



Healthy Hancock
 Hancock County Coalition for Community Health
 October 10, 2001
 Minutes

Present: Jim Fisher (HCPC), Donna Madonna (Healthy Peninsula), Lesley Johnson (SHC Blue Hill), Kim Horton (BMMH), Kathi Teel (SHC DI/Stonington), Susan Berry (SHC Bucksport), Colleen Minier (HealthLink), Vyvyenne Ritchie (DEHS), Mary Jane Bush (BCHAC), Helena Peterson (CoastalHancock HC), Jenny Gott (SHC MDI), Joyce Kleffner (UMe Coop Ext), Gayle Gaynor (Healthy Acadia)

Regrets: Iris Simon (HealthLink), Doug Michael (Healthy Acadia), Sherri Haskell (Healthy Island), Kim Hutchinson (Healthy Island), Andrea Mason (MCD), Barbara Peppey (Healthy Peninsula)

I. Grounding & Introductions

II. Roles: Helena will facilitate & keep time. Jim will take notes.

III. Agenda Review – added meeting schedule, newspaper article draft, and speaker’s bureau.

IV. Agenda Items:

A. Guided discussion on Healthy Communities -- Topic: Community Building: From Local Wisdom to Public Policy (p. 161 Public Health Report)

Mary Jane led discussion with a series of flip charts noting key points.

- All aspects of the community: economics, housing, education, safety, healthcare, youth
- Relationship building, problem solving and asset mapping
- Foster citizen participation in planning, governance, decisions, resource allocation
 - Our role as “convener” or “grand party hostess(!)”
 - Make the environment comfortable for everyone
 - Invite them to bring someone
 - Deal openly with differences, including class, race, ethnicity
 - Break down isolation of “outback” (poor community pockets)
 - Equity
- Tailor programs to local conditions
- Accountability and community standards – we are accountable to the citizens. Need to find ways to communicate to them that they’re getting the best buy for their tax dollar.

How do we translate the people’s desire for community improvements into public policy? There is a schism between people (who feel disempowered) and the policy makers. Some of this is class related, and some is related to the conflict between the “newcomers” and “natives.” In Bucksport, this was exemplified in the conflict over the coal fired plant. The “granolas” vs. the “native Mainers.” Although it polarized the community, the town manager considers that a positive time, as it engaged citizens. The plant didn’t get built, but the town did get an economic development grant. So both sides won. It took years,

but the “granolas” stayed engaged and earned the respect of the “natives.” They are still working together.

Jenny wondered about “uniting” all the communities of MDI, and whether it was a good idea. We need to do what’s right for each community, and they are not all the same. The Community Assessment is the key to bringing out these geographical issues. Schoodic is an example – one grant funder wanted to know why they needed their own coalition? Easy to explain that a group working on MDI issues, or Ellsworth issues, is not responsive to the unique needs of the Schoodic region communities. We need to maintain the integrity of our local history, traditions, and resources. Ideally, solutions to the problems should come from inside the community itself.

Kathi told the story of the Castine tax revolt to illustrate citizen engagement. Mary Jane summarized with reading the principles of Healthy Communities as adopted by the Maine Network of Healthy Communities.

B. Organizational

1. Public Health Functions

Mary Jane provided copies of the Public Health Functions as adopted by the Turning Point Project. Additional information is available on their website (Maine Center for Public Health.) *ACTION: Our reading assignment for next meeting will be this paper and website information on public health function.*

2. Meeting schedule

In light of our check-in that included a lot of “overwhelmed with work” statements, it was recommended that we reduce our meetings from monthly to every other month until spring, when we will discuss going to quarterly meetings. It was further recommended that we reserve the right to call meetings if needed to address funding deadlines. Both proposals approved by consensus vote. *ACTION: There will be no November meeting. Next one will be December.*

C. Elder Grant

No further word. Expect to hear in mid-October. Oct 1.

D. Committee Reports

1. Education Committee

a) 8 Countries

There is a minor error on Newsletter 2 – should be Peru! These have already been sent out. Program is going well, with more than 1000 participants county-wide. Kim ordered 1500 water bottles with HH logo, partner info, and website.

b) Letter to state regarding promotional materials

Colleen started a list of concerns regarding state launches of media and educational programs. Should Healthy Hancock send this letter? We all have concerns about these interruptions in our own work load and planning, and could be better coordinated if we knew they were coming. We could really use some smoke-free signage for businesses. *ACTION: Colleen will email us her draft, and the directors will refer to PD Net for communication with state.*

c) Draft of newspaper article on “tobacco tragedy”

Some of us had seen the draft, based on information presented at the Tobacco Conference in Canada last week. After discussion, it was decided it was too sensitive an issue for use in print media, but that we could use parts of the content for our own speaking engagements or local use.

d) Display board & banners

Kim brought the new display board and HH banner. This banner and the “8 Countries” banner were used at Autumn Gold Days. *ACTION: Next step will be to create foam-board pictures and print for use in various projects. Donna will be working on this, with help from Jim who will print large size items.*

e) Logo

Regal press has the color logo jpeg file. Gayle also has it. The designer has not provided it yet to Downeast Health, who ordered it. *ACTION: Helena will follow up with designer so that everyone has it.*

f) Coordinated newspaper campaign

No action yet. *ACTION: For Education Comm agenda.*

g) Speaker’s Bureau

Kim reported that she’s starting a list, but is concerned with maintenance. Discussion about using website to maintain current list. Data must be complete before submission to Jim for website. We still haven’t considered orientation and manual for speakers. Bill Primmerman has a model used by the DOE. *ACTION: Kim will do preliminary organizing. Jim will check with DEO on using their internet-based system. We will discuss again at our next meeting.*

2. Research and Evaluation Committee

a) Core indicator survey

Jim distributed sample survey cards, which HCPC will be mailing to all towns in the county. Prior to the mailing (by Oct 17) he will check with the state for the “new” indicator. If not ready, we will proceed with the indicators we have. After a two week interval, he will notify us of respondents, and we can call those who didn’t respond. The cards will provide an introduction, and perhaps provide some lead time for town officials to research their policies. Thank you to Jim for coming up with this simple method of beginning our data collection! *ACTION: Jim will call state & send out cards. Revisions: #2 should say smoking. Some folks Don’t Know what DK stands for! Change address to “Healthy Hancock.”*

b) Dialogue guide database

Jim has created a database for us to enter data from our key informant interviews and small group dialogues. After some testing and discussion, Jim will be adding more codes, so we are not to enter more records until our codes are updated. These interviews are only a part of the community health assessment. *ACTION: Jim will add more codes, and the directors will enter data from interviews already completed.*

c) Focus groups

Barbara and Kim Hutchinson are each doing focus groups with youth. *ACTION: Barbara is currently working on questions, which will include 2-3 from the dialogue guide questions, and 2-3 specific to grant objectives and youth.*

d) Website

Colleen has sent a massive download of tobacco information to Jim, which is now posted on the website. All this can be printed off as needed. There was some discussion about need for further design work (not urgently needed, but could be a HS senior project working with Jim,) and the need to improve nutrition and physical activity sections. Mary Jane is working with the Chamber of Commerce on a database for social service. *ACTION: We need to submit recipes that do not use ¼ pound of butter! Please send physical activity info to Jim also for posting.*

3. Policy Committee

Did not meet, but we have need to contact legislators to establish relationships to preserve our funding and ability to work. Location to be decided. *ACTION: Vyv, Helena and Barbara will plan a legislative breakfast for all Hancock Co. We will present our Healthy Hancock*

programs. Tentative date November 13 8:00am. (Note: Jill Goldthwait has already indicated she will attend.)

E. Youth and Radio Initiatives

a) WERU Radio initiative

Donna and Helena attempted to report for Barbara. A group of youth attended the radio station orientation meeting, accompanied by an interested 8th grade teacher. WERU is committed to the project and plans a monthly program. Meeting again next Monday.

b) Youth

Blue Hill and MDI have more than 20 youth interested in Kieve, but Helena is having difficulty reaching Schoodic and Bucksport kids. 8 are signed up from Ellsworth, and no adults other than Helena. Adults going: Donna, Doug, Lesley, Helena. Two busses (40 people per bus) are planned (cost \$560) to leave from Ellsworth. If we want pickups on MDI and Deer Isle, costs will be higher. *ACTION: Directors will further discuss bus logistics. Please spread the word to anyone interested in attending!*

F. Minute memos

1. Locally Grown item: Report on Chef/Growers Retreat–

Helena reported an interested group including many farmers, Eliot Coleman, MOFGA officials, and chefs from around the county attended. 2 hours of brainstorming ways to get locally grown food to restaurants (and schools and hospitals) was followed by a 4 course meal with local ingredients and Odessa Piper speaking on “foods from the heart of the land.” Helena did have a chance to introduce the HC program and network with interested local people. Issues are growing both the supply and the market, and providing consistent quality and quantity to buyers.

2. Funding possibilities for Bucksport via Healthy Communities.

Mary Jane reported that the Maine Network of Healthy Communities has applied for a grant through Natural Rural Funders Collaborative which required matching investments. Those were received from Harvard Pilgrim, Bingham Program, Bureau of Health (\$20,000) and local “in-kind” donors. The highly competitive grant (5 nationally) is for \$175,000. It’s great to be developing a core of foundations that will contribute to ongoing funding needs.

3. Childhood Obesity Workshop

There will be a program in Augusta on Dec 5. Dr. Dora Ann Mills will be speaking, along with several others.

4. Tobacco Specialist Position

Blue Hill announced that they will convert Colleen's hours into a 16 hour position, and hopes to combine with MDI to create more hours for a shared specialist. Helena announced that Coastal Hancock is interviewing candidates to replace Colleen tomorrow.

5. Closing comment:

"I believe in being in shape. Round is a shape."

V. Review/correct meeting record.

VI. Next meeting date/agenda:

Next meeting date will be December 12 at HealthLink – 12-2pm.

- Guided discussion on Public Health Functions
- Coordinated newspaper campaign/columns
- Speaker's Bureau

VII. Farewell party for Colleen