

## Public Health Council of the Upper Valley

Partner Meeting

May 16, 2025

See the list of attendees at the end of the notes.

### PHC Partner Meeting Topic: GUVIST: Where Problems Become Solutions

*Cara Baskin, Integration Catalyst, GUVIST & Alice Ely*

- Presentation slides available
- Opportunities to leverage existing resources in the Upper Valley at a time when fewer resources may be available.
- Opportunity to build integrated systems to strengthen ourselves. PHC is convener, but GUVIST can provide technical assistance to help build strategies.
- Starts with a Collective Impact model.
- Kendra LaRoche (Special Needs Support Center) is part of an Intersectionality Group, members include LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, Special Needs organizations, all impacted by federal funding reduction. They are action oriented. Could GUVIST provide support/technical assistance?
- Stephanie Bergeron (West Central Behavioral Health) says they are moving through a similar process, looking to build more partnerships with the launch of State Certified Community Mental Health Clinic on 7/1/2025. Could GUVIST provide technical support?
- Pace of the process is determined by the readiness of group members
- Lara Litchfield-Kimber (Montshire Museum of Science) asks about advocacy is GUVIST's scope. Cara responds this depends on the project and process. PHC does have a small advocacy focus.

### PHC Partner Meeting Topic: What Do We Know from Latest Federal Executive Orders & Policy Changes

*Matthew Houde, VP, Government Relations, Dartmouth Health*

- Presentation slides available.
- Government Relations at DH does advocacy for policies advantageous to patients, providers and community members at the federal and state levels. And advocate against policies that are not advantageous.
- Non-partisan office with healthcare lens.
- Medicaid expansion in NH covers 60,000 lives. Medicaid expansion is what is at risk in NH at this moment. Without this coverage, these people will not seek care for primary care, mental illness and SUD treatment. NH has a Medicaid trigger -- if the federal contribution drops below a specific level, the Medicaid expansion part sunsets.
- Green Mountain Care Board sets reimbursement rates in VT and hospitals are renegotiating rates. BCBS, VT's larger insurance provider is in serious trouble.

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### Partner Sharing

#### Sharing & Discussion Related to Resources and Advocacy on Current Funding Concerns:

- Peggy O'Neil (WISE) recommends joining the [National Council on Non-Profits](#) for webinars and information access.
- Laurie Harding offers an advocacy tip: Effective to call the Governor's Office ([Ayotte NH](#) / [Scott VT](#)) when you hear about the loss of a grant, loss of a job or loss of services. Governors don't know the direct impact of the funding choices on the ground, in the state. Also call Congressional delegations. This can be very effective.

[NH Senator Jeanne Shaheen](#)

[NH Senator Maggie Hassan](#)

[NH Congresswoman Maggie Goodlander](#)

[VT Senator Bernie Sanders](#)

[VT Senator Peter Welch](#)

[VT Congresswoman Becca Balint](#)

- Peter Mason suggests [UNH Carsey Policy Hour](#) has a lot of good information. Wrapping up for the semester and past sessions have been recorded.
- [New Futures](#) newsletter is a great resource for advocacy strategies. They make it super easy!
  - Sign onto their [email list to receive alerts](#) about the issues you select!
- Angela Zhang reminds people we have a window of opportunity to advocate now for next budget cycle.
- [Impact] Rebecca Desilets (City of Lebanon) reports that heating assistance funding (LIHEAP) is frozen and is currently threatened. In the past few years, \$300,000 in heating assistance has been provided in the city.

#### Other Announcements:

- Alice Ely (PHC):
  - PHC Partner Survey will be released on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Please complete the Strategic Planning Survey by June 6. It might take 20-30 minutes to complete. Results will shape the kind of organization PHC evolves into over the next 3-5 years.
  - PHC is hosting four interns this summer in collaboration with other partners.
- Nancy Kreis (Public Health Emergency Preparedness at Upper Valley Regional Public Health Council) asks people to reach out to her if you would like to volunteer for the Medical Reserve Corps. They are looking for medical and non-medical volunteers.
  - She also announces that there will not be school flu vaccinations in the UV due to staffing as well as funding shortages. The Regional Public Health Network (RPHN) does not have access to COVID vaccines or funding to staff these clinics. There are no plans for the RPHN to hold COVID clinics.
- PHC will host our community flu vaccination clinics in the fall.
- Dan Wargo (TLC Recovery Center in Lebanon) shares that TLC will start hosting a Men's Group on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 5-6pm

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- Em Zanleoni (Hartford Community Coalition) updates on Summer Meals Program, with which they provide meals for children aged 19 and younger at various closed sites in Hartford and Lebanon. There will likely be open sites at the Lebanon Library (by Colburn Park) and two in Hartford (White River School in evening hours and another during the day at an eligible site in Hartford TBD). Open sites mean anyone can show up without giving a Hartford.
- Hartford Community Coalition is also still accepting [vendor registrations](#) for the 10th Annual Block Party! It's fun! And gets your organization out in the community in a different way!

### Next Meeting:

Friday, June 20, 2025, 9:00 to 11:00 am

Location: 71 Heater Rd, Lebanon at Hypertherm

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

[Teams Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 234 853 117 168

Passcode: xJuGPu

## PHC Partner Meeting, May 16, 2025

### Attendees:

Austin	Elizabeth	Good Neighbor Health Clinic
Barnum	Kristin	Community Nurse Connection
Baskin	Cara	GUVIST
Bergeron	Stephanie	WCBH
Bielaski	Taralyn	Dartmouth Health
Boutwell	Mark	Senior Solutions
Boyle	Bill	PHC Advisory Council
Bryer	Cheri	Moms in Recovery
Butts	Megan	UVLSRPC
Byrne	Laura	HIV/HCV Resource Center
Cooper	Regina-Anne	VDH
Cote	Neva	VDH
Desilets	Rebecca	City of Lebanon
Desnoyers	Keisha	Hartford Community Coalition
Ely	Alice	Public Health Council of the Upper Valley
Esdon	Jim	Injury Prevention Center, Dartmouth Health
Farnsworth	Barbara	DHMC
Harding	Laurie	Community Nurse Connection
Hayes	Tracey	Public Health Council of the Upper Valley
Hong	Helen	COVER Home Repair
Hopkins	Allison	Mt. Ascutney Regional Commission
Houde	Matthew	Dartmouth Health
Jackson	Sarah	Vital Communities

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Kirkwood	Kate	
Kreis	Nancy	Dartmouth Health
LaRoche	Kendra	Special Needs Support Center
Leduc	Angie	Injury Prevention Center, Dartmouth Health
Lemieux	Jessica	Listen Community Services
Lenart-Rickert	Kristin	Listen Community Services
L'Heureaux	Bryan	Dartmouth Health
Litchfield-Kimber	Lara	Montshire Museum of Science
Mahajan	Arshi	
Mason	Peter	Headrest
Milliman	Kim	Montshire Museum of Science
Newbern	Jeana	LSRVNA
O'Donnell	Beth	Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital
O'Neil	Peggy	WISE
Russell	Carrie	Hartford School District
Stocker	Kathy	DH CHAD
Sullivan	Cherry	Upper Valley Haven
Taylor	Bridgett	Vermont State University, Randolph Campus
Vasconcelos	Kathleen	GCSCC
Wargo	Dan	TLC Recovery Center
Zanleoni	Emily	Hartford Community Coalition
Zhang	Angela	UVEAR/DCARHE