

Public Health Council of the Upper Valley

Partner Meeting

May 20, 2022

Notes

Attendees: Barbara Farnsworth (Facilitator), Cherry Sullivan, Jeana Newbern, James E. Esdon, Jennifer Meijer, Rudy Fedrizzi, Kristin Barnum, Ruth Storey, Andrea Smith, Danielle Mackey, Stephen Atwood, Stephen Belmont, Bridgett Taylor, Dana Michalovic, Gretchen Cole, Hilary Schuler, Lindsey Boisvert, Kristin Barnum, Margaret Drye, Stephanie Bergeron, Wendi Germain, Elizabeth Swanton, Taralyn Bielaski

COVID and Related Updates:

Vermont (Rudy Fedrizzi)

Go to www.healthvermont.gov for vaccination options. They have a new staff epidemiologist to call with questions regarding COVID cases. Vermont has taken down the COVID dashboard which has caused some unrest. Reach out to Jan Eberly for immunization-related questions.

New Hampshire (Steve Belmont)

Provided an update on COVID numbers in the Upper Valley. RPHNs are still operating under old standing orders from the State, so they can do clinics but cannot offer the second booster or children's boosters.

- State of NH Mobile Clinic scheduled for Thursday, May 26th, from 4 to 7 at the Lebanon Farmers Market. There will be another one in June at the same location.
- Medical Reserve Corps offering Stop the Bleed classes and MRC orientations. We currently have 200 MRC members in our bi-state Unit. To learn more: <https://www.facebook.com/Upper-Valley-Medical-Reserve-Corps-259084865075> or <https://uvpublichealth.org/featured-partner-upper-valley-medical-reserve-corps/>.
- Among other schools in the UV with high COVID case counts, Grantham Village School in the Upper Valley has a COVID outbreak.

In NH, school-based flu clinic outreach has begun, and we have already started building the schedule for the fall.

Improving Care for Individuals with Obesity: In the Clinic and by Research at Dartmouth-Hitchcock By Jennifer Meijer, PhD, RD, Assistant Professor, Weight and Wellness Center, Dartmouth Health

Shared what services the weight and wellness center offers. See copy of slide presentation.

Discussion/Questions

- What is the sustainability of this project? 5-10% weight loss without medication is incredible. Currently evaluating what is working and what is working
- What does equity for this service look like? Working with a lot of Medicaid patients, 30% of her patients are on Medicaid

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- What does the food access bag look like? They are through a grant, they are all non-perishable, and whole-grain foods
- Cooking classes are funded through research funds

Community Nurse Connection Updates, Kristen Barnum, Executive Director

Partner Sharing:

Dana Michalovic: Good Neighbor Health Center opening a medical clinic soon in the Hanover Street Plaza in Lebanon.

Andrea Smith (All Together): Over the past few months we have heard that mental health is a top priority. The SUD team at Dartmouth health is holding 2 CONNECT trainings and two Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings. These should train around 55 people in the community. Please contact Andrea if you are interested in holding any of these trainings for your organization. Contact Andrea for more information at: Andrea.E.Smith@hitchcock.org.

Rudy (Vt DOH-WRJ): PHC and Equity Steering Committee for VT Community Health Equity Partnership have interviewed candidates and are finalizing the hiring process for an Equity Facilitator. The Haven has also received funding under the VtCHEP to address housing disparities. Funding will be available locally to address some of our UV health disparities; please be thinking about project ideas or partners working with marginalized groups.

Wendi Germain (Senior Solutions): They still have an open RFP for any agencies in their region that are working with older adults. Application details are available on their website: <https://www.seniorsolutionsvt.org/american-rescue-plan-act-arpa-grant-funding-policy/>

Next Meeting:

Friday, June 17

9:00 to 11:00 am

Via Zoom