

Public Health Council of the Upper Valley

Partner Meeting

October 18, 2024

See list of attendees at the end of the notes.

PHC Partner Meeting Topic: Access to Healthcare Update – New Opportunities and Services

- HealthFirst/Mascoma Community Dental (Jenn Colby, Canaan)
 - Assumed operation/control over medical clinic on November 1st of 2023
 - HealthFirst is a FQHC and serves underserved populations through a sliding fee scale
 - General Practitioners (not specialty), pediatrics, family geriatrics, as well as behavioral health services, full time nurse-psych medication manager position, nutritionist comes twice a month, community resource supports
 - Provide support to some schools
 - SUD Services
 - MAT
 - Monthly meetings with subscriber
 - Relationship with HALO and Headrest
 - Future: looking for another provider, exploring how to support transportation issues
 - Dental is in the same facility, though is operated separately and not part of FQHC
 - Taking new patients
 - Take Medicaid, Medicare (depending on plan), and Vermont patients. No sliding fee scale but try to support with financial needs (e.g., no-fee- payment plans)
 - Do in-house crowns, but not implants and some oral surgery that needs to be referred out
 - Need another hygienist and looking to bring on an oral surgeon and periodontist within next year
 - STASHED as mobile parent education resource
 - Simulated teenage bedroom to show how youth might hide substances
 - Can be booked through HealthFirst
 - Trailer was put together by National Guard New Hampshire
- Mobile Healthcare Clinic Opportunities (Darron Barfield, Cottage Hospital, Woodsville)
 - Hoping to start mobile clinic operations by the beginning of next year. Is a partnership with North Country Health Consortium which owns the vehicle.
 - Will be billing for these services, but will not turn anyone away for inability to pay
 - Will be asked during registration about payment ability
 - They will have 2 vehicles
 - One will be primary care services
 - Start at beginning of January
 - Will have a provider, nurse, and community health worker
 - This van is the NHCH vehicle
 - Other will be a vaccine clinic (influenza, COVID, etc.)
 - This has already started at local schools
 - Will have a nurse and a community health worker
 - Received this through grant funding
 - Will be able to go to a link to schedule the mobile units and see where it is scheduled to be. Can reach out to Darron in the meantime: dbarfield@cottagehospital.org
 - Partnerships: Grafton County Nursing Facility, NCHC, Upper Valley Aquatic Center
Community Nurse Connection, Community Care of Lyme
 - Will be able to take the van as far as 1 hour travel from Woodsville.

Public Health Council of the Upper Valley

Partner Meeting

October 18, 2024

Discussion Period:

- Service Link ability to help people choose coverage (per Kathleen Vasconcelos)
 - Service Link is a good first call for questions about Medicare and Medicaid questions
 - Can discuss eligibility for different programs
 - Currently open enrollment for Medicare
 - Make an appointment is best
 - Lebanon and Littleton offices, serving all of Grafton County
 - Offer “New to Medicare” classes. Will make connections to other community partners
- Concerns with Medicare Advantage plans from Jim Culhane and others. Jeana Newbern shares the following:
 - Several VNAs have chosen to stop their contracts with United Healthcare because they are nowhere near covering the costs
 - People can change Medicare plans annually and they are trying to educate people about their plans
 - Martha Tecca encourages all people to become knowledgeable about these plans and issues through a public class
- Community Based Clinical Care Committee
 - Might be a good table to sit at to coordinate efforts
 - Contact Beth Wilson, MD., at DHMC to get an invite

Partner Sharing & Introductions

Rudy Fedrizzi

- GUVIST is working on addressing Hypertension by tackling the social drivers
 - Contact Rudy or Cara Baskin to get involved
- GUVIST project addressing blood lead screen rates is exploring ways to increase integration of screening and prevention. In VT, 29% in WRJ district have been led exposed and varies by town. By reaching out to practices to gather data, we were able to decrease number of children untested, at least temporarily.

Stephanie Bergeon

- West Central Behavioral Health journey through CCBHC process
 - Clinic side: entered year 3 of SAMHSA grant. Making progress with access and availability of services. NH is now part of the demonstration project.
 - WCBH will submit application for certification to the state
 - Working to find better space in Claremont as both locations do not have heat and desperately need better facilities. If you know of spaces, please let Stephanie know.

Andy Grenier

- TLC in Lebanon: looking to expand drop-in hours to 10-5
- Starting new group on Wednesday from 5-6 pm for those impacted by SUD (see flyer)
- All Recovery meetings happening W/F at 12 pm
- Workforce program can help with \$300 for needs related to new job
- Phone program available for those enrolled in services
- Completed “unhoused” packages- necessities to stay warm and safe in the winter months
- Able to get people into treatment within 72 hours due to strong relationships and partnerships

Public Health Council of the Upper Valley

Partner Meeting

October 18, 2024

Andrea Smith

- October 26 is National Prescription Drug Takeback Day Event, where ALL Together is partnering with the Lebanon Police Department at Hannaford from 10-2
 - Will be at Hypertherm on the 24th
 - <https://www.dea.gov/takebackday#collection-locator> for sites
- Partnering with Department of Psychiatry at DHMC on HRSA grant to bring NAMI NH Connect Youth Leader training to three local schools. Event will be on October 22nd

Jeana Newbern

- Improv for Caregivers session coming up on December 3rd from 10-22:30 am at Upper Valley Senior Center
- Actors use improv techniques to teach better ways to communicate for caregivers to anyone with Alzheimer's or dementia

Gregory Wilson

- Expanded to Thetford outside of Vershire
- November 16th- partnering with Little Rivers to present ideas
 - 2 people will share their stories

Martha McLeod

- Introduced Peter Ntourntourekas as Behavioral Health contact at New Futures
- Will be focusing on Medicare savings programs as a priority area
 - Medicaid program but helps with Medicare copayments, premiums, and deductibles
 - Hoping to get income eligibility raised to get more people eligible

Barbara Farnsworth

- School Flu clinics are struggling with vaccinators
 - Please give providers Barbara's contact information
- Lebanon Pop-up Clinics
 - Collaboration with many organizations
 - Offered flu vaccines and hoping to offer COVID in November

Martha Tecca

- Good Neighbor Health Clinic has vaccination clinic on 10/19

Alice Ely

- Continuing flu clinics through PHC
 - HealthFirst in Canaan- October 30th
 - Windsor Welcome Center- November 9th

Next Meeting:

PHC Annual Meeting

Friday, November 15, 2024, 8:30 to 11:00 am

Location: 71 Heater Rd, Lebanon at Hypertherm

Please [REGISTER](#) here if you plan to attend.

Public Health Council of the Upper Valley

Partner Meeting

October 18, 2024

PHC Partner Meeting, October 18, 2024

Attendees:

Barfield	Darron	Cottage Hospital
Bergeron	Stephanie	WCBH
Bielaski	Taralyn	Dartmouth Health
Bradley	Kristn	
Chiocchio	Stacey	Hypertherm/HOPE Foundation
Duff	Emily	Waypoint UV
Ely	Alice	Public Health Council of the Upper Valley
Farnsworth	Barbara	DHMC
Fedrizzi	Rudy	VDH/WRJ
Grenier	Andy	TLC Recovery Center
Griffin	Heather	Listen Community Services
Harding	Laurie	Community Nurse Connection
LaRoche	Kendra	Special Needs Support Center
Mason	Peter	Headrest
McLeod	Martha	New Futures
Newbern	Jeana	LSRVNA
Ntourntourekas	Peter	New Futures
O'Donnell	Beth	Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital
O'Neil	Peggy	WISE
Robinson	Sarah	Couch Family Foundation
Smith	Andrea	DHMC
Taylor	Bridgett	Vermont State University, Randolph Campus
Tecca	Martha	CommunityCare of Lyme
Wilson	Gregory	