

## 2025 Conference Agenda



OCTOBER 27, 2025  
AUGUSTA CIVIC CENTER

8:00 am - 9:00 am	<b>Registration, Breakfast, Networking &amp; Exhibits</b> (Auditorium)
9:00 am - 9:10 am	<b>Welcoming Song</b> (Auditorium) Brett Lewey, Citizen of the Passamaquoddy Nation
9:10 am - 9:30 am	<b>Welcome and Announcements</b> (Auditorium) Rebecca Boulos, MPH, PhD & Leo Waterston, MA (Maine Public Health Association)
9:30 am - 10:30 am	<b>Keynote Presentation: The Regional Geography of Health and Well-Being in the United States</b> (Auditorium) Colin Woodard, MA, FRGS (Nationhood Lab at Salve Regina University)
10:30 am - 11:30 am	<b>Poster Session, Exhibitors &amp; Coffee Break</b> (Auditorium)
11:30 am - 12:15 pm	<b>Lunch &amp; Exhibitors</b> (Auditorium)
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	<b>Plenary Panel: Turning Talk into Action: Transforming Communities Through Engagement</b> (Auditorium) Moderator: Shanna Cox (Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce) Panelists: Barrett Takesian (Portland Community Squash) Margaret Hathaway (Community Plate) Tom Mahoney (Harpwell Aging at Home, ROMEO Initiative) Diana Furukawa (Millinocket Memorial Library)
1:15 pm - 1:30 pm	Transition & Break
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	<b>Breakout Session 1</b>
2:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Transition & Break
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm	<b>Breakout Session 2</b>
3:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Transition & Break
4:00 pm - 4:20 pm	<b>MPHA Updates, Closing Remarks &amp; Raffle</b> (Auditorium)

UNE COM has requested that the AOA Council on Continuing Medical Education approve this program for a maximum of 5.0 hours of AOA Category 2-A CME credits. UNE COM designates this educational activity for a maximum of 5.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)<sup>™</sup>

UNE COM designates 5.0 University of New England contact hours for non-physicians. Contact hours may be submitted by non-physician, non-PA health professionals for continuing education credits. This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Maine Medical Association through the joint providership of the University of New England, and Maine Public Health Association. University of New England is accredited by the Maine Medical Association to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

**Lactation Support Room: Civic Center Main Office**

## Poster Session: 10:30am-11:30am

### Auditorium

*\*Denotes presenter(s)*

**Access to Care for Older Adults: Strategies for Connection, Education & Enrollment** \*Sarah Correia, BS & \*Ryan Bouchard, MEd (MaineHealth)

**An Evaluation of the Engagement and Roles of Non-Hospital Partners in the Rural Maternity Obstetrics Management Strategies (RMOMS) Network**

\*Abigail Russman, BA; Lori Travis, MS; Caroline Zimmerman, MPP; Erica Swan, MBA; Katherine Crothers, MPH, BSN, RN; Anna Gilbert, MS, RD; Jamil Mouehla, BA & Olivia Burke, MPH (MaineHealth)

**Animal Assisted Psychotherapy for Refugee and Asylee Youth** \*Breeana Blalock, MSW (Animal Assisted Therapy Programs Of Colorado)

**A University-Low-Income-Housing Partnership to Support Food Security, Healthy Shopping, Eating, and Health Among Older Adults in Maine** \*Michele

Polacsek, PhD, MHS (UNE); \*Mary DeSilva, ScD, SM, MSFS (UNE); Margaret Gamble, MSW (UNE) & Thomas Meuser, PhD (GeroPsych Maine)

**Bidirectional Cannabis-Insomnia Interplay Differs by Subjective Social Standing at a Rural University** \*Luis Solorio, BA; Krutika Rathod, MA; Leah Cingranelli, MA & Patricia Goodhines, PhD (University of Maine)

**Building Connections and Fostering Mattering through a Statewide Health and Well-Being Assessment**

\*Heather Drake, MPH (Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment), Nancy Birkhimer, MPH (Maine CDC), Corrie Brown, MSW, PS-C (Central Maine Community Health); Anne Connors, MA, MPH (MaineGeneral Medical Center); Heidi LeBlanc, MEd (Penquis); Dora Anne Mills, MD, MPH, FAAP (MaineHealth) & Jessica Shaffer, DrPH(c), MS (Northern Light Health)

**Bridging the Gap of Patient Needs: A Holistic Approach to Dental Care** \*Milena Germon; Emerson Addams & Amber Lombardi, IPDH (Mainely Teeth)

**Building Partnerships and Integrating Resources: The Help Me Grow Maine Model** \*Melinda Corey, MEd, CPST (DHHS Office of Child and Family Services, Early Care and Education Unit)

**Colorectal Cancer Care Delivery in Rural and Socioeconomically Deprived Areas** \*Christina Kapala, DO (MaineHealth); Kim Mooney, MPP (MaineHealth); Sydney Bebus, RN, MPH (Harrington Family Health Center); Lise Cloutier, MD (Central Maine Medical Center); John Daggett, MD (MaineHealth); Benjamin Felix, MD (MaineHealth); Renee Fay-LeBlanc, MD (Greater Portland Health); Bridget Rauscher, MPH (City of Portland Public Health); Kathryn Rensenbrink, MD (Northern Light Health); Adriana Nadeau, MD (MaineHealth); Debra Rothenberg, MD (MaineHealth); Kevin Stein, PhD (MaineHealth Institute for Research) & Kathleen Fairfield, MD, DrPH (MaineHealth)

**Expanding Access to School-Based Mental Health Care: Evaluation of Maine's CHW-Supported Tele-Behavioral Health Program (2022–2025)** \*Michelle Mitchell, MSocSc & \*Courtney Roderick, MPH (Partnerships For Health)

**Factors Influencing Patient Engagement in Precision Medicine Treatments for Lung Cancer: A Systematic Review** \*Blakely Austin (MHIR & College of William and Mary); Grace Taylor (MHIR & Tulane University); Francesca Piccolo, MPH, MS (MHIR & University of Maine); Kyla Perkins (MHIR & University of Maine); Mena Eltahir (MHIR & University of Southern Maine); Rishi Black, BS (MHIR); Elizabeth Scharnetzki, PhD (MHIR); Cara Frankenfeld, PhD (MHIR); Kevin Stein, PhD (MHIR) & Gloria D. Sclar, PhD, MPH (MHIR)

**Gaps in Screening and Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection in Immigrants to Maine** \*Mariah Coyne; Benjamin Felix, MD; Christina DeMatteo, DO; Kathleen Fairfield, DrPH; David Cohen, MD; Amanda Powell, MD & Donna Travaglini, RN (MaineHealth)

**Impacts of Loneliness and Social Isolation on Aging and Health in Maine: A Longitudinal Cohort Survey of Adults Ages 55 and Older** \*Ruth Dufresne, SM & Mary DeSilva, ScD, SM, MSFS (University of New England)

**“It Has to Be My Decision”: Supporting Tobacco Cessation Among Maine Veterans Through Connection, Culture, and Trust** \*Patrick Madden, MBA (Market Decisions Research); Allison Tippery (Market Decisions Research); Nikki Jarvais (Rinck Advertising) & Erik Gordon (Maine CDC)

**Nurturing Resilience and Reducing Burnout: A Two-Part Wellness Curriculum for First-Year Nursing Students** \*Kelley Strout, PhD (University of Maine)

**Overdose Response Strategy (ORS): An Innovative Public Health-Public Safety Partnership** \*Shasta Minery, MSW (CDC Foundation & New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area)

**Reducing Readmissions for Psychiatric Illness** \*Molly McCarthy, BSW (MaineHealth)

**Reducing Student Exposure to Digital Food and Beverage Marketing** \*Michele Polacsek, PhD, MHS (University of New England)

**Partnering to Increase Engagement and Improve Mental Health of Midcoast Youth** \*Melissa Fochesato, MPH; \*Cathy Cole & \*Reeve Baker (MaineHealth)

**Pavement with a Purpose: Promoting Physical Activity Through Activity Stencils in York County** \*Alexa Christie, MPH; Casey Marcotte & Kelly Roberts, MPH (MaineHealth)

**Proactive Financial Navigation in Cancer Care: Connecting Patients to Resources to Mitigate Financial Toxicity and Improve Outcomes** \*Adrienne Fontenot, PharmD & \*Shannon Cameron (MaineHealth)

**Stopping Cavities in Their Tracks: Integrating Silver Diamine Fluoride Dental Treatment into Primary Care at MaineHealth** \*Lyvia Gaewsky, MPH (MaineHealth)

**The Impact of Community and Family-Related Protective Factors on Risk Behaviors among Maine High School Students** \*Pamela F. Albert, MPH (Maine CDC & University of Southern Maine); Hayley Pawlowski, MPH (Maine CDC) & Sheila Nelson, MSP, MSW (Maine CDC)

**The Mobile Kitchen: Where Food Meets Belonging** \*Melissa Emmons, BS; \*Anne Conners, MA, MPH; \*Anna Froman, ND & \*Brenna Nelson, RD (MaineGeneral Health)

**The Relationship of Self-Reported Chronic Pain and Onset Dementia in a Healthy Community-Dwelling Cohort of Older Adults** \*Mary DeSilva, ScD, SM, MSFS & Roberta DiDonato, PhD, CCC, MSPS (University of New England)

**Using Maps to Visualize the Impact of Obstetric Unit Closures on Maine's Birthing Population** \*Andrea Lenartz, MPH & Fleur Hopper, MSW, MPH (University of Southern Maine & Maine CDC)

**Using Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) and Infant Sleep Practice Data to Drive a Multi-Faceted Approach to Safe Sleep Education and Outreach in Maine** \*Rebecca Bussa, MPH; Andrea Lenartz, MPH; Fleur Hopper, MSW, MPH (University of Southern Maine & Maine CDC); Kim Gosselin, OQMHP & Stacey LaFlamme, LSW (Maine CDC)

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**Presentation Formats** \*Denotes presenter(s)

- In rooms with one presentation, the talk will last 50 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions.
  - In rooms with two presentations, each talk will last 25 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions for both presenters.
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## Breakout Session #1: 1:30pm-2:30pm

### Auditorium

**Community Health Worker (CHW) Workforce and Training Development Panel**

**Moderator:** \*Amelia Rukema (Maine Mobile Health Program)

**Panelists:** \*Katherine Weatherford Darling, PhD (University of Maine); \*Cristina Leal (MCD Global Health); \*Tobias Nicholson, MD, ScM (MaineHealth) & \*Grace Lapika (MaineHealth)

### Penobscot Room

**A Community Approach to Support Safe Syringe Disposal and Stigma Reduction**

\*Bridget O'Connor, MPP, PS-C (Cumberland County Public Health)

**Leveraging Opioid Settlement Funds to Launch Maine's First Syringe Redemption Program: Early Outcomes and Public Health Implications**

\*Bridget Rauscher, MPPM (City of Portland Public Health)

### *Androscoggin/Aroostook Room*

#### **Designing for Clinical-Community Integration: Supporting Immigrant Families Through a Hub and Spoke Model of Community Care Panel**

**Moderator:** \*Emilie Swenson, MSW (University of Southern Maine)

**Panelists:** \*Sanaa Abduljabbar (Maine Access Immigrant Network); \*Sarah Lewis (Maine Access Immigrant Network); \*Devon Stockmayer (MaineHealth); \*Angela Mowatt (MaineHealth); \*Stephen DiGiovanni, MD (MaineHealth) & \*Cristine Tusimbana (Maine Access Immigrant Network)

### *Kennebec Room*

#### **Bridging the Gap Between Healthcare, Social Services, and Legislation: Addressing Utility Inaccessibility as a Social Driver of Health**

\*Eisha Khan (MaineHealth); \*Melanie Sachs (Maine House of Representatives) & \*Zoe Sahloul (New England Arab American Organization)

#### **Rooted in Maine, Growing Nationwide: The Power of Pro-Vaccine Families in Action**

\*Caitlin Gilmet, BA (Maine Families for Vaccines, American Families for Vaccines & Maine Immunization Coalition)

### *Piscataquis Room*

#### **From Classroom to Community: Integrating Immersion and Case-Based Learning in Geriatric Public Health**

\*Micaela Maynard, MEd; Katie Keough, BS; Ruth Dufresne, SM & Susan Wehry, MD (University of New England)

#### **Building Capacity Through Connection: Teaching Future Health Care Professionals to Work in Collaboration with Community Partners**

\*Kathryn Norgang, MSN-Ed, RN; Micaela Maynard, MS-Ed; Kira Rodriguez, MHS; Zoe Hull, MPH & Alfredo Vergara, PhD (University of New England)

### *Sagadahoc Room*

#### **Integrating Narrative Medicine and Social Marketing to Foster Self-Representation and Asset-Building for Transformative Public Health**

\*Courtnei Jeffers, MS, MPH, EdD (University of New England & Columbia University)

#### **The Strategic Alignment Matrix (SAM): A Practical Tool for Inclusive, Data-Driven Strategic Planning**

\*Michelle Mitchell, MSocSc & \*Michelle Munsey, MA (Partnerships For Health)

### *Washington Room*

#### **Expanding the Capacity of Rural, Primary Care Clinics to Offer Medical Procedures**

\*Elizabeth Held, MA, PA-C, DFAAPA, HEC-C (University of New England); Katie Adams, MD, FAAFP (Health Access Network); Melanie Caldwell, MS (University of New England), Toho Soma, MPH, MS (University of New England) & Kathryn Norgang, MSN-Ed, RN, CEN (University of New England)

#### **Connection is Care: Lessons from a Rural Health Hub**

\*Brianna Horan, MBA & Anne Conners, MA, MPH (MaineGeneral Medical Center)

### *York Room*

#### **SNAP Outreach in Maine**

**Moderator:** \*Anna Korsen, MPPM (Full Plates Full Potential)

**Panelists:** \*Tobey Solomon-Auger (Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future); \*Heather Arvidson (Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program); \*Emily Grassie (Maine Federation of Farmers Markets); \*Courtney Kennedy (Good Shepherd Food Bank), \*Kirsten Tenney (Full Plates Full Potential) & \*Carly Williams (Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging)

### *Hancock Room*

#### **Maine Outdoor Recreation**

\*Jeff McCabe, BS (Maine Office Of Outdoor Recreation)

#### **Parks as Public Health Infrastructure**

\*Kathryn Palano, PT, DPT, MPH, NCS (Franklin Pierce University, University of New England, Indiana University Bloomington & Rehab Without Walls)

### *Lincoln Room*

#### **The Community Connections Framework: Leveraging Local Trust For Statewide Impact**

\*Patricia Oh, PhD, MSW (University of Maine Center on Aging, Orono) & \*Elizabeth Gattine, JD (State of Maine, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future)

### *Oxford Room*

#### **Join Us to Review and Provide Feedback on a Proposed Public Mental Health Framework for Maine Communities!**

\*Dora Anne Mills, MD, MPH; \*Melissa Fochesato, MPH; \*Eisha Khan, MS & \*Rebecca Hoffmann, MA, LMFT (MaineHealth)

## Breakout Session #2: 2:45pm-3:45pm

### *Auditorium*

#### **Improving Youth Health & Well-Being Through Engagement Panel**

**Moderator:** \*Meg Taft (Rural Youth Institute)

**Panelists:** \*Meg LeMay, PhD (Maine Youth Thriving); \*Eilish Carpenter, MPH (Cumberland County Public Health) & \*Jessica McGreevy, MEd, BA (St George Municipal School Unit)

### *Penobscot Room*

#### **A Legacy of Community Connections in Oxford County**

\*Brendan Schauffler, MPPM (MaineHealth); \*Kari Taylor (Western Maine Addiction Recovery Initiative); \*Katey Branch, MEd (Alan Day Community Garden) & \*Elizabeth Hartford, LCSW (MaineHealth)

### *Androscoggin/Aroostook Room*

#### **Compassion without Conditions: Addressing the Challenges of Providing Hospice Care to Unhoused Individuals Panel**

**Moderators:** \*Kimberly Mann (Hospice of Southern Maine) & \*Kim Crabill (Hospice of Southern Maine)  
**Panelists:** \*Lindsay Benoit (Preble Street); \*Henry Myer (Preble Street); \*Nancy Pezzullo, RN (Hospice of Southern Maine); \*Jason Libby, MSN, NP, ACHPN (Hospice of Southern Maine); \*Kristi Robinson, BSN, RN, CHPN (Hospice of Southern Maine) & Athena Davis, RN (Hope Squad)

### *Kennebec Room*

#### **Social Isolation and the Continuum of Care for Persons with Substance Use Disorders: Voices from the Field**

\*Lindsey Smith, MSW, PhD; \*Katie Rosingana, BS; \*Rachel Gallo, MPH; \*Tyler Egeland, BS & \*Sarah McLaughlin, MPH (University of Southern Maine, Catherine E. Cutler Institute, Substance Use Research and Evaluation Unit)

### *Piscataquis Room*

#### **The Downeast Population Health Initiative (DPHI): Strengthening a Social Care Pathway for Healthy Rural Aging**

\*Jordan Porter, DNP (University of Maine); Katherine Weatherford-Darling, PhD (University of Maine); Cynthia Cushing, MSW (University of Maine); Hannah Maker (University of Maine); Olivia Pelkey (University of Maine) & Elizabeth Churchill, MPH, MA (University of Maine, Pleasant Point Health Center)

#### **Improving Care Transitions After Incarceration: A MaineCare Pilot Incentive Payment Initiative**

\*Loretta Dutil & \*Kaley Boucher (DHHS Office of MaineCare Services)

### *Sagadahoc Room*

#### **Cumberland County Food Resources Coalition: Building Local-level Advocacy and Shifting Community Narratives around Food Assistance**

\*Alexis Guy, MPH, RD (Cumberland County Public Health)

#### **Integrating Food Insecurity Data Systems to Support Public and Population Health Action**

\*Kevin Konty, PhD (Apriqot); \*Nicole Hewes, MEd, MS (Apriqot & Northeastern University); \*Tim Cowan, MSPH (MaineHealth) & \*Barbara Ginley, MPH (MaineHealth)

### *Washington Room*

#### **Fall Prevention and Connection in the Virtual Space for Older Adults**

\*Maureen Higgins, MSW (MaineHealth)

#### **Sustaining and Increasing Participation of Rural Seniors in a Senior Center**

\*Michelle Fontaine, PhD, DPA (Consultant)

### *York Room*

#### **Tied Together: How Relationships Drive Harm Reduction and Collaborative Care in Rural Maine Panel**

**Moderator:** \*Lauren Hunt, MSPH (MaineGeneral Medical Center, Harm Reduction Program)  
**Panelists:** \*Will Matteson (Healthy Lincoln County); \*Alicia Escobar (Lewiston High School); \*Ashlee Kimball (OPTIONS Kennebec County); \*Amanda Boudreau (Person in Recovery) & \*Allie Hunter (Community Syringe Redemption Program)

### *Hancock Room*

#### **Breaking Barriers, Building Relationships: Recovery Career Advancement for Lived Experience Providers**

\*Catherine Sanders; Michaela Fascione & Samantha Mariano (MCD Global Health)

### *Lincoln Room*

#### **From Fragmented to Whole-Person Care: Integrating Nicotine Treatment into the Recovery Journey**

\*Joan Denckla, MPH; \*Megan Britton, MD; \*Katherine Fletcher, LADC, CCS & Tina Pettingill, MPH (Groups Recover Together)

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\* *Italics indicate a Sustaining or Alliance organizational member*