



MCD Public Health

Insight Innovation Impact

April 2014

There is a lot to be thankful for this spring. The sunshine, the hints that winter may not last into May, and the almost daily feedback about the many ways in which MCD Public Health staff and programs are making contributions to health and well-being. This month we are featuring our substance abuse prevention program, but the Kudos Corner is so big that we had to hold back on some other great news. It is an honor to be associated with so many successful professionals working each and every day to improve the quality of health care and the health of communities.

- Kate Perkins, Director, MCD Public Health

Project Spotlight: 21 Reasons

[21 Reasons](#) brings together individuals, organizations, and businesses with a common goal: to build a healthy community environment with policies, practices, and attitudes that support the drug-free development of all youth.

On March 19, 21 Reasons held a forum entitled "Marijuana and Youth: A Community Conversation" in Portland, bringing together parents, youth, school administrators, and members of the general public to discuss Portland's legalization of recreational marijuana use for adults. "Talking openly with community stakeholders is the cornerstone of creating an environment which fosters drug free youth," says Jo Morrissey, Program Director. The event received extensive news coverage; [click here](#) to check it out.



Left to right: Chanda Sinclair, City of Portland; Mike Freysinger, Maine Youth Court; Scott Gagnon, Smart Approaches to Marijuana; Shannon Moss, journalist and moderator; Jo Morrissey, 21 Reasons; Michael Sauschuck, Portland Police Chief; Grainne Dunne, ACLU Maine; David Boyer, Marijuana Policy Project

21 Reasons was named as one of the top 9 high performing coalitions out of 683 Drug Free Community coalitions nationwide last year, during their 8th year as a Drug Free Communities grantee. Data collected over the span of the project show that 21 Reasons' evidence-based coalition approach is creating community-level change. To read more about program outcomes, please [click here](#).

21 Reasons is a resource for parents looking for information and support around underage drinking and substance abuse issues. Visit their [Parent Resource page](#) for more information.

Kudos Corner

Way to go, **Maine!** The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released their annual State Snapshots, and Maine was ranked [3rd in the country for overall health care quality](#). MCD Public Health supports health care quality improvement in Maine through [Maine's Practice Improvement Network](#) (MPIN). For more information, check out our [training for QI coaches](#) and our ongoing [QI learning community](#).



Kudos to **Barbara Ginley (Maine Migrant Health Program)** and **Elizabeth Foley (MCD Public Health)** for their work to help the Maine CDC finalize and publish their new [Community Health Worker RFP](#). Barbara presented at the 2014 Quality Counts conference on the valuable role community health workers can and will play in transforming the coordination and delivery of health care.

Congratulations to **Stacy Meyer (MCD Public Health)**, **Clarissa Sabattis-Webber (District Public Health Liaison, Wabanaki Public Health District)**, and **Alexandra London (Community Transformation Grant Coordinator, Wabanaki Public Health District)** for presenting at the National Indian Health Board's 5th Annual National Tribal Public Health Summit in Montana! Their presentation title is "Partnering to Strengthen Public Health Initiatives in Maine's Federally Recognized Tribal Communities."

A special thanks to **Alphonsine "Phonse" Allen-Laney** for taking on extra duties during March to help the Maine CDC accreditation initiative double check and upload required documents, all while taking on two additional projects for MCD Public Health. Phonse was also the friendly face at our updated exhibit board at the Quality Counts 2014 conference on April 2. Hope you had a chance to stop by and say Hi!



Robin Hetzler (left) and Anne Ball

[Healthy Maine Streets](#) team staff, **Robin Hetzler (MCD Public Health)** and **Anne Ball (Maine Development Foundation)**, presented at the Society for Public Health Educators (SOPHE) Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD on March 20, 2014. Their presentation about "Transforming Communities through Worksite Wellness and Downtown Development" was part of a panel regarding Integrated Systems Change Efforts.

Approximately 100 people attended the session.

Mark Your Calendars!

April 7-13 -

[National Public Health Week](#)

April 16 -

[Hanley Center Honors for Leadership in Health Equity & Health Disparities](#)

June 6 -

[Maine Cardiovascular Health Council's Blood Pressure and Cholesterol Trainings](#)

June 10 -

[NorthEast Telehealth Resource Center Regional Conference: Leveraging Telehealth to Achieve the Triple Aim](#)

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