



## **May 25th Issue**

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The **deadline** for the next MPHA Enews is **Thursday, June 7th** for the June 8th issue.

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

## Message from Maine CDC

### Public Health Infrastructure Update from the Maine Centers for Disease Control & Prevention-Department of Health & Human Services

by Dora Anne Mills, *MCDC Director*

The Public Health Work Group is charged, through LD 1812 (which has had a significant amendment that should be on the Legislature's web page this week), to report to the Health and Human Services Committee later this year on the entire proposed statewide public health infrastructure. This infrastructure is to be developed within existing resources and needs to help achieve two goals: Maine having a statewide public health infrastructure; and improving efficiencies and effectiveness of public health for Maine people.

In the meantime, there has been ongoing work on public health infrastructure. First, many in the Division of Chronic Disease are busy working with colleagues in the Office of Substance Abuse and the Department of Education to plan for the implementation and management of the new Healthy Maine Partnership (HMP) contracts, which are expected to be awarded this summer. These contracts, which are expected to total about \$10.8 million, will now include not only community-based work to address tobacco, physical activity, and nutrition and school health coordinators, but also work on substance abuse prevention, other chronic disease prevention, and core functions for the recipient comprehensive community health coalitions. Another change to these contracts is that the coalition service areas in aggregate are expected to provide statewide coverage.

The HMP contracts are the first major public health initiative to use the new public health districts created by the Public Health Work Group. These new districts were created using the following factors: population, geographical spread, hospital service areas, and county borders. They are, using the county names: Aroostook; Penobscot/Piscataquis; Washington/Hancock; Somerset/Kennebec; Waldo/Knox/Lincoln/Sagadahoc; Androscoggin/Oxford/Franklin; Cumberland; and York. These same districts are being used across the Department, and are now referred to as districts, as opposed to the three major DHHS regions that the districts roll up into. Our Department colleagues in Mental Health are using these districts for their community service planning. Likewise, those in Children's Services are using them for similar planning purposes with community and district stakeholders. Interestingly, these district borders have been used for years by our legal system for the district attorney regions, and by tourism agencies as Maine's eight tourism districts.

As part of the emerging infrastructure, we are also working with local health officers (LHOs) and others (Maine Municipal Association, the Public Health Work Group, etc.) to propose revisions to the local health officer statutes and to develop rules requiring education, training, and experience standards for LHOs. This summer we are planning meetings across the state with local health officers to review proposed revisions and standards.

Additionally, Chris Lyman is working with others across the Maine CDC to develop district health profiles, using data from every division in the Maine CDC as well as other sources. In the future, we can easily make district comparisons and respond to district planning and coordination needs.

We are also in the process of using existing resources to create public health units within DHHS regional offices in each of the eight districts. These units will include co-located current regional Maine CDC staff - Public Health Nurses, Regional Epidemiologists, and Health Inspectors. We are hoping to officially open these units in Caribou, Rockland, and Sanford this summer. Hold-ups in some other districts are primarily because of space planning issues.

We also anticipate some coordination and planning efforts in each of the eight districts. The Public Health Work Group is charged with determining some of the details of these planning efforts, such as who is to convene and the scope of the district-wide planning and coordination work.

The plan includes locating district Maine CDC leadership positions in these public health units. Because we are developing these positions using resources and position lines as they become available, we are hoping to hire and place them in three of these districts this year, but not all eight. The primary roles of these positions are to provide: a liaison role between Maine CDC and local/district-wide public health efforts, such as the HMPs, local health officers, emergency management, and other efforts; and a leadership role for public health efforts in the area. These positions are not intended to supervise current district staff. But, we do anticipate our current district staff to work very closely together with the new leadership positions. We believe that together, our public health unit teams, along with other regional staff, can help coordinate state and district public health efforts in order to improve efficiencies and effectiveness of public health services.

## Learning Opportunities

### **Assessing and Increasing Patient Self-Confidence: A Key to Managing Chronic Illness**

June 5, 2007 Hilton Garden Inn, Auburn, Maine

For registration: <http://www.mcdregistration.org/>

For more information: 207-622-7566 Ext. 230

### **Register now for the June 5th Cardiovascular Health Summit ~ Auburn, Maine**

This year's program, "Assessing and Increasing Patient Self-Confidence: A Key to Managing Chronic Illness," will focus on the practical application of delivery system design changes based on patient-centered collaborative care. Participants will learn how to strategically assess patients' assets and risks and implement care plans collaboratively with considerations for clinical and psychosocial needs.

The registration deadline is **extended until May 31**.

Register by FAX using this printer friendly document:

<http://www.mcdregistration.org/BROCHURES/Printer%20Friendly%20Registration.pdf>

Register On-line using our secure form:

<http://www.mcdregistration.org/currentregistrations.asp?STATUS=ACTIVE>

Please feel free to forward this e-mail to interested parties. We would love to have a full house!

Kara Ohlund, Director, Medical Care Development, Conference Support & Professional Training, 11 Parkwood Drive, Augusta, ME 04330, Tel: (207) 622-7566 x 231, Fax: (207) 622-8848

## Legislative/Advocacy Information

### Legislative Update

MPHA priority areas are:

- Fund for a Healthy Maine;
- Environmental Issues;
- Health Care Access;
- Obesity;
- Tobacco;
- Public Health Infrastructure; and
- Other - as appropriate.

Regarding Legislative activity - A full public hearing schedule is available by following this link:

<http://www.state.me.us/legis/senate/Documents/hearing/ANPHFrame.htm>

For additional legislative information:

<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/lio/>

For more information regarding MPHA's legislative priorities go to:

[mpha@mcd.org](mailto:mpha@mcd.org)

## Information

### **Hold the Date! ALAME Annual Meeting**

Please hold Friday September 28th for the American Lung Association of Maine Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon at the South Portland Marriott. Our guest of honor will be Senator George Mitchell who will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from our organization in recognition of his work in promoting healthy air.

More information will follow.

### **MeHAF David Rappoport to Bid Maine Farewell**

In early July 2007, Senior Program Officer David Steven Rappoport will be bidding farewell to MeHAF and Maine for life in Chicago. David, who just passed his five-year anniversary mark with the Foundation, noted this was a difficult decision since he has truly enjoyed his work at MeHAF. However, his move is fueled by a personal compelling need to re-join city life. As David puts it, "I love Maine and MeHAF, but it's time to trade in my kayak for opera tickets."

With this announcement, MeHAF is opening the search for a new Senior Program Officer. A complete position description is posted on the [MeHAF website](#). We encourage you to circulate this announcement widely to colleagues who may be interested in applying. The application deadline is Friday, June 29, 2007.

MeHAF President & CEO, Dr. Wendy Wolf, praised David's vast contributions to helping start the Foundation's grantmaking program. "His considerable knowledge, skill and capacity for achieving excellence in all his work continually set a high bar for us all at the Foundation." During this transition time, David will work closely with grantees and the staff to assure an efficient transition with minimal impact on MeHAF's ongoing activities.

The Foundation will be hosting a farewell reception for David at the MeHAF office on Thursday, June 21 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Please join us to send David off with all our wishes for success as he moves forward.

## Career Opportunities

Nothing posted this issue.

## Supporting Our Membership

### ALAME Volunteer Opportunity

The Trek Across Maine is the Lung Association family's most successful cycling event. Come join the fun and support our efforts towards Healthy Air. The Trek Across Maine is June 15, 16 & 17. We still need assistance with:

24' Box Truck Driver ~ this doesn't require a special license, you'd be transporting supplies to rest stops

Luggage ~ a pivotal part of the event, getting everyone's luggage from point to point each day

Route Marshals ~ guiding trekkers safely through key intersections

If you or a friend are interested, please go to: [www.mainelung.org](http://www.mainelung.org) and register today! If you have questions call Michelle at 1-888-241-6566 x 103.



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*11 Parkwood Drive  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
207-622-7566*

*[www.mcph.org/mpha/MPHAindex.html](http://www.mcph.org/mpha/MPHAindex.html)*

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