



Maine Network of Healthy Communities

MNHC 2002 Annual Report

MNHC Mission Statement

The Maine Network of Healthy Communities is a statewide network of community partnerships committed to building the capacity of people, communities and institutions in order to enhance economic, social, environmental, physical and emotional health in Maine.

MNHC Project Overview

In February 2002, Maine Network of Healthy Communities received a four-year grant from the Maine Center for Public Health to assist in organizational development and to promote mentoring opportunities among local coalition leaders.

The overall goals of the project are:

1. To enhance local public health capacity by developing the skills of community leaders whose contributions will determine the success or failure of the new substate public health infrastructure.
2. To develop the organizational capacity of the MNHC.
3. To develop a mentoring program within the MNHC for coalition leaders throughout Maine, including Healthy Community Coalitions, Tobacco Settlement Grantees, and PATCH groups. The goal of the mentoring program is to enable experienced coalition leaders to mentor leaders new to Maine community development efforts in order to facilitate technical assistance and long term mentoring relationships. These relationships will allow local leaders to share experiences and expertise, thus leading to more effective programs which will ultimately improve the length and quality of life for Maine citizens.

Governor King Presents Resolution Honoring Healthy Communities of Maine

MNHC members celebrated this year when Governor Angus S. King, Jr. proclaimed February 1, 2002 as *Healthy Communities Day* throughout the State of Maine. In his proclamation, he urged all citizens to “join their efforts in improving the health and quality of life of Maine citizens.”

MNHC Budget
January 1, 2002-June 30, 2002

Item	Budget	% of total budget	Actual	% of total spent	Variance
Personnel	\$15,000.00	75	\$3,000.00	20	\$12,000.00
Mentor Reimbursement	0	0	0	0	0
Travel	\$2,000.00	10	\$55.80	2.8	\$1,944.20
Supplies	\$2,000.00	10	\$249.91	12.5	\$1,750.09
Postage	\$300.00	1.5	0	0	\$300.00
Training Space	\$700.00	3.5	\$100.00	14.3	\$600.00
TOTAL	\$20,000.00	100	\$3,405.71	17	\$16,594.29

MNHC Project Objectives

In Year 1 of the project, the objectives were to establish a subcontract for organizational capacity building and to begin the process of organizational development. MNHC has focused its energies on infrastructure development and has engaged the services of Webb Management Services and of the Law Offices of Mills and Mills to assist in this work. Specifically, the MNHC Board of Directors has completed the following:

- Developed the MNHC Mission Statement and MNHC Goals
- Developed a committee structure that includes the Executive Committee, the Policy and Resources Committee, the Public Relations and Communications Committee, the Data and Indicators Committee, and the Training and Capacity Committee.
- Developed promotional literature to enhance the visibility of MNHC
- Developed a Workplan for July 1, 2002-December 31, 2003
- Developed MNHC Membership Requirements and the New Member Application Process and began recruitment of new members
- Developed MNHC Partnership Requirements and began recruitment of partner organizations
- Filed the MNHC articles of incorporation with the State of Maine
- Finalized the MNHC By-Laws
- Completed Form SS4 Application for Employer Identification number
- Initiated filing for tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service

As of June 30, 2002, the status of activities identified in the grant workplan as are shown in the table below.

Activity	Status
Establish consulting subcontract for organizational capacity building	Completed
Establish and manage website and listserv	<p>Private listserv (for MNHC Board members, alternates and staff) has been established.</p> <p>Public listserv for the general public has been established.</p> <p>MNHC Board members and staff are seeking funding for the creation of the MNHC website.</p>
Staff coordination of MNHC Board meetings	Complete and ongoing
Staff completion of special assignments by MNHC Board	Complete and ongoing
Staff manage MNHC communications and correspondence	Complete and ongoing
Activity	Status
Develop mentoring program guidelines	Not complete
Recruit mentors	Not complete

MNHC Challenges and Opportunities

The changing public health landscape in Maine currently presents numerous challenges and opportunities for MNHC. Ongoing efforts to develop a state public health infrastructure provide MNHC opportunities to provide input into the process. Being a part of this process has allowed MNHC to increase its visibility as a player among those involved in public health issues throughout the state. The presence of Healthy Maine Partnership coalitions has brought greater visibility to community health coalitions, and this has presented MNHC an opportunity to increase its own visibility. MNHC also has an opportunity to recruit for membership Healthy Maine Partnerships who are involved in comprehensive community health initiatives. The introduction of federal funds to counter bio-terrorism presents an opportunity for local

healthy community coalitions to be involved in counter bio-terrorism initiatives. Coalitions vitalized by these funds present possible new MNHC members.

The primary challenge facing MNHC is funding for staff, program and advocacy activities. The current national interest in and knowledge about the effectiveness of healthy community coalitions presents numerous opportunities for securing needed funds. In addition, there is a need for MNHC to focus on raising further its visibility so that it gains prominence among the myriad groups in the public health and community health fields. In so doing, and by increasing MNHC membership, the MNHC will represent the broad spectrum of local level community health coalitions. This will position MNHC to have proactive and meaningful participation in public health planning.

MNHC Board of Directors

Susan Crippen, President	North Country Healthy Communities (Greenville)
Patricia Duguay, Vice President	River Valley Healthy Community Coalition (Rumford)
Leah Binder, Secretary/Treasurer	Healthy Community Coalition, Greater Franklin County
Mary Jane Bush, Past President	Bucksport Community Health Advisory Committee
Diane Brandon	Community Wellness Coalition (York)
Patrice Putman	Southern Kennebec Healthy Communities
Audrey York	Vital Pathways (Houlton)
Andrew Kane	Greater Waterville PATCH
Gladys Richardson	Healthy Futures (Winthrop)
Kim Hutchinson	Healthy Island Project/Stonington-Deer Isle
Madeleine Martin	Penobscot Nation Health Department
Rachel Charette	St. John Valley PATCH
(vacant)	Voices in Action: Healthy Comm. of Sebecook Valley
(vacant)	Partnership for Healthy Communities (Bangor)

All members of MNHC are represented on the Board of Directors.