



**Carroll County Public Health Advisory Council
Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 30, 2021: 9:00-10:30am**

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89454479849>

Minutes

1. Quick Introductions and updates

Attendance: Caleb Gilbert, Catalina Kirsch, Sandy Ruka, Chuck Henderson, Valeda Cerasale, Sue Ruka, Damian Santana, Marianne Jackson

- Once around the table
- Sandy: still want to reach home bound patients with boosters. With new system it is taking since Thanksgiving to do this. Pharmacists had to take inordinate # hours to take online courses in order to administer booster shots. Difficult to facilitate booster administration. They are not going to store vaccine but had to take modules on vaccine storage, for example. Provider agreement with the State and on Memorial list, but still required 6+ modules online, several hours each. More cumbersome than VAMS online training. Now all requirements have been submitted to state and awaiting final go ahead to move forward with booster clinics.
- Sue Ruka – memorial Hospital – census 10 up to 20 recently, half COVID19. Bed capacity limited. Transfers happening to hospitals multiple states away. Covid19 is front and center and other work continues but covid is primary.
- Chuck Henderson – Build Back Better still in deliberation. Child Tax Credit is at risk of being dropped.

2. Updates and Discussion – CHIP Priorities:

- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Across the Lifespan
 - Booster Blitz 1 took place Dec 11. Booster Blitz 2 is happening Jan 8 at TCCAP RTE 16 Chocorua. All planning and set up in underway.
 - Ages 5-11 vaccine clinics took place at various schools in December
 - Flu Clinics also took place in the fall at multiple schools
 - CDC has new guidelines as 5 days post symptoms for Omicron to return to work, but 10 days for continued mask wearing.
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

- Good turnout of volunteers, hoping to retain them post pandemic for Citizen Corps. Volunteers can sign up at www.nhresponds.org
- Memorial Hospital is meeting bi-weekly still with community partners online
- Access to Comprehensive Physical Health Services
 - Sue R: Primary Care is still encouraging people to not delay care because of covid. National Guard members have been posted to Memorial to assist workforce capacity. Primary Care has built in same-day appointments to help accommodate urgent care needs.
 - From Dr Williams, Memorial Hospital: “Starting January 3, 2022, the Walk-In clinic will become part of the ED. All patients will be emergency department patients and all services will still be available. Patients with acute concerns who do not feel they need ED level care and are patients of record in our primary care clinic will be able to call their clinic for a same day acute care appointment. While I realize there may be concerns regarding this change, there are several benefits and a few are listed below:
 1. We will keep our primary care patients going to our primary care providers. For less urgent concerns, we want our patients seen consistently by their primary care team to keep them plugged into their care and optimize their health.
 2. Throughput of patients in the Emergency Department will improve. While we generally receive positive reviews for the care we provide, one of the main concerns we hear from patients seen in our ED and WI is wait time. By bringing all patients under one umbrella, we will better be able to distribute workload and smooth outpatient flow.”
 - Rapid Antigen Test. State order form online still open: <https://sayyescovidhometest.org/> . Also can be purchased at Sam’s Club and WalMart.
 - Health Market Connect Navigator services available. Open enrollment until Jan 15. Contact Soyla Hernandez, see flyer: http://www.c3ph.org/assets/pdf/Health_Market_Connect_insurance_assistance_2021.pdf
- Access to Comprehensive Behavioral Health Services
 - Valeda - Mobile Crisis Unit – starts this weekend, all ES calls starting Jan 1 going to the access point phone number. See marketing materials Valeda sent. Please share out those materials. Getting phones set up for after-hours transfer to access center. Working to educate clients. Team will be ready for M-F, 10:30-8:30. Then next phase, M-F 8:30- 6:30? ; in March, 830-830, then later moving to 24 hr. Starting in Conway area. Will involve telehealth with clinicians

- Caleb, Catalina - iCare and 988 rollout – C3PH granted funds to promote, educate and raise awareness about the new system. July 1, Beacon Health Options will take over management of 988.
<https://www.beaconhealthoptions.com/beacon-health-options-will-manage-crisis-hotline-and-988-services-in-new-hampshire/>
- Valeda: SAU 49 School Liaison - Northern Human Services hired a School Liaison clinician as part of the System of Care Grant to support Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS) development. <https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-learner-support/bureau-of-student-wellness/office-of-social-and-emotional-wellness/mtssb>
- Catalina - NH Nexus 2.0/ GLS Suicide Prevention Grant – eLearn (add here)
 1. Grant is entering year three of five on January 15. Goals will include deploying trainers trained in year one and two to deliver suicide prevention training.
 2. 6 young adults under 25 were trained as CONNECT trainers thanks to a partnership with NAMI NH , NHTI Concord and Carroll County Adult Ed. NAMI Trainers presented virtually from Concord while students participated in a hybrid in-person experience in classrooms at NHTI and at CC Adult Ed.
 3. Elearning Online Suicide Prevention Training modules still available through Jan 14 from Youth Suicide Prevention Team- Register at links below. These are online, self-paced learning modules from NAMI-NH and come with continuing education units for school, healthcare and mental health providers serving youth/young adults 10-24. Click on the links below before Jan 14 to access these no-cost CONNECT Suicide Prevention trainings:
 - a. [Healthcare](#),
 - b. [Mental Health/SUD Provider](#),
 - c. [School Personnel](#),
 - d. [Gatekeeper](#).
- Sue Ruka - New Psych NP at Memorial Hospital onboard. Getting ready to be able to serve patients, available to existing
- Catalina - All three School Systems, SAU 9, SAU 45, SAU 49 all have a Soc Worker on staff now. (Kennett added a new position this year and hired a social worker)
- Damian Santana – Working to make CIT training available to first responders through NAMI NH/

- Sue Ruka: Community Health Needs Assessment report and data summary will be out in the spring.
- Healthy Aging
 - Marianne Jackson, Gibson Center - Have a coordinator and contractor to help families make their house more handicapped accessible. Approach is designed to help people age in place at home. Renee Wheaton will coordinate and help income eligible households to access rural development grant funds to support accessibility upgrades and repairs.
 - Marianne Jackson- Gibson & Conway Library. Got NIH Library grant to provide education on finding reliable health information. Coordinating with primary care offices to educate the public on how to access telehealth. Includes a new privacy pod at Conway Library for use in telehealth/ teleservices appointments. Speakers being lined up and working on promotional materials.
 - Marianne Jackson. Gibson Ctr. Concern: hospital discharged patients and access to Meals on Wheels as needed. Taking brochures around. Trying to get the word out. Jill is doing a number of programs in person and virtual and gearing up to have a Friendly Visitor program running for persons with dementia, visiting persons in the home. Gibson sees mission pivoting to meeting people more in the home as much as having persons visit the center. Gibson has significant capital needs and was hoping to use ARPA funds to cover them and now is finding that the rules have not allowed them to make capital improvements because, for example, some requirements include fronting the expenses. Councilor Joe Kenney has tried to advocate for them on this.
 - Sue Ruka - Dementia Capable Community Grant – Jill at Gibson Ctr is working on the Friendly Visitor Program. Will include Second Streams Train the Trainer. Starting with volunteers of Meals on Wheels, will train trainers. Goal is to have a crew of trainers available in the region. Four people trained in REACH caregiver support program. Working on a brochure for that. There are some Gibson staff who will be trained. ADC is also participating.
 - Sue Ruka - Opening Minds through Art program starting. Will be offered at Gibson, ADC and Northern Human Services.
 - Sue Ruka, Sandy Ruka - Palliative Care Program. Jennifer Grise, NP, is coordinating. Seeing patients in their home. Team is doing Center for Palliative Care training. PA coming from Geriatric Center in Portland coming onboard. Early detection and connection to services is the goal. Palliative Care scholarship to attend Adult Day Center is available for eligible patients

- Sue Ruka - Community Health Improvement – MaineHealth looking at a grant for chronic self-disease-management. Virtual diabetes management program is a possibility
- Sandy Ruka – Palliative Care APRN, as Sue mentioned. Visiting Nurses starting a telehealth program. Video visits, using grant funding to provide patients to have video visits with staff. Have higher census of covid+ patients on any given week. Model of care is not sustainable, and future will need to incorporate virtual telehealth access to care. Home care is busy.
- Caleb - Health Domain Workgroup for Age Friendly Community – many of these updates fit under the goals of this workgroup.
- Healthy and Thriving Early Childhood Experiences
 - Caleb – This region is now Region 7 for Capacity Building Child Development Grant to build early childhood coalitions. Supporting the development of such a group in Southern CC with help for Wolf area ch ctr. MWV has had an active group ongoing. Have applied for a project specific grant. Early childhood students can get some college credit for high school coursework in early childhood. Implementing a pyramid model for supporting challenging behavior in EC settings. Omicron COVID19 is hitting childcare facilities and impacting closures, impacting staff. Pay is always an issue for childcare workforce. Staff costs also impact the cost of tuition.

3. Emerging Trends or Issues not yet discussed

- Future topic of discussion: Dental care.

4. Wrap-up & Adjourn

Next PHAC EC Meeting: Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 17th at 9am

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89454479849>