



May 4th Issue

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The **deadline** for the next MPHA Enews is **Thursday, May 10th** for the May 11th issue.

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

Learning Opportunities

Behavioral Health Leaders and Providers Summit

The Central Maine Behavioral Health Tobacco Treatment Collaborative invites you and your colleagues to our Behavioral Health Leaders and Providers Summit on Tuesday, June 19th, 9:00-2:30 at Maple Hill Farms in Hallowell! Maine leads the nation again, now with a focus on tobacco treatment and behavioral health populations. This free summit will feature....

Keynote address by Brenda Harvey; morning session - creating individual opportunities for success; afternoon session creating statewide opportunities for success; group think led by special guests Sheila Evans and Arnie Arnesen; materials and tools to create change in your organization; and opportunities for additional specialized training.

To download a copy of the Summit brochure, visit www.healthyhorizonshmp.org. To receive a brochure by mail, contact Tina Chapman (info below). Please distribute widely. Thank you!

Tina Chapman, Project Director, Healthy Maine Partnership of Greater Waterville

PO box 91; 105 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Waterville, ME 04903-0091, Ph) 873-0686 Fx) 872-0674, www.healthyhorizonshmp.org

Expand Your Horizons this Summer with a Course in Public Health!

Muskie will be offering a course titled Social and Behavioral Foundations for Public Health.

This course provides an overview of the behavioral, social, and cultural factors that influence health status. It's easy to register and classes at the Muskie School are open to anyone with a bachelor's degree.

For more information, including a copy of the course syllabus and course flyer, please contact: Brenda Joly, (207) 228-8456, bjoly@usm.maine.edu

Legislative 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

Information

Channel 2 to Air AGES Conference

Channel 2 will be airing the first half of the Achieving Global Energy Security (AGES) Conference every Tuesday in May at Noon, 5pm, 10pm and 3am. The conference was held April 13, 2007 at the Abromson Center at the University of Southern Maine.

First Lady Launches Healthy Schools, Healthy Kids TV Series

Series tells the story of Maine's Coordinated School Health Program successes

Healthy Schools, Healthy Kids, a new TV series hosted by Maine's First Lady, Karen Baldacci, highlights school health programs that are improving the health of Maine's children and adolescents. The First Lady traveled to award-winning school systems to talk with people working to improve youth health and to hear from students about the importance of health in their lives. In addition she interviewed State level policymakers and local school administrators and staff who talked about the partnerships that are key to healthy schools and healthy kids.

The first two shows will provide an overview of school health in Maine including the Healthy Maine Partnerships. The remaining programs will feature schools that demonstrate excellence in the areas of school health services, staff health promotion and wellness, physical education and physical activity, health education and school nutrition.

Starting on Friday May 4, each of the seven half-hour shows in the series will be broadcast three times a week during May and June. The programs will be aired each week on Friday at 11:00 am and on Sunday at 11:00 am and 8:00 pm on Time Warner/Channel 9 cable stations across Maine. Please visit the Time Warner program guide or the school health website at www.maineeshp.com for more details on the series schedule.

Contact information:

Jacqueline Ellis, Director Coordinated School Health Program, Maine Department of Health and Human Services at 287-3856 or Jaki.Ellis@maine.gov and Katherine Wilbur, Health Education and Health

Promotion Coordinator, Maine Department of Education at 624-6696 or Kathy.Wilbur@maine.gov.

In Second Try to Treat Depression, Cognitive Therapy Generally as Effective as Medication

Switching to or adding cognitive therapy (CT) after a first unsuccessful attempt at treating depression with an antidepressant medication is generally as effective as switching to or adding another medication, but remission may take longer to achieve. These results, which are part of the NIMH-funded Sequenced Treatment Alternatives to Relieve Depression (STAR*D) trial, are published in the May 2007 issue of the American Journal of Psychiatry.

See <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/press/stardcognitivetherapy.cfm>

Save the Date ~ Maine Nutrition Network Annual Meeting

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Please join us to:

- Connect with MNN partners
- Hear national and local speakers talk about cutting edge approaches to public health nutrition!

Meeting will be held at our new location at 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Watch your email for more information on how to register for this event.

UMaine Center on Aging has \$150,000 Grant from US EPA

The UMaine Center on Aging has received a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to launch a first-in-the-nation pharmaceuticals-return program to help keep tons of medications out of rivers, streams and groundwater.

The UMaine pilot will start, implement and evaluate a mail-back plan to remove unused over-the-counter and prescription medications from homes. Typically, unused, unneeded or expired medications are flushed down toilets or thrown in the trash, and ultimately can make their way into the

environment. Since compounds in many medications can be destroyed only through incineration, they often pass through landfill and wastewater treatment plants and end up in rivers, lakes and streams.

In the United States and in England, studies have shown that pharmaceuticals and common personal health care products in the environment can cause genetic changes in fish and wildlife. For instance, male carp living downstream from or near municipal wastewater treatment plants in a Las Vegas reservoir, the Potomac River in Washington, D.C. and in England have developed female sex organs, according to a September 2006 article in "Governing Magazine."

Unused, unneeded or unwanted drugs stored in homes also can wind up in the hands of children exploring medicine cabinets, or thieves who steal and sell pain medications, muscle relaxants and other drugs. The Maine Benzodiazepine Study Group (MBSG) is a consortium of lawmakers, policy makers, and professionals in health care, geriatric care, law enforcement, social work, private industry and other disciplines pressing for new ways to curtail the storage or casual disposal of potentially dangerous medications. The group has been awaiting the EPA funding, which will enable the implementation of the Maine Unused Pharmaceutical Disposal Project adopted by the legislature in 2004.

The pilot project will remove 1.5 tons of unwanted medications from homes or the waste stream.

More information about the project can be found on the Center on Aging Web site at www.umaine.edu/mainecenteronaging or by going directly to www.mainebenzo.org.

In addition to the Center on Aging, the EPA and the MBSG, other project partners include the Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety, Maine departments of Environmental Protection and Health, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, Maine offices of Elder Services, Substance Abuse and Attorney General, the Maine Pharmacy Association, Maine RSVP Programs, Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at UMaine, National Council on Patient Information and Education, Northern New England Poison Center, Northeast Occupational Exchange and the Villanova University Center for the Environment.

Career Opportunities

Postdoctoral Fellow Position PDEB

Pending the availability of funds, the Prevention Development and Evaluation Branch (PDEB) in the Division of Violence Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is seeking candidates for a postdoctoral fellow position. PDEB conducts rigorous research to evaluate strategies for the prevention of various forms of violence including youth violence, child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and suicide. Fellows can expect to engage in a range of activities. Fellows may work with PDEB scientists to conduct literature reviews, analyze data from ongoing projects, publish research findings, and assist with extramural projects. Fellows may also develop and pursue original research ideas. Candidates with interest in the areas of sexual violence and intimate partner violence are particularly encouraged to apply. Fellows will be appointed for a period of one year and may be extended for a second year by mutual agreement. Candidates should possess a Ph.D., or plan to complete their Ph.D. by August of 2007. Interested candidates should send a curriculum vitae and a statement of research interests to Dr. Daniel J. Whitaker either electronically (DWhitaker@CDC.GOV) or by mail to Division of Violence Prevention, MS K-60, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Atlanta, GA 30341.

Daniel J. Whitaker, PhD, Lead Behavioral Scientist, Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 4770 Buford Highway NE, MS K-60, Atlanta GA 30341, Phone: 770-488-4267, Fax: 770-488-1011, Email: DWhitaker@CDC.GOV

Supporting Our Membership

Nothing posted to this issue.



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www.mcph.org/mpha/MPHAindex.html

