



## This Month at MCD Public Health

Dear Colleagues,

The Winter Solstice is historically a time of endings and beginnings. Technically the Winter Solstice marks the end of the shortest daylight of the year. It is a period when many spiritual traditions on their own particular days and in their own specific ways recognize new beginnings, rebirth, and renewal. Public health is in transition in the context of the health landscape being reshaped in Maine and around the country. This year, December has become a notable period of transition for me and MCD Public Health.



Kate  
Perkins,  
Director

After 17 years at MCD, including 9 at the helm for the domestic public health programs, I will be leaving MCD for new adventures at the CMS/Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, trying to bridge population health and health care payment models. This is a bitter sweet departure. While some have responded to the news by asking, "What is MCD without Kate?" it seems my most candid response must be, "Who is Kate Perkins without MCD?" I have been mentored and nurtured by many of you - people too numerous to mention and without whom my career could have gone in any number of different directions. I am profoundly grateful for the people and organizational structures that have supported me and MCD Public Health all these years. Leaving what I will admit was my 'dream job' is difficult, but I am also very excited about what comes next, for me and for MCD Public Health.

Over the past year we undertook an update to our strategic plan for public health that reaffirmed our purpose and refined our future focus, maintaining a strong commitment to our role as a public health institute. There are new and different opportunities ahead for MCD Public Health which hold the potential for making a broader and even more meaningful impact in people's lives. Achieving this vision is now the responsibility of Danielle Louder and Elizabeth Foley, who will co-lead the division.

With nearly two decades collectively at MCD, and many more years focused on efforts to improve public health at local, regional and national levels, Danielle and Elizabeth are well established and well known among our partners and funders. With their guidance there will be a smooth transition following my departure. Equally different and exciting is that while I have had the honor of reporting to two of MCD's three CEOs over our 50 year history, Danielle and Elizabeth will report to Chris Schwabe, PhD the Director of MCD International. Though not (Yet!) well known in Maine, Chris has been with MCD for 27 years and has worked on MCDI initiatives in a wide array of countries. This reporting realignment will assure stability for the existing portfolio and provide a structure to support greater collaboration and growth. We are confident there are opportunities to leverage expertise across programs in developed and developing countries in the years to come, behind the dedicated and diverse teams at MCDPH and MCDI.

So while I look on from my new perch, the gang at MCD Public Health will be here

bridging theory and practice, ensuring evidence is further integrated into program implementation, and developing technology-supported solutions to tomorrow's health challenges, in Maine, around the country, and in other countries.

Fare well and best wishes to you all for the very happiest of years ahead.

Be well,

~Kate

## Mark Your Calendars!

**Tobacco Intervention: BASIC Skills Training**, January 11, February 7, March 2 & 15. All-day trainings at various locations around the state. Continuing Education Credits & Contact Hours (for nursing, dental, alcohol and drug, and physicians) will be available upon completion of an online evaluation. Participants must attend the entire training to receive a certificate or credit. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

**SAVE THE DATE - QC2017 - In It Together: Achieving Excellent Patient & Provider Experience**, April 5, 2017, Augusta Civic Center. Join us this year to investigate the emerging link between patient experience and provider experience - and the profound impact that both have on quality and cost. [Please email](#) for more information.

**Tobacco Intervention: Intensive Skills Training**, April 5-6, 2017. Two-day training at DoubleTree by Hilton in South Portland. Continuing Education Credits & Contact Hours (for nursing, dental, alcohol and drug, and physicians) will be available upon completion of an online evaluation. Participants must attend the entire training to receive a certificate or credit. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

**SAVE THE DATE - APHA's 2017 Annual Meeting & Expo - Creating the Healthiest Nation: Climate Changes Health**, November 4-8, 2017, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Comprehensive Sexuality Education Conference**, April 7, 2017, Augusta Civic Center, sponsored by Maine Family Planning, Maine CDC, New Beginnings, UMF, MCEdV, MECASA, Maine DOE. [Click here to register.](#)



**On line training for a Healthier Future** - Free on line training provided by the MeCDC for anyone interested in keeping their public health skills and knowledge up to date. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

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