



State Report

State: Maine

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Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

- Immunized 5005 State employees against seasonal influenza. This is a 5.2% increase over 2007.
- Continued to replace outdated equipment for use in the field.
- Established format for PHN Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).
- Developed and reviewed Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plan (PHN ERP) draft with all PHN Staff at PHN annual Fall Conference.
- Provided an Emergency Preparedness in-service to 3 of the 4 PHN units discussing overall roles and competencies for PHNs in an extreme public health emergency as well as PHN perspective role of PHN in a Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) deployment.
- Southern and Central Unit PHN's participated in an SNS training-Mainely Dispensing.
- Training provided to PHN management in Maine's Health Alert Network (Maine HAN).
- Developed a Partnership with multiple service providers to reduce the incidence of traumatic head injury in infants by training all birthing hospitals in the State of Maine to implement the Period of Purple Crying Program.
- Participated in the final stages of a pilot/research initiative with the Office of Medical services, the Maine Center of Public Health and a private medical practice to provide support for behavioral change with obese children and youth receiving MaineCare benefits. Clients are admitted to PHN caseloads for follow-up service.
- Completed a 2 year PHN strategic plan.
- Adopted Edinburg Depression Screening for all prenatal and postpartum clients.
- Finalized the Orientation modules and process, including a new communication module.
- Re-instituted the PHN Hospital Liaison initiative.

- Consulted with the school based health centers to establish quality improvement charters/projects.
- Convened two trainings for staff called “TB: Case Management for Nurses”.
- Conducted 49 TB Skin Test training classes with 381 participants learning to administer and read correctly TB skin tests.
- Strengthened the Safety and Risk Management program by developing a mission statement and logo. Developed a standardized method of cleaning equipment and supplies.
- Expanded the program’s information management system by developing:
 - the public website that makes program information accessible to the public
 - a shared electronic location that makes program initiative documents more accessible, e.g. those that support accreditation preparation and review of aggregated QI data by all staff
 - electronic staff resource information that supports staff development and clinical management
- Publication of the program’s computerized nursing information system (CNIS) implementation experience, in a peer-reviewed nursing informatics journal and two nursing textbooks.
- Recognition by a prospective researcher, who has active plans to explore the program’s Omaha System data, which is collected and utilized by the program to assess, plan, and measure the outcomes of nursing care.
- Disseminated the program’s experiences with Omaha System data analysis, during speaking engagements at national conferences attended by nurses and others interested in nursing informatics.
- Submitted application and self-study for voluntary accreditation process for Public Health Nursing Program

Projects/Issues Pending:

- Preparation for a successful site visit for PHN CHAP Accreditation
- Completion of the accreditation process
- Completion of a PHN Emergency Response Plan
- Complete revision of the set-up for PHN Policies and Procedure
- Provide Training and education for PHN Emergency Response Plan to statewide staff
- Complete Point of Dispensing (POD) project-visit and update current POD MOU and survey information
- Participation in SNS table top and functional exercises.

Issues & Special Concerns for Public Health Nursing:

- Financial constraints, State revenue shortfalls-actually and projected
- Providing the training and drilling in Emergency Preparedness & Response
- Adequately prepared for pandemic flu activities

- Remaining competitive in attracting qualified staff in a climate of financial constraints
- Providing and expanding population based services while having the capacity to fill needed gaps in individual services
- Providing services in expanding population areas of the state while maintaining the level of service in rural areas with zero growth of PHN staff