



## This month at MCD Public Health:

In this issue, we've highlighted just two of the hundreds of people we work with to improve health and wellness for those in Maine and beyond in our [employee spotlight](#). We are also quite proud of [our work with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors](#) to bring resources to assist state health department staff. The Northeast Telehealth Resource Center also hosted a timely webinar on [Telepsychiatry Essentials](#). Don't forget to check out our list of [upcoming events](#).



None of this would be possible without our dedicated staff, trusting relationships, and devoted partners. Thank you for all you do to help others get and stay healthy.

Be well,

Kate

## Employee Spotlight

### Vaccine Coordinators for the ME Immunization Program

We recently caught up with Vaccine Coordinators Shawn Peterson and Susan Greene to learn more about their work with the Maine Immunization Program at Maine's Center for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Infectious Diseases. Here's what they had to say:

**MCDPH:** Can you describe your job as a Vaccine Coordinator for the Maine's Immunization Program?

**SP:** As a public health educator, I work directly with providers to answer questions about immunization schedules, concerns about delaying vaccinations, and catch up schedules. I also conduct on-site visits for quality assurance such as safe handling and proper storage.

**SG:** Visits include reviewing the physical sites and their documentation to make sure providers are in compliance with Maine Immunization Program and the Vaccines For Children program.

**MCDPH:** This sounds pretty complicated. What are your backgrounds?

**SP:** As part of graduate school I volunteered with the Peace Corps in Namibia within the community health and HIV/AIDS program. My Masters in Public Health now helps me have a shared vocabulary with healthcare providers.

**SG:** My work as a nutritionist with the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program, additional medical training, and work in the health care field helps with the perspective of the provider side of things. My Masters in Public Health has given me a broad perspective for how this work impacts the public's health.

**MCDPH:** How do you feel your work has impacted Maine's #1 ranking in childhood vaccination rates?

**SP:** By patiently listening to providers and taking in information before I move into solution phase I have been able to provide higher quality service.

**SG:** We also work closely with the ImmPact2 registry help desk team, Sherri Dunton and Beverly Butterfield. These two are always quick with a response and are incredibly knowledgeable about any technical question.

**MCDPH:** What impact does your job have on the public health of Maine's residents?

**SP:** Ensuring children don't contract vaccine preventable diseases means communities can avoid outbreaks of diseases such as pertussis or influenza. This in turn ensures everyone can make it to school and work.

**SG:** We provide education materials that providers then use with their patients to help explain what it is we are preventing and to help address any hesitancy in parents. Education allays fears and increases vaccination rates.

**MCDPH:** What are the most common questions from providers and parents alike?

**SP:** Today, parents tend to worry about receiving too many vaccines at once. This can be traced to the education we have given providers, parents, and school nurses to identify gaps in vaccinations and to encourage compliance. It used to be about Autism, but there are piles of scientific papers that have debunked that piece of misinformation.

**SG:** Many providers ask about catch up schedules. Whether there are new Americans or families that have moved to Maine, there are lots of reasons why children may not have the vaccinations they need in order to stay in public schools during an outbreak, or attend public school at all. We assure them that the scientific literature shows no consequence of receiving multiple vaccines at once. Maine is a universal immunization state, which means every child, regardless of ability to pay or insurance status gets vaccinated-at no cost to the patient or their families.

**Bonus Question:**

What is the difference between vaccination and immunization?

Test your public health chops!

[Check out our Facebook page to test your answer.](#)



Shawn Peterson, MPH



Susan Greene, MPH

## Project Spotlight

### MCD Public Health and NACDD launch Resources for School Health Public Health Partners

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) went live with a [website](#) to assist state health department staff and partners with implementation of strategies in two Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cooperative agreements: State Public Health Actions to Prevent and Control Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity, and Associated Risk Factors and Promote School Health (1305) and State and Local Public Health Actions to Prevent Obesity, Diabetes, Heart Disease and Stroke (1422).

MCD Public Health was honored to be under contract to NACDD to develop the website and

related resources. The web-based, "*Resources for Public Health and Partners to Implement 1305 and 1422*" is organized by three main components: School Health, Health Systems, and Community Programs Linked to Clinical Services. The interactive website developed by MCD Public Health is designed to complement and enhance guidance from CDC and support connections between school health, community and clinical sectors for improved population health.

Since the launch, the website has had over 2300 sessions and over 1500 visitors from across the U.S. To learn more about the resources visit <http://www.nacdd1305.org/>

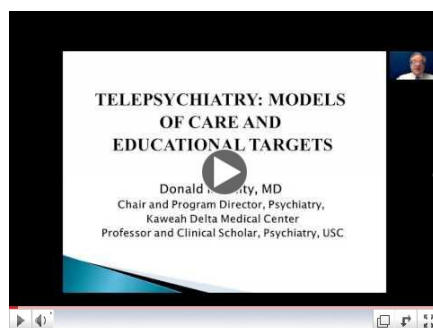


## Kudos Corner

### National Telehealth Webinar: Telepsychiatry Essentials!

This webinar was held on January 21st. and was hosted by NETRC, on behalf of the National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers, and viewed by 105 attendees from a variety of organizations across the U.S., including healthcare systems, mental and behavioral health organizations, private practitioners, state offices of rural health, government agencies, policy makers, and others. Speakers included Donald M. Hilty, MD, USC Keck School of Medicine and Kaweah Delta Medical Center and Terry Rabinowitz, MD, DDS, University of Vermont College of Medicine and University of Vermont Medical Center.

The webinar covered the Telepsychiatry essentials on getting started and models for patient care, education, and special populations. Topics covered included asynchronistic vs. asynchronistic telepsychiatry, steps to adopting telepsychiatry, reimbursement, training, risk management, HIPPA compliance, set up costs, platform and equipment selection, location settings, and more. To view the recorded Webinar click on the video link below:



For more resources available on this topic or to learn more about telehealth, visit [netrc.org](http://netrc.org), email [netrc@mcdph.org](mailto:netrc@mcdph.org), or call 800-379-2021.

We hope you can join the Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers for next month's webinar: Telehealth and the Workplace, hosted by the Mid-Atlantic TRC with presenter Rob Sprang, MBA, Director, Kentucky TeleCare. [Registration is now open!](#)

## Mark Your Calendars!

## Don't miss out on these upcoming events:

### **Blood Pressure Train-the-Trainer Course**

Detection and Management of High Blood Pressure

Bring your evidence-based skills to your staff and receive 10.5 CEU's!

March 3 & 4, 2016, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Brought to you by MCDPH and the Maine Cardiovascular Health Council

MCD Classroom, 11 Parkwood Drive, Augusta, ME

Training includes instructor manual with ready-made teaching modules, handouts and downloadable tools and training forms. OPTIONAL blood pressure kit.

[Click here for FMI and to register.](#)

### **Comprehensive Sexuality Education Conference**

Sponsored by ME Family Planning, ME DOE, ME CDC, MECASA, MCEDV, UMF, and New Beginnings

April 8, 2016, 8:30 AM - 3:30 a.m., Augusta Civic Center

Workshops, keynote, exhibits, and plenary sessions for teachers, school nurses, health educators. \$50 registration fee.

FMI contact: Lynne Kaplowitz, (p) 248-3927 (f) 622-0836

email: [lkaplowitz@mainefamilyplanning.org](mailto:lkaplowitz@mainefamilyplanning.org), click: [www.mainefamilyplanning.org](http://www.mainefamilyplanning.org)

Annual "**Beyond the Basics of Suicide Prevention**" Friday, May 6, 2016. Cross Insurance Center - Bangor, Maine. Hosted by Maine Suicide Prevention Program. Details to follow.

**National Association of Chronic Disease Director's monthly webinar**, 3rd Thursday (February 17, 2016), 3:30 eastern.

FMI check out [NACDD calendar of events.](#)

**Rural Population Health Learning Community webinar** Monday, February 22, 2016 at 3:00 pm eastern, FMI contact: [kperkins@mcdph.org](mailto:kperkins@mcdph.org) or [click here for more information and to register.](#)

**FMI: Rural Healthy People 2020**, the companion document to Healthy People 2020, was released in June. To download a copy visit: [www.sph.tamhsc.edu/srhrc/rhp2020.html](http://www.sph.tamhsc.edu/srhrc/rhp2020.html).

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