

Preventing disease, promoting wellness, increasing access, and improving quality.

[CHW Core Competency Training](#)

[Implicit Bias Training](#)

[Meet Our New Intern](#)

[Mark Your Calendars](#)



## Your Monthly News & Updates - May 2017

Dear Colleagues:

Wow, May is going by fast! It's been a busy month for us here at MCD Public Health. We have new staff, new projects, and expansion of our ongoing programs. We've also had the fortunate opportunity to participate in some regional and national public health conferences. This week the [Northeast Telehealth Resource Center](#), MCD Public Health and partners at the University of Vermont Medical Center hosted the Northeast Regional Telehealth Conference in Amherst, Massachusetts. This event brings together stakeholders from across the region and beyond to learn about telehealth best practice and innovation, network with colleagues, and identify opportunities to advance their telehealth programs. Be sure to check out our June newsletter for conference highlights.

Last week MCD Public Health exhibited and presented at the National Network of Public Health Institute's Annual Conference in New Orleans. This national conference explored emerging concepts and strategies for supporting healthy communities at the local, state, and federal levels. MCDPH highlighted their national community health worker (CHW) training and technical assistance program.



Elizabeth Foley participated in a full day Community Health Worker workshop where participants took a field trip to two locations engaging CHWs in the New Orleans area. We visited the [Vietnamese Initiatives in Economic Training \(VIET\)](#), a program created in 2001 to develop educational and economic training programs and act as a resource center for minority residents in Louisiana. We then went on to [Friends of Lafitte Greenway](#), a community organization formed in early 2006 by New Orleans community members who were concerned about post-Katrina planning, neighborhood revitalization, and open space development. The day wrapped up with a Community Health Worker skill building workshop co-presented by Elizabeth Foley and Carl Rush of the University of Texas Institute for Health Policy. It was a great day and we were honored to have our community health worker program highlighted at this national event. To learn more about MCD Public Health's CHW work, visit us at [www.chwtraining.mcdph.org](http://www.chwtraining.mcdph.org).



Best Regards,  
Elizabeth Foley and Danielle Louder  
Co-Directors

---

## Community Health Worker Core Competency Training

MCD Public Health collaborated with the [Maine Migrant Health Program](#) and [MaineGeneral Prevention and Healthy Living](#) to provide the first Community Health Worker core competency training facilitated by Maine trainers. Participants joined us from our own programs as well as Greater Portland Health, the Portland Minority Health Program and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs Health Department. The training was held in late March into early April and 14 Community Health Workers or CHWs completed the intensive 50 hour course. The training requires a high level of participation and small group work in addition to reviewing core concepts that are vital to the role of a CHW. One participant commented in her/his evaluation form, "Absolutely wonderful training. Different from most I've been to. Offered rich examples and fun activities. I loved the discussions that we had." The curriculum was developed by the Washington D.C. based Institute for Public Health Innovation ([IPHI](#)) and was tailored for our needs in Maine. IPHI has extensive training experience and has facilitated trainings for CHWs and CHW supervisors in Maine in years past. The development of this curriculum is a continuation of the State Innovation Model CHW Initiative effort to build the Community Health Worker profession in Maine.

The Maine Centers for Disease Control is working toward including Community Health Workers on the Maine Registry of Certified Nursing Assistants and Direct Care Workers (CNA Registry). The core competency curriculum is the only training available in the state that can qualify a participant to register on the forthcoming state CHW registry.

You can learn more about the Community Health Worker Initiative and the role of CHWs in Maine at <http://mechw.org/model.html>.

---

## Meet our new MCDPH Intern



**Kelsey Schwarz** is a MPH student at the George Washington University in Washington, DC, and a resident of Damariscotta, Maine. Kelsey is primarily working with Healthy Lincoln County in conjunction with their substance use prevention program as part of her graduate school practicum. She will be evaluating the "Prime for Life Program" done in area high schools through pre- and post-test and survey data and providing a report to key stakeholders. She will also spend time analyzing parent-phone survey data in regards to their teen's substance use to create a population profile for the Lincoln County community. In addition, Kelsey will be spending a few days each week at MCD Public Health in Augusta compiling data and assisting with drafting ideas

for community health worker modules on breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers. Kelsey states, "Although I just started, it's been incredibly rewarding to utilize both my undergraduate and public health training since day one. I'm very excited for this new adventure at MCDPH as I know it will open up so many diverse opportunities for me to get my feet wet in the realm of public health."

---

## MCDPH Staff Attend Implicit Bias Training

With the support of the Sewall Foundation, the Hanley Center developed a 1.5 day program designed for trainers to raise awareness, broaden perspectives, and provide strategies to address

implicit (unconscious) bias in healthcare. Research has shown that implicit bias is an underlying factor in many sentinel events and adverse patient experiences. Fortunately, two members of the MCD public health staff, Andrew Solomon and Tina Love, were able to attend the training. They shared this information at a recent lunch and learn event held at 11 Parkwood Drive. Approximately 20 of the MCDPH staff attended the 1.5 hour training. As a result of the training, participants increased their awareness of unconscious implicit bias, learned how implicit bias can contribute to health disparities, and were able to identify opportunities to address implicit bias in their personal and professional life.

---

## Mark Your Calendars!

**Community Cholesterol Screenings and Blood Pressure Measurement Trainings (2 Trainings Offered on the Same Day!) - June 15, 2017**, Medical Care Development, Augusta, ME. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

**New England Public Health Conference - Capturing the Emerging Issues of Community and Public Health - June 15 & 16, 2017**, The Colony Hotel, Kennebunkport, ME. Click here for more [information](#) and to [register](#).

**8th Annual Patient Safety Academy - September 29, 2017**. Abromson Center, USM Campus Portland. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**SAVE THE DATE - Maine Public Health Association's Annual Conference - Health Equity: Can We Get There From Here? October 17, 2017**, University of Southern Maine, Portland Campus. Keynote Speaker: Mark Fenton. [Early Bird registration](#) rates available until June 1. Click here for information on [Sponsorship opportunities](#).

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

**SAVE THE DATE - Maine Cardiovascular Health Council's Annual Summit - The Advancing Science in Cardiovascular Care, November 9, 2017**, Samoset Resort, Rockport, ME. [Registration now open!](#)

---

MCDPH | [info@mcdph.org](mailto:info@mcdph.org) | 207-622-7566 | TTY 207-622-1209



[www.mcdph.org](http://www.mcdph.org)

STAY CONNECTED:

