

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

[NETRC Conference Update](#)

[Meet our New Staff](#)

[Men's Health Month](#)

[Mark Your Calendars](#)



Your Monthly News & Updates - June 2017

Dear Colleagues:

Public health and quality do go hand-in-hand. Although public health systems may look a bit different from state to state or even county to county, public health accreditation has promoted consistent standards, quality improvement, and enhanced understanding of best practice across the myriad of public health services.

"While we know that where you live is a major contributor to health status and outcomes, it should not determine whether you will have access to quality public health services," says Kate Marone, MCDPH project manager. It's been over five years since the face of public health practice shifted on its axis. National public health department accreditation launched in September 2011, and since then 178 local, Tribal, and state health departments across the country have achieved accreditation from PHAB, the Public Health Accreditation Board. PHAB released the first set of national standards for local, state, and Tribal public health agencies and it was a significant step towards strengthening the U.S. public health infrastructure.

For a public health department, pursuing PHAB accreditation is a complex undertaking that requires a commitment from staff, leadership, and resources. Marone adds, "it also requires a willingness to identify areas for improvement, to increase the visibility and awareness of the organization, to really illustrate accountability, and to embrace quality improvement, and for many health departments, this process is such new territory. That's where we come in."

MCDPH recently began working with a county public health department in Ohio to provide technical assistance and support as they prepare for PHAB accreditation. "Sometimes we provide guidance, but oftentimes it's our outside perspective that is most valuable to the health department- we're able to help them see how their work meets the national standards for public health practice," says Marone who consults for the health department. Marone spent over 3 years learning all about PHAB accreditation, both as a coordinator for Maine CDC's accreditation process and as a peer site reviewer for PHAB. She is excited for the opportunity to share her experience, lessons learned, and expertise to support other public health organizations. To learn more, you can reach Kate Marone at kmarone@mcdph.org.

With public health occupying a significant place at the table across federal, state and local policy discussions, defining and maintaining a solid structure for carrying out public health programs and services is vital to the continued health and safety of our communities and the nation.

**Best Regards,
Elizabeth & Danielle**



**Elizabeth
Foley**
Co-Director



**Danielle
Louder**
Co-Director

Taking Telehealth Mainstream May 23+24, 2017 Amherst, MA

NORTHEAST TELEHEALTH RESOURCE CENTER

NETRC Regional Conference | www.netrc.org/conference | 800-379-2021

On May 23 and 24, the [Northeast Telehealth Resource Center](#), a federally funded project led by MCD Public Health in partnership with the University of Vermont, hosted the 3rd annual [Northeast Regional Telehealth Conference](#) at UMass Amherst! The event brought together nearly 170 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. Speakers included national and regional telehealth leaders, with a focus on "Taking Telehealth Mainstream." Check out some of the conference headlines as covered by mHealth Intelligence:

NETRC Conference: Telehealth on the Path to Mainstream Adoption	Telehealth Tackles Medicaid's Challenges with eConsult Program
Telehealth Partnerships Focus on Innovative ROI in Upstate NY	Direct-to-Consumer Telehealth: One Hospital's Virtual Care Plan



Meet our New Staff



Amanda Jordan is an Environmental Steward with the Maine Conservation Corps (an AmeriCorps Program) and recent graduate of Arizona State University's Master of Sustainability Solutions program. Amanda is working on a service project sponsored by MCDPH that will help to inform the next iteration of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP identifies the demand for and supply of outdoor recreation areas and facilities based on available information, and discusses outdoor recreation issues of statewide importance based on public input. Amanda is helping to inform this

plan by processing and analyzing large volumes of data collected by Maine CDC around the existence of public outdoor recreation facilities in every municipality in the state via Rural Active Living Assessments in addition to various fieldwork. She splits her time between Portland and Augusta and is seated near the Public Health team when in the office.

Kelley Doore is the Program Assistant for the new CradleME maternal health referral program at Maine CDC. She is working with the CradleME team to connect pregnant women and new mothers with home visiting services. Kelley says, "As with any new program, there are challenges and problems to solve every day. The important thing is that we are able to connect Maine families with these services, which can make a big difference for new mothers and their babies."



Jennifer (Jen) Liao, BS, PharmD, is the Antibiotic Resistance Coordinator at the Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (MeCDC). Jen received her Doctorate of Pharmacy in 2017 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Jen was trained as a pharmacist in a diverse range of healthcare settings and developed an interest in pharmacist-driven antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) efforts. Jen will be providing education, training, and resources for healthcare facilities in meeting all 7 AMS Core Elements, conducting epidemiological investigations of healthcare-associated infections and organisms harboring antibiotic resistance, and assisting in strengthening infrastructure in Maine to identify and respond to emerging infectious threats.

June is Men's Health Month

The purpose of [Men's Health Month](#) is to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys. This month gives health care providers, public policy makers, the media, and individuals an opportunity to encourage men and boys to seek regular medical advice and early treatment for disease and injury. The Men's Health Network has a number of resources available for download, including:

- [Blueprint for Men's Health: A Guide to a Healthy Lifestyle](#)
- [Your Head: An Owner's Manual: Understanding and Overcoming Depression, Anxiety, and Stress](#)
- [Heartbeat - Cardiovascular Disease: What You Can Do to Improve Your Heart Health](#)
- [Breathe Easy ... Your Lungs and COPD](#)
- [Alzheimer's Disease - Toolkit for Male Caregivers](#)
- [Gastrointestinal Disorders - Your Guide to Healthy Digestion](#)
- [Open Your Eyes - Protect Your Vision and Your Health](#)

Mark Your Calendars!

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

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 July 1. Click here for information on [Sponsorship opportunities](#).

APHA's 2017 Annual Meeting & Expo - [Creating the Healthiest Nation: Climate Changes Health](#), November 4-8, 2017, Atlanta, Georgia.

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

SAVE THE DATE - New England Rural Health Round Table, November 15-16, 2017, Attitash Grand Summit, Bartlett, New Hampshire. For more information, visit:
<https://newenglandruralhealthroundtable.wildapricot.org/2017-Conference-Home>

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