Dear Colleagues,

Partnerships, collaboration, linkages - whatever you may call it, it takes all of us working together to address the challenges and needs of our communities.

Here in Maine and across the nation those in health care and public health are hearing about or participating in Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs). A CHNA gives comprehensive information about the community’s current health status, needs, and issues. This information can help develop an informed community health improvement plan by helping prioritize how and where resources should be allocated to best meet identified needs.

The Affordable Care Act now requires the nation’s more than 2,900 nonprofit hospitals to complete a community health needs assessment at least once every three years as a condition of their federal tax-exempt status. They will also adopt an implementation strategy to help meet the community health needs identified through the assessment, which most often requires the time and expertise of many partners/stakeholders.

Maine has adopted a unique model and conducts a statewide CHNA to promote integrated efforts and shared resources. You can learn more about Maine’s CHNA and access the reports recently released in this month’s newsletter.

We encourage you to explore the CHNA in your communities, so that whether you serve in a clinical, public health, community or involved citizen role, you can be a part of assessing and addressing the health needs of your state, city or town. Working together, we can stretch resources further, and leverage a broad scope of expertise and passion for a stronger impact on the health and vitality of our communities!

As always, we hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter.

Best Regards,
Danielle Louder & Elizabeth Foley
Co-Directors, MCD Public Health

April is National Alcohol Awareness Month

April is Alcohol Awareness Month and this year's theme is Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow. Alcohol Awareness Month was founded by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (now known as Facing Addiction with NCADD) in 1987. The event was implemented as a way to help reduce stigma associated with alcohol addiction by encouraging communities to reach out and spread awareness about alcohol, addiction and recovery.

One in every 12 adults, or approximately 17.6 million people suffer from alcohol use disorder or alcohol dependence. Alcohol addiction is a chronic disease and can be fatal if left untreated. However, there is hope. Recovery is possible.

Please join us this month and every day, in spreading awareness and understanding of alcohol addiction. By continuing to shed light on alcohol addiction, we can decrease stigma and misconceptions, and break down barriers to treatment and recovery.
Maine Shared CHNA Reports Released

The Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is a unique public-private statewide collaborative involving the Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and health systems in the state. Throughout 2018 and now into 2019, the third triennial assessment process was rolled out in three stages: health data profiles, forums and other outreach and most recently, the release of final CHNA reports. In March, the Maine Shared CNA collaborative announced that the 16 county reports are now available on their website. The final reports will be used by Maine’s non-profit hospitals, district coordinating councils, the Maine CDC, to develop health improvement plans at a local, district, and state level.

To read the reports, please visit www.mainechna.org and click on "Final CHNA".
For information on community health needs assessment across the country, click here.

The Maine Shared CHNA website also contains:
- County, Public Health District, State, and selected City Data Health Profiles.
- Health Equity Summary Sheets on Race, Sexual Orientation, Sex, Education, Ethnicity, and Income.
- an interactive data portal.
- links to participating hospital systems’ 2016 Implementation Strategies and the District Public Health Improvement Plans. Links to updated 2019 Implementation Strategies are scheduled to be posted in the coming months.

For more information, contact Jo Morrissey, info@mainechna.org

MCD Assists in Dental Care Pilot

MCD Public Health, along with a Maine employer, began discussions as to how they could work together to help increase the awareness of the importance of oral health, and receiving annual dental cleanings. Through this discussion and with the increased knowledge of the barriers that were preventing employees from attending annual dental cleanings, the employer decided to pilot a unique dental program for employees covered under their dental plan. In order to achieve the goals of; breaking down the identified barriers, increasing oral health education, and increasing the connection with local dentists, a decision was made to bring dental cleanings on-site to employees. To make this pilot successful, we partnered with a well-established and experienced mobile dental vendor, as well as with the dental insurance provider. With this partnership we insured the process would be smooth and beneficial to employees. Employees who chose to participate in this pilot received a full dental cleaning, at no-cost to them, as well as educational materials, a referral to local providers and a follow-up phone conversation to give them another opportunity to ask any questions they may have regarding their oral health. All of the clinics are conducted by licensed dental hygienists, who are overseen by a licensed dentist.

We are excited to see how this pilot progresses and hope that many more employees take advantage of this unique opportunity. For more information, contact Erica Brown wellnessnavigator@mcdph.org.

2019 Northeast Regional Telehealth Conference
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

The agenda for our **2019 Northeast Regional Telehealth Conference** is now available on the conference webpage! We’ve confirmed a number of exciting plenaries and breakouts, and we hope you’ll consider joining us for this year’s event.

**Early Bird registration and special hotel room rates end April 30.**

There are still sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities left, but they are filling up quickly!

Visit the [NETRC Conference webpage](#) or click on the buttons below for more information. **We hope to see you there!**

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)  [NETRC 2019 Sponsorship](#)

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**NORTHEAST regional TELEHEALTH conference**

*a practical tour of the telehealth landscape*

June 17 + 18, 2019 | Westin Portland Harborview | Portland, ME

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**Meet Our Team**

Rachel Sukeforth - Maine CDC

Rachel Sukeforth joins MCD, Inc after 8 years at a soil and compost research laboratory in rural Maine. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Environmental...
Science from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, where she assisted in water quality research. Rachel is excited to bring her knowledge of water and soil to her new role at MCD as Project Assistant for the Radon Program at the Maine CDC. She volunteers on a handful of committees fostering local civic engagement. Rachel is a lifelong Mainer who enjoys knitting, sewing, baking, and yoga in her free time.

Jessica Rowe - Maine CDC

Jessica Rowe has worked the last seven years in non-profit organizations and is excited to venture into public health as the Project Coordinator for the Ryan White Part B Program with the Maine CDC. Jessica graduated with an Associate’s Degree in Business Administration with a focus in Finance from the University of Maine at Augusta. Born and raised in Maine, she lives with her husband, two children, a dog, two cats and a fish. She enjoys spending time with her family and cheering on the New England Patriots.

Join Our Team

MCD is seeking talented individuals for both domestic and international positions:

Domestic Public Health

International Public Health

Click here to see current opportunities.

Upcoming Events

National Rx Drug Take Back Day - April 27th

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is a country-wide event that addresses a growing public health issue. According to the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6.4 million Americans abused controlled prescription drugs. Many of these misused prescriptions are obtained through family
and friends, often from their home medicine cabinets. Help make a stand against prescription drug misuse by turning in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal.

For more information on Drug Take Back Day, visit the DEA's website.

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**National Prescription Drug Take Back Day** - **April 27, 2019**. [Click here] for more details.

**2019 NNPHI Annual Conference** - **May 20-22, 2019** - Washington, DC. For more information, [click here].


**2019 American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting & Expo** - **November 2-6, 2019** - Philadelphia, PA. For more information, [click here].

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**Get In Touch**

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