



Healthy Hancock is a collaborative of five community health coalitions and seven organizations that have been working together since January of 2001 to coordinate prevention efforts and public health planning for Hancock County. Our structure includes subcommittees devoted to public policy, education and prevention activities, and research. Working collaboratively, we have created and participated in physical activity promotions, tobacco cessation and prevention programs, and healthy eating programs. Our values include a belief in Healthy Communities principles, including local leadership. Healthy Hancock meets every other month in Ellsworth.

Members of the coalition include the five healthy community coalitions: Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities, Coastal Hancock Healthy Communities, Healthy Acadia, Healthy Island, and Healthy Peninsula Project. These local coalitions appoint their representatives to Healthy Hancock. In addition to the coalitions, a few regional organizations with an interest in health became members: Blue Hill Memorial Hospital, Maine Coast Community Hospital, Mount Desert Island Hospital, Downeast Health Services, Hancock County Planning Commission, and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

History: The early roots of Healthy Hancock began in the PATCH (Planned Approach to Community Health) programs at Maine Coast Memorial Hospital and Mount Desert Island Hospital. In the mid 1990's, they were joined by Blue Hill Memorial and the three hospitals began to jointly plan and implement health promotion activities, including the tobacco programs and the Healthy Eating series of dinners and restaurant incentives. At the same time, another group from the Bucksport Community Health Advisory Council, and Downeast Health Services was meeting to discuss a way to pull together healthy community coalitions who could meet explore opportunities to work together; as well as to encourage development of new coalitions. The Hancock County Planning Commission supported regional collaboration, and the Healthy Island project in Deer Isle was involved in providing groups like Schoodic Area Futures with ideas for healthy community activities. In 1999, these groups joined together. When the Healthy Maine Partnerships RFP was issued, the group knew that by working together they could accomplish more. They wrote into their applications language that formalized the "Hancock County Coalition for Community Health." Their powerful vision provided a foundation for the next five years of collaborative public health planning, research, advocacy and programming. By the summer of 2001, three HMP grants had been awarded, and the partnership directors and school health coordinators joined the team. The group began to identify their various roles, goals, and beliefs. Early on, they accepted that their work would rely on the WHO model of Healthy Communities.

BUCKSPORT REGION:

Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities has existed as a Healthy Community Coalition for more than 10 years and serves the towns of Orland, Bucksport, Verona Island and Prospect. The Town of Bucksport serves as the fiscal agent for the coalition. With 10 subcommittees and more than 150 volunteers, there is strong support for activities that include school health, seniors, youth, early childhood, transportation, healthcare providers, housing, fitness, law enforcement, and economic development. Staff for the project consists of one full time health planner. The coalition is a Community For Children & Youth Partner organization. This coalition is funded by a combination of state and private grants and donations. The coalition serves as the advisory committee for Bucksport School Department's Coordinated School Health Program, which is funded by CHHC, a Healthy Maine Partnership.

ELLSWORTH AND SCHOODIC REGIONS:

Coastal Hancock Healthy Communities (CHHC) is one of 31 *Healthy Maine Partnerships*, funded by the Bureau of Health, serving middle and northern Hancock County. CHHC is a program of Downeast Health Services. The mission of CHHC is to help people live healthy, active and tobacco free

lives and to establish, support and sustain Healthy Community Coalitions. CHHC coordinates a OneME substance abuse grant in collaboration with Healthy Acadia (Mt. Desert Island,) Peninsula Area Team for Health/Healthy Peninsula Project (Blue Hill,) and the Ellsworth School Department. In addition to tobacco and substance abuse prevention, and promotion of physical activity and nutrition, CHHC has created a healthy community coalition:

Union River Healthy Communities is staffed by CHHC personnel, employed by Downeast Health Services. It serves 17 towns in the Ellsworth and Schoodic regions. The coalition exists to organize people and resources to improve the quality of life; through education, advocacy and action. The 20-member Advisory Board has been meeting since August of 2001, and represents residents, city government, parents, YMCA, health educators, parent educators, Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, retirees, teachers, youth, and the faith community. Through a process of participative research, the coalition has grown to include hundreds of citizens who participate in community forums, projects, and planning. Projects include the creation of the Ellsworth Community Health Plan, a map of local assets, a new community garden, coordination of monthly free fitness programs, and a public dialogue series that has included transportation, active communities, freedom from addiction, and women & tobacco. The program has also given mini-grants for variety of programs, including Faith In Action: Community Connection, a new volunteer service organization that serves seniors and the disabled.

MOUNT DESERT ISLAND REGION

Healthy Acadia is a community based coalition working in the greater Mount Desert Island region to foster collaborative community efforts supportive of citizens being healthy, active and tobacco free. Healthy Acadia is designated a *Healthy Maine Partnership*, and receives funding from the Bureau of Health, Dept of Human services. Healthy Acadia promotes community health by linking the efforts of citizens and local organizations to effect changes in systems, ordinances, policies and environments where people live, eat, work, learn, socialize and recreate. Fiscal and administrative oversight and in-kind support is provided by the MDI Hospital organization and School Union 98. A full-time director, school health coordinator, and a part-time coordinator staff the project.

BLUE HILL REGION

Healthy Peninsula Project (HPP) is a *Healthy Maine Partnership*, made up of citizens, school personnel, and members of organizations and municipalities across the peninsula who are interested in a broad array of preventive and community health issues. Central to our organization is a steering committee, made up of representatives from eight towns. HPP's coalition is involved in tobacco prevention policies with health care providers and businesses, and childhood obesity prevention projects in the schools. Additional efforts are targeted toward worksite wellness, youth leadership, promoting fitness on land trusts and further development of trail systems on the peninsula. Instrumental to HPP's role is the support to other organizations in developing resources and programs to reach our preventive health goals. Key partners include: Unions 93 and 76, WERU Community Radio, the Healthy Island Project (HIP) in Deer Isle/Stonington and Peninsula Area Team for Health (PATH,) a non-profit organization with ten years of prevention work. Lead agency is Blue Hill Memorial Hospital. A full time director, part-time project assistant, and part-time school health coordinator staff the project.

Healthy Island Project, serving Deer Isle/Stonington, has existed as a Healthy Community Coalition for more than 10 years. Started by a local physician, it has grown to encompass a youth program that engages more than 200 youth. A childhood literacy project was the cornerstone of the coalition. Staff include a full-time director funded by various grants and local support and a full-time school health coordinator funded by the HPP.