

## **Public Health Council of the Upper Valley**

Partner Meeting

January 20, 2023

**Attendees:** Alice Ely, Lauren Chambers, Brett Mayfield, Stephanie Bergeron, Hanna Brooks, Kelli Ross, Lyrica Stelle, Cara Baskin, Rebecca Desilets, Chris Dugan, Kathleen Vasconcelos, Rudy Fedrizzi, Ruth Storey, Jeana Newbern, Carol Langstaff, Kym Williams, Bridget Mudge, Peggy O'Neil, Lyndsay Porreca, Anthony Knox, Stacey Chiochio, Andrea Smith, Barbara Farnsworth, Regina-Anne Cooper, Taralyn Bielaski, Anna Hullinger, Laurie Harding, James Esdon, Belinda Ray, Lindsey Boisvert, Peter Mason, Meghan Butts, Martha Tecca, Susan Wnuk, Heather Stockwell, Janet Hunt

### **Welcome**

Alice welcomed partners and announced hope/intention to restart in-person meetings in May. Will use a brief survey to weigh comfort with this plan.

### **VT Equal Access to Broadband (Andra Daunhauer)**

*(Flyer and additional description in email)*

VT households, Affordable connectivity program – households must qualify.

Internet service providers claim the voucher # and then pass along the discount to the household (\$30 off, some can be free but lower quality service). Help with application and process afterward.

Offer an additional \$20 off for EC Fiber customers.

No similar navigator program in NH, but the benefit is available to NH residents. Martha Tecca offered to help people figure out how to navigate the NH system.

### **Upper Valley Community Health Improvement Plan (Alice Ely)**

- Almost complete but needs review and input by partners
- Summary of community health improvement efforts planned across the Upper Valley
- Next step to reach out for review of the final stage – review strategies and lead partners on strategies

### **Upper Valley Community Health Equity Partnership (Alice Ely)**

- Two rounds of applications, awarded grants to 10 organizations in Upper Valley
- Springfield catchment area also funded around 10 applications

### **LGBTQ & Trauma (Hanna Brooks)**

*(Presentation and information about authenticity exercise are attached in email)*

- Hanna shared a presentation discussing the trauma that LGBTQIA+ youth experience when they are raised in environments that aren't affirming of their gender identities or sexualities, and how to support these youth who are struggling with their mental health.
- She also discussed an Authenticity Activity to better connect with individuals who find it challenging to understand the importance of creating a safe and trusting space for the LGBTQIA+ community.
- The link to the 2022 Trevor Project National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health is [here](#).

### **Music & Older Adults Project (Carol Langstaff)**

- Community Nursing Programs are looking to support isolated residents
- Carol is involved with community nursing programs in Sharon and Strafford (VT) and wanted to use music as a way to reduce isolation
- She received a grant from Council on Aging and provide CDs, a player, and headphones to older adults. The CDs are made to match the person's music tastes.

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- Have seen evidence of the project improving mood by activating memories of joyful times
- Reach out to Carol (carolang@aol.com) if you want to bring this program/resource to your community or organization.

### Healthcare Campaign Coordinator, Rights & Democracy NH (Heather Stockwell)

- Conducting a survey of people on Medicaid (or people who have applied) about their coverage and experience (deadline early February). Need to fill out interest form first to get the code to take state-related survey. Eligible for \$25 incentive payment.
  - NH: <https://radmovement.org/nh-medicaid-survey/>
  - VT: <https://radmovement.org/take-the-medicaid-survey/>
- Work on advocacy around healthcare rights
- Medicare “unwinding” concerning because 6 million people (5 million children) could lose coverage
- Start process on April 1<sup>st</sup>, then will have 14 months to finish (June 2024)
- Rolling out new Medicaid dental program
- Can do surveying in person, reach out to Heather for NH [heather@radnh.org](mailto:heather@radnh.org) and Alex for VT [alex@radvt.org](mailto:alex@radvt.org)

### Partner Updates & Announcements

Rebecca Desilets – Jan 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> annual point in time (PIT) count to record all unhoused people. Looking for volunteers, reach out to [Rebecca.desilets@lebanonnh.gov](mailto:Rebecca.desilets@lebanonnh.gov)

Stephanie Bergeron – West Central Behavioral Health, CCBHC project is a 4-year process. Catchment is Grafton and Sullivan Counties, looking for a broader range of community voices, working on a community advisory board – will inform WCBH Board about their experiences. Looking for 2 people with lived experience from Grafton County area. [sbergeron@wcbh.org](mailto:sbergeron@wcbh.org)

Anna Hullinger - COVID-19 Test kits in NH can be ordered from the NH State Warehouse for free (non-profit, and for profit are allowed). Delivery may be possible but the state is still working on logistics. Pick up is in Concord, NH. [https://prd.blogs.nh.gov/dos/hsem/?page\\_id=14192](https://prd.blogs.nh.gov/dos/hsem/?page_id=14192) Even though it says non-profits only, it has opened up to for-profits as well.

PPE is still restricted for ordering to non-profits, but Anna can help you if you think you could need items (gloves, gowns, etc.). [https://prd.blogs.nh.gov/dos/hsem/?page\\_id=12922](https://prd.blogs.nh.gov/dos/hsem/?page_id=12922) Email is [anna.m.hullinger@hitchcock.org](mailto:anna.m.hullinger@hitchcock.org)

Jeana Newbern – Will be reducing service area where they see patients, due to staffing challenges. Affects the Upper Valley, Lebanon and surrounding area. Have coordinated changes with other visiting nurse agencies.

Janet Hunt – 3 bills coming – HB639 cannabis, HB544 cannabis, HB470 fentanyl & other drug testing. Training on 2/17 about the difference between lobbying & advocacy [jhunt@new-futures.org](mailto:jhunt@new-futures.org)  
<https://www.new-futures.org/trainings/calendar>

Hanna Brooks – Hosting Getting to Y event with schools next week. Core team of youth review YRBS data, choose an issue they want to focus on, and create a project to make positive change.

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Rudy Fedrizzi – in February VT will roll back COVID operations. COVID needs at [www.healthvermont.gov](http://www.healthvermont.gov)  
New COVID epidemiologist starting soon in February.

Chris Dugan – On behalf of the NH State Plan on Aging Planning Committee, he shared information about a state survey and listening sessions on aging happening now. See the press release for details: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/news-and-media/nh-dhhs-announces-listening-sessions-state-plan-aging>

Lauren Chambers –

- DHMC, next community harm reduction and naloxone training 1/31 in Thetford. (*Flyer in email*) If you are interested in hosting one in your community or need harm reduction supplies like naran, fentanyl test strips, Detera bags reach out to [lauren.e.chambers@hitchcock.org](mailto:lauren.e.chambers@hitchcock.org)
- Also Headrest hired a new Executive Director, Judith Caprio, who started this week.

Barbara Farnsworth – Good Neighbor Health Clinic recruiting for a new Executive Director  
<https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/3445653372/?refId=2WhWnh%2FgRSmwaqLyKyMtNg%3D%3D&tackingId=2WhWnh%2FgRSmwaqLyKyMtNg%3D%3D>

Next PHC Partner Meeting:

Friday, March 17, 2023

Via Zoom