

Public Health Council of the Upper Valley

Partner Meeting

August 16, 2024

Hosted by Andrew Winter, Executive Director of Twin Pines Housing and Co-Chair of UV STRONG

See list of attendees at the end of the notes.

PHC Partner Meeting Topic: Upper Valley Climate Resilience

As flooding and extreme heat become more frequent in our region due to climate change, how can the Upper Valley reduce the impact of our community's health, economy, housing, infrastructure, and well-being? **Erich Osterberg – a climate scientist at Dartmouth College and current chair of the Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup** –discussed emerging avenues and priorities for partnerships between researchers, municipalities, non-profits, grassroots organizations, and businesses focused on enhancing local climate resilience. With a focus on those in our community most vulnerable to climate change, Erich discussed the critical need to strengthen partnerships with public health and social service organizations, including those whose mission is not climate focused.

This PHC Partner Meeting is a joint meeting with UV Strong to begin exploring how our region can be more resilient in the face of more frequent “disasters”.

Slides will be shared and a [recording of the meeting is available](#).

Presentation Discussion:

- Q: How can we get policy makers to be thinking more deeply about the tension between communities that are most at risk?
 - A: Bring these issues to the forefront and get parcel-level maps to see where risks are highest. Work with planning offices, state officials, and those who have control over zoning ordinances to let them know what we are seeing and how we can improve.
- Q: Do you have a space for psychology for those who are emotionally impacted? Is there money on the plate for these initiatives?
 - A: Trauma and climate anxiety exist, and there are lots of conversations about medical impacts happening in the medical world. The Climate-Informed Pediatric Toolkit has a focus on combating climate anxiety and hopelessness for young people. [NH Healthy Climate](#) is focusing on this and has many resources. A recent grant proposal focused on health impacts of climate change in NH/VT, including mental health, but was unfortunately not funded, but the plan is to continue focusing on this topic.
- It is important that the PHC is mindful about the assessment process that allows for a collective and collaborative approach at the community level.
- Being mindful about insurance companies looking at parcel-level flood maps so it is not a barrier to those seeking housing.
- COVER is focused on maintaining Affordable Housing and is working with the Dartmouth Health Allergy Department to remediate homes to improve indoor air quality.
 - UVAW is planning a workshop soon to support this work.
- Q: As this project goes through needs assessments, will home-owners be able to be involved to discuss needs?
 - A: There are layers of organizations working together to support community members. UVAW starts with organizations familiar with what is happening on the ground locally, then once there is a sense of that, the next step is to bring in home-owner voices.

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- Q: There are not a lot of home-owner incentives, so for those who do not qualify for what incentives do currently exist, how can they qualify and avoid penalties?
 - A: There are collaborators who are working with policymakers to translate these needs for home-owners.
- Q: How do you go about the changing political landscape with leadership and the potential challenges that may arise with funding and climate change denial?
 - A: The more you get to the grass-roots level, the more you avoid the political tensions and divisions. Sitting with people in your community is essential. Climate legislation through Biden is having a massive impact on communities and the funding is finally trickling down. Voting does matter and there is a place for federal funding to help at grass-roots level, but in the meantime, we should prepare and move ahead in our communities for what happens.
- Q: There is interest in further understanding climate change for older adults. Is there a group to connect with?
 - A: Alice Ely had a project some years ago, and can perhaps speak to it at another time. UVAW's work is centered on focusing on the most vulnerable populations to be equitable and inclusive for all. NH Healthy Climate may have a group focused on this population. UVAW focuses on adaptation, and this may be a gap worth exploring more.
- Q: How are you measuring stronger community relationships?
 - A: This is a newer question in discussion. Currently, asking individuals about impact is happening, but there is a plan to redefine success to accurately measure this.
- If UVAW wants support on education around water safety, Jim Esdon and Angie Leduc from the DHMC Injury Prevention Center are happy to support with this.

Partner Sharing & Introductions

Stacey Chiocchio

- Working with Andrea Smith from DHMC Community Health to set up a Hidden in Plain Sight Room for National Recovery Month
 - This initiative is a mock young person bedroom that is set up to show people about substances that are hidden and what caregivers should look for
 - Stacey will let PHC know how this initiative goes, and will come up with a portable way to host this at different places such as schools or other businesses.

Martha Tecca

- Community Care of Lyme is renaming their event to Upper Valley Thrives, where over 70 partner organizations attend
 - [September 28, Lyme Common, Upper Valley Thrives Fair, from 10 am to 2 pm](#)
 - Please promote this event to your networks, and for those interested in tabling, please sign up in advance
- Orford Congregational Church is being repurposed and is hosting an event for community engagement.
 - [August 29, Orford Congregational Church, Join or Die Movie Night at 6 pm](#)

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Nancy Kreis

- September is National Preparedness Month, so be on the lookout for information on upcoming events to be shared

Angie Leduc

- September is Suicide Prevention Month and Falls Prevention Month
- Event on September 3, 9-11 am, by NH Falls Task Force
 - If you are interested in attending or learning more, email Angie at angie.m.raymond.leduc@hitchcock.org

Next Meeting:

Friday, September 20, 2024, 9:00 to 11:00 am

Topic: Advocating for (more) Recovery Housing in the Upper Valley

Location: 71 Heater Rd, Lebanon at Hypertherm

Or Join with Teams on your computer, mobile app, or room device:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 295 870 372 204

Passcode: SivBxg

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PHC Partner Meeting, August 16, 2024

Attendees:

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| Bailey | Rebecca | Vital Communities |
| Barnum | Kristin | Community Nurse Connection |
| Baskin | Cara | GUVIST |
| Boutwell | Mark | Senior Solutions |
| Brooks | Hanna | DHMC |
| Burke | Pat | SEVCA |
| Butts | Megan | UVLSRPC |
| Chiocchio | Stacey | Hypertherm/HOPE Foundation |
| Desilets | Rebecca | City of Lebanon |
| Esdon | Jim | Injury Prevention Center, Dartmouth Health |
| Geiger | Kevin | TRORC |
| Greene | Jamie | Hypertherm |
| Guenther | Anna | Vital Communities |
| Hender | Ellen | Vital Communities |
| Hiller | Erica | Vital Communities |
| Hong | Helen | COVER Home Repair |
| Ip | Kim | New Futures |
| Jaccaci | Alex | Hypertherm/UVAW |
| Leduc | Angie | Injury Prevention Center, Dartmouth Health |
| Mayfield | Brett | PHC Board |
| Mudge | Bridget | Hanover Community Nurse |
| O'Donnell | Beth | Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital |
| Osterberg | Erich | Dartmouth College/UVAW |
| Smith | Andrea | DHMC |
| Tecca | Martha | CommunityCare of Lyme |
| Thibealt | Jeremy | City of Lebanon, Community Paramedic |
| Wilson | Gregory | |
| Winter | Andrew | Twin Pines Housing |
| Zhang | Angela | Listen Community Services |