sciences, economics, or a related field. Experience and training in systematic reviews, study design and research methods, and/or program evaluation are also desired. Good oral and written communication skills, leadership and interpersonal skills, time management and organizational skills are all essential. Because other team members will provide substantive subject matter expertise, specific background in the subject matter of the reviews is not required.

Organization: The Guide to Community Preventive Services (Community

Guide) is being developed by the independent, nonfederal Task Force on Community Preventive Services with support from CDC. The Community Guide provides systematic reviews and recommendations on a variety of health topics important to communities, public health agencies and health care systems. The audiences of the Community Guide include public health professionals, policy makers, community-based organizations, providers of healthcare services, researchers, and research funders.

www.thecommunityguide.org

Closing Date: Tuesday, September 11, 2007.

To Apply: Submit a resume and cover letter to:

Matt Griffith, MPH, ORISE Research Fellow, The Guide to Community Preventive Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 1600 Clifton Road, MS E-21 Atlanta, GA 30333 MMGriffith@cdc.gov
www.thecommunityguide.org

Job Openings with the Healthy Communities of the Capital Area

Medical Care Development, Inc. (MCD) and Healthy Communities of the Capital Area (HCCA), not-for-profit health services and health promotion organizations are seeking three individuals to work in the HCCA Gardiner offices. All should be energetic, detail oriented team players with conscientious work styles and passionate about public health and wellness. All positions are immediately available.

2 Healthy Maine Partnership Project Managers

- A full time Substance Abuse Prevention Program Manager will be primarily responsible for the development and coordination of a Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and implementation of substance abuse prevention strategies across 17 southern Kennebec County communities.
- A full time Work Site Wellness/Adult Wellness Initiatives Program Manager will be primarily responsible for building awareness of and engagement in work site wellness programming for diverse employers across the service area. There will be a focus on small businesses and businesses that employ individuals age 40 and over that currently do not have wellness programming. Other responsibilities will focus on adult wellness initiatives outside of worksites.

Qualifications for both positions; knowledge of public health and community coalitions, demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with groups, the organizational skills to effectively manage multiple projects, excellent written and oral communications, and history of working both as part of a team and independently. A Bachelor's degree in health education or related field is required along with relevant experience; a Masters' Degree and experience preferred. Experience in policy and environmental change is a plus, as is experience in the content area of the position.

1 Part Time Administrative Assistant (up to 32 hours per week)

- Applicant must be organized, able to handle multiple secretarial tasks with varying deadlines accurately under minimal supervision, creative, willing to learn and apply skills, flexible. Knowledge of Microsoft Office programs (Outlook, Word, Access, Excel, Publisher, and PowerPoint) is a must. Website management and database work pluses. Three years of experience. Position is immediately available.

Please send a letter of interest that includes salary requirements and a resume by September 17, 2007, to Director of Human Resources, Medical Care Development, 11 Parkwood Drive, Augusta, ME 04330. MCD and HCCA are Equal Opportunity Organizations and Affirmative Action Employers.

Kennebec and Somerset County Regional Tobacco Coordinator

MaineGeneral Medical Center

This position with a base office in Waterville, Maine provides state-of-the-art content expertise in tobacco use prevention, tobacco-related health promotion and tobacco treatment to four Healthy Maine Partnerships in the region. This position ensures the planning, development and implementation of a coordinated and comprehensive approach to tobacco prevention and control throughout the region, and systematic, science-based approach to tobacco treatment. This position is a resource to local HMP staff, as well as community coalitions, organizations and municipalities, in the planning, development and implementation of evidence-based programs, policies and practices related to tobacco prevention, control and treatment.

Experience/Competencies

- MPH or equivalent education and work experience combination
- At least 3 years of state or local level public health experience that includes policy development and advocacy, community assessment and program planning, evaluation, coordination of multiple projects and working with diverse groups of people
- Experience working with coalitions, government agencies – municipal and state, voluntary organizations and boards or councils
- Experience and/or training in systems change

Duties

- Works with each local HMP staff in the region to assess tobacco prevention, control and treatment programs, policies and practices throughout service area

- Works with each local HMP staff and coalitions in the region to develop a comprehensive and coordinated plan for addressing tobacco use, youth initiation, and secondhand smoke exposure throughout each of the local HMP service areas especially identifying, prioritizing and planning programs with and for populations most at risk for tobacco-related issues.
- Works to assure that the local HMP tobacco prevention and control plans include:

- o Reaching out to underserved communities affected by tobacco use ('Community' can be a town or a priority population)

- o Identifying and voicing the community's priorities

- o Leveraging of community program's existing resources

- o Partnering with community leaders and organizations concerned with health equity and social justice

- o Planning and implementing culturally appropriate tobacco-related awareness and education programs

- o Assisting leaders and organizations with integrating tobacco control with other community priorities

- o Mobilizing and organizing community advocates for tobacco control

- In collaboration with the PTM Treatment contractors, participates in the development of a coordinated training and implementation plan for outreach to healthcare providers throughout each HMP service area that systematically addresses the treatment of tobacco use and dependence.
- Assists local HMPs to work with area providers and hospital systems to develop a plan that ensures accessible tobacco treatment services throughout the region.
- Work with the staff of the Partnership For A Tobacco-Free Maine as well as their contractors to ensure statewide coordination of efforts and evaluation of progress for tobacco-related initiatives.

Contact : The MGMC Prevention Center at 872-1788 or apply on line at www.healthcaresource.com. The position is listed on the website as a Public Health Specialists.

Supporting Our Membership

Shop For A Cause with Macy's

On **Saturday, October 13**, Macy's stores nationwide will host a Shop For A Cause charity shopping day, with donations benefiting Go Red For Women. Customers who make a minimum \$5 donation will receive an all-day savings pass for select merchandise in-store and on www.macys.com **Make your donation online and download your savings pass in advance**. Or make your \$5 donation at any Macy's store location on October 13 and receive your savings pass to be used that day. Macy's is a national sponsor of Go Red For Women.



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207-622-7566
www.mcph.org/mpha/MPHAindex.html*

