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Piscataquis Public Health Council  
Executive Steering Committee  
September 26, 2007  
Mayo Regional Hospital, Dover-Foxcroft

Attending: Robin Mayo, Community Partnership Director; Tom Lizotte, Mayo Regional Hospital liaison; John Dirnbauer, SAD 68 Supt.; Judy Gerrish, Heartwise; Tom Iverson, Piscataquis County EMA; David McDermott, M.D.; Sherry Snow, Penquis.

Robin reported that the HMP RFP was approved for \$263,696 in funding for PPHC. That total includes \$195,724 in community funding, \$46,476 in school funding for Union 60, and in-kind contributions of \$21,496.

Robin circulated a conflict of interest statement that will be signed by committee members annually, as well as a sample conflict of interest policy and a conflict resolution process description. All three documents were adopted by the committee.

Robin presented non-profit board member's job descriptions that define core competencies and set expectations for committee members, as well as a board evaluation form. The committee adopted the job description and also agreed to forward completed evaluations to Robin.

Robin provided an update on the Public Health Work Group, to which she has been appointed as one of 40 members. The committee also reviewed the map of Maine DHHS' eight public health districts, and the list of Comprehensive Community Health Coalitions/HMPs within each district. Committee members discussed how Regional Coordinating Councils might help to coordinate the efforts of CCHCs/HMPs within each district, as well as the role of local health officers.

Robin said DHHS will host district health forums around the state in October, with the forum for the Penquis region set for Oct. 16, from 12:30-4 p.m. at the Ramada Inn, Bangor. This event will provide information about the emerging public health system, review health data on each district and seek input on health priorities for action in the next state health plan. The session will also review how the local health officer system can be revitalized.

The PPHC has distributed 17 mini-grants totaling \$55,113 in 2006-2007, and Robin reviewed this list with committee members. The PPHC is also applying for an Achieve grant through the state, in partnership with the Piscataquis YMCA, that could split \$80,000 between the two groups and expand our existing work.

The PPHC office has moved from the second to the third floor in the Old Mayo building, and Keith Flewelling has been hired as the council's second staff member, with the title of community partnership specialist.

Dr. McDermott noted that Piscataquis County is being used as a model for the expansion of the Tar Wars state poster contest. The Morton Avenue School has produced the state winner in 5 of the last 7 years. Robin reported there will be a regional tobacco coordinator located in Bangor by Nov. 1.

The PPHC received an apple tree during the statewide kickoff for the state public health system in Augusta on Sept. 14. It was agreed that the council should procure five other apple trees so that one can be planted in all six school districts. The plantings could be coordinated as a symbolic act to promote "Growing up Healthy in Maine."

Robin discussed the health assessment work that needs to be completed and reported to the Executive Steering Committee by June, 2008. Penquis agreed to provide someone to attend upcoming training for this task.

Next meeting: November 13, 2007.

Minutes submitted by Tom Lizotte