



**Carroll County Public Health Advisory Council  
Leadership Team Meeting  
Wednesday, September 16, 2025: 9:00-10:00am**

**Zoom**

**Notes**

**Attendance**

1. David Smolen, Executive Director, Gibson Center
2. Chuck Henderson, Office of Senator Shaheen
3. Valeda Cerasale, Behavioral Health Director, Northern Human Services
4. Ardis Yahna, Executive Director, Children Unlimited
5. Kera Favorite, Director of Community and Patient Relations, Huggins Hospital
6. Monika O'Clair, Chief Strategy Officer, Huggins Hospital
7. Caleb Gilbert, Director of Public Health, C3PH
8. Catalina Kirsch, CoC Facilitator, C3PH
9. Jennifer Thomas, Prevention Coordinator, C3PH
10. Soyla Hernandez, CHW, C3PH
11. Gary Bleddyn, Community Engagement Coordinator, Granite United Way

**1. Quick Introductions and updates**

- Welcome Gary, Community Engagement Coordinator for Closed Loop Referral NH Care Connections. Covering Rockingham, Strafford, Carroll County. Closed loop referrals system with Unite Us connecting service providers across NH.
- Huggins completed early work to enroll with Unite Us. Working through some details for further engagement, with support from NH Hospital Association.

**2. Updates and Discussion – CHIP Priorities:**

- CHIP Revision Underway
  - Will use some focus group questions with Northern Carroll County Providers network 9/18
  - Will aim to align with the CHNAs of both hospitals, Memorial MaineHealth and Huggins.
  - C3PH has worked to pull updated data to inform the CHIP
- Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 11:30am, Camp Calumet in Freedom – will be organized as a community forum for CHIP.
  - Will include a presentation of data and a community forum and input session
  - Final plan will be a five year plan
  - Invites will come early October.

### 3. Emerging Trends or Issues not yet discussed

### 4. New Projects:

- Soyla Hernandez' role will be shifting to include statewide navigation services through NH Care Connections, utilizing the Assistance Request Form and Unite US with part of her time to continue as Community Health Worker. [Soyla.Hernandez@graniteuw.org](mailto:Soyla.Hernandez@graniteuw.org)  
Care Connections website is up and assistance requests can be made through the site.

### 5. CHIP Priorities

#### • Access to Physical Health Services

- Memorial Hospital – Carrie Burkett is in a new role for Community Health. The LT agrees to invite her to this team
- Memorial Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment is posted ( insert link here)
- Huggins Hospital – Kera Favorite, Monika O'Clair. Huggins Community Health Needs Assessment will be posted by end of September. Their Board will adopt it by the end of the year and an implementation plan will come together in the new year. Primary Care was having some access concerns. Oncology is up and running and has capacity to serve more patients and Cardiology program is recruiting a provider. Kera: Annual Drive Thru Flu Clinic coming Sat Oct 18. Seeing uptick in financial related patient needs. Loss of navigation assistance at the state has an impact.

#### • Access to Behavioral Health Services

- Carroll County Sequential Intercept Mapping Initiative (SIM, Criminal Justice and access to behavioral health). Several workgroups, led by NH Judicial Branch
  - Jennifer Thomas – Mental Health Court – handbook established. Team MOU is established. Judge Paine – is best at district level. Northern Human Services Conway will participate
  - Mental Health Training for Dispatchers. Trainings coming up Sept 24 in Moultonborough, Oct 22 in Concord, Nov 5 in Derry (full). Fmi <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/mental-health-trainings-for-nh-emergency-dispatch-4494623>
  - Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage – Memorial Hospital MaineHealth strengthened their relationship with area colleges/universities to provide pathways for internships for students pursuing behavioral health professions.
  - Transitional Housing for Reentry. No updates from this workgroup to date
  - ADDENDUM after the meeting by C Kirsch: Juvenile Diversion Programming. SOS Recovery in Strafford County has applied to the NH Juvenile Diversion Network to launch an accredited juvenile diversion

program in Carroll County in alignment with their commitment to provide services to youth and families.

- Jennifer Thomas – Prevention Coordinator, C3pH
  - CC Veterans Coalition has received an additional year of funding
  - Ask the Question campaign to identify persons eligible for services because they have served in the military [See flyer here](#)
  - Another Veterans Conference is coming
  - CC Youth Wellness Team is launched, and will run a Strategic Prevention Framework to identify data , needs and create action plans and strategies to respond to the needs of youth and young adults. [Next meeting link here](#) Topic: Carroll County Youth Wellness Team  
Time: Oct 8, 2025 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada), Every month on the Second Wed, until Jun 10, 2026
- C3PH has put together a power point of Youth Trends and opportunities based on the data from the Youth Behavior Risk Survey from 2019-2021-2023
- Northern Human Services – Valeda Cersale
  - Intakes are continuing without much wait
  - Looking to build up program to serve children
  - Looking to launch Infant Mental Health (IMH)
  - Wolfeboro has three clinicians and has a wait list and is working to build their staff capacity.
- Catalina Kirsch – Continuum of Care Facilitator, C3Ph
  - Carroll County Sequential Intercept Mapping ongoing. See details above
  - Trainings in 2025-2026 will be available
    - A.I. D. Training (Awareness, Interaction, Direction) is a mental health 101 training. C Kirsch is working with UNH to offer this training virtually
    - Youth Mental Health First Aid. C Kirsch is working with UNH to offer this training in Carroll County and/or virtually
    - Responding to Addiction (Addiction Policy Forum) C Kirsch is working with APF and Memorial Hospital to offer this training in North Conway
    - Naloxone Administration. C Kirsch is available to provide training on Naloxone/Narcan and has given trainings at public library and senior services settings.
  - Addendum after the meeting by C Kirsch – C3PH will be partnering with American Foundation for Suicide Prevention NH Chapter again in 2025 to host the second annual International Survivors of Suicide Loss Event, this year to be at a location TBD

in the Mt Washington Valley. Save the date Nov 22, 10am-1:30pm for survivors only. More details to come.

- Addendum added by C Kirsch. Save the Date November 12, 5:30-7pm. Culturally Responsive Engagement with LGBTQ+ Youth and Families, virtual on zoom. See attached flyer and scan code to register.

- **Healthy Aging**

- CC Visiting Home Care and Hospice for Carroll County and Western Maine recruiting a new Executive Director because Sandy Ruka is retiring
- David Smolen – Gibson Center. 3 months into new fiscal year. Will go through contract for meal units. 60k units served/delivered this year so far. Providers across the state are looking for ways to maximize and distribute units. Renee Wheaton, unofficially, will become the representative of Carroll County to the NH Commission on Aging. Working on Home Share initiative with MWV Housing Coalition, bringing homeowners with extra space and renters in need together in a match agreement. Investigating liability concerns. Signed up for Unite Us / NH Care Connections.

- **Healthy and Thriving Childhood Experiences**

- Caleb – early childhood coalitions ongoing in MWV and Southern Carroll County
- Early Childhood Behavioral Health Conference happened in 2025. Will bring findings to Southern Carroll County for a presentation with regional providers.
- Ardis Yahna – Children Unlimited
  - Working to have a Early Childhood Program Directors network for the Mt Washington Valley. Resource sharing for classroom management and programming
  - Five Farmer’s Market events this past summer. In Carroll, Wolfeboro and Conway.
  - Pediatric clinic has grown, Pediatric Asst and OT Asst hired. Wait lists for OT, PT and Mental Health.
  - Fall season is on for childcare program.
  - Granite Steps for Quality Incentive program wrapped in August. Eight centers made commitment to enroll.
  - (Side note: congressionally directed spending funds is contingent upon the continuing resolution, CR at the federal level, according to office of Senator Shaheen)

- **Public Health Emergency preparedness and Response**

- School Based Immunization Clinics are being scheduled and organized
- [Lindsay.Richardson@graniteuw.org](mailto:Lindsay.Richardson@graniteuw.org)
- Caleb mentioned that New Durham may be included with the clinics serving SAU 49.

## **6. Wrap-up & Adjourn 9:55am**

**Next PHAC EC Meeting:** Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 9am

Gleanings from Memorial CHNA:

New Hampshire and Oxford County, Maine.

### **Carroll County, NH**

- 1) Affordable and safe housing
- 2) Jobs that pay enough to support a living wage
- 3) Affordable & available health care
- 4) Reliable transportation
- 5) Mental health care and treatment

### **Strengths**

Safe opportunities to be active outside;  
Safe neighborhoods;  
A healthy environment;  
Low crime; and  
Strong sense of community.

Identified Priorities:

1. Community Conditions:
  - a. Housing
  - b. Transportation
  - c. Food & Nutrition
2. Protective & Risk Factors
  - a. Adult Screening & Preventive Visits
  - b. Youth Screening & Preventive Visits
  - c. Alcohol Misuse
3. Health Conditions & Outcomes
  - a. Mental Health
  - b. Substance Use Related Injury & Death
  - c. Cancer & Cardiovascular Disease

Current Carroll County CHIP Priorities:

1. Access to Comprehensive Physical Health Services
2. Access to Comprehensive Behavioral Health Services
3. Healthy Aging
4. Healthy and Thriving Early Childhood Experiences
5. Public Health Emergency Preparedness Across the Lifespan

How do identified priorities fit into our current CHIP Priorities?

What changes need to be made?



Recovery is REAL  
(Restores Every Aspect of Life)

Together, we can create a  
community that values  
health, happiness, and a  
brighter today

September is National  
Recovery Month!

Scan me to find an event in  
your local community



Department of  
**HEALTH &  
HUMAN SERVICES**

# OPEN HOUSE

Learn about  
our recovery center & services  
while engaging with our  
Recovery Coaching Staff

2977 White Mountain Hwy. North Conway, NH 03860



light refreshments  
served

September 25th  
5:30pm - 7:00 pm



## HOST: Carroll County Coalition for Public Health



Sept 25, 2025



9-12:30 PM EST



1035 Whittier Highway (Route 25)  
MOULTONBOROUGH, NH 03254



# Suicide Prevention Training



## LET'S REDUCE THE STIGMA AND SAVE LIVES

**Become a Gatekeeper!** Join us for a QPR training, a three-step prevention and intervention training, where you will learn how to recognize the warning signs of suicide, how to offer help, and how to save a life.

**Are you 'Asking the Question?'** Learn how asking about military service can enhance your ability to best support service members, veterans, and military families!

**LIMITED TICKETS.** This is a **FREE** training taught by our certified QPR instructor.

- ✓ Understand common myths and facts surrounding suicidal behavior
- ✓ Understand means reduction and how to immediately reduce risk
- ✓ Recognize and identify common risk factors and warning signs of suicide

CARROLL COUNTY COALITION  
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH  
An Initiative of Granite United Way



VETERANS  
COUNT  
hudsonvalley-nh

This training offers FREE LADC 3.0 CE's and NASW NH 3.0 Category A CE's in Suicide Prevention (NASW NH CE # 4341)

REGISTER  
NOW!

[Click here](#)  
or use the  
QR code.



SCAN ME

For further information,  
email [a.baer@harborcarenh.org](mailto:a.baer@harborcarenh.org).

 **Harbor Care**  
HOUSING ▾ HEALTHCARE ▾ VETERAN SERVICES

Presented by SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Program

White Mountains Pride &  
Carroll County Youth  
Wellness Team present



## Culturally Responsive Engagement with LGBTQ+ Youth, Families, & Communities

This free, virtual interactive training will cover:



Foundational LGBTQ+ terms and concepts



The role of bias (and the protective role of support)  
on well-being & safety



Practical strategies to support LGBTQ+ folks  
in both your work & broader community



Nov. 12, 2025 on zoom



5:30-7:00pm



CARROLL COUNTY COALITION  
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**REGISTER NOW**