



State Report

State: Maine

Date: May 2010

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Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

- Granted CHAP accreditation – Sept. 2009
- Received from CHAP a commendation for administrative and management techniques for team building that provide for a well-informed Public Health workforce
- Immunized 9353 individuals against influenza for the 2009-2010 flu season
 - 4793** State employees - seasonal influenza
 - 2421** State employees – H1N1 influenza
 - 185** Maine residents - seasonal influenza
 - 1954** Maine residents – H1N1 influenza
- Conducted and/or participated in **257** influenza clinics
- Contributed significant information in construction of an on-line public Toolkit for conducting influenza clinics (vaccine handling, storage, transport, administration)
- Invoked PHN Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) to deal with H1N1 crisis
- Revised Zero-Based Budget to more accurately reflect PHN functions
- Hired a new PHN Consultant to fill vacancy due to retirement
- Added new PHN Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and incorporated them within the digital intranet policy and procedure manual
- Conducted 17 TB Skin Test training classes with 138 participants learning to administer and read correctly TB skin tests
- Developed a standardized procedure for disposal of used PAPR filters
- Developed a policy to illuminate program position on computerized social Networks which prohibits PHN staff from establishing or utilizing personal social networking venues as a means of professional communication
- Established a procedure defining the activity for PHN School Vaccine Clinic Resource Nurses
- Established a procedure defining the activity for PHN Hospital Liaison Resource Nurses

- Collaborated with ME CDC Environmental Toxicology Program partners to develop electronic health record tools that support PHN assessment/documentation of families with known/suspected environmental safety risks
- Expanded staff access to electronic meeting tools to advance committee work and other organizational initiatives
- Completed prototype development and implementation of a new, electronic Policy and Procedure (P&P) System that uses computer and information science to support a PHN's ability to locate P&P guidance to support practice decision making
- Made standards-based advances in discharge planning, family/household member chart management, and other challenging areas of electronic nursing practice documentation
- Contributed PHN service data to community stakeholder review of public health issues, including maternal/infant exposure to cannabis, opiates, and opioid agonists and antagonists
- Conducted a vaccine administration refresher course at State H1N1 Summit
- Provided Sexual Abuse/Assault trainings for all PHN staff
- Completed Maine Public Health Nursing Emergency Response Plan and circulated to all Public Health Nursing offices
- Developed protocol for emergency preparedness handouts for all Public Health Nursing clients and standardized for all units
- Developed standard for annual Emergency Preparedness update and review to provide ongoing opportunity for education and training that defines roles and responsibilities for Public Health Nurse during a declared Public Health Emergency.
- Initiated standard "Call Down" exercises for availability to respond to an emergency or to work off hours
- Demonstrated the ability to expand Public Health Nursing role to offer clinic support and consultation to Maine's Public School infrastructure during the H1N1 pandemic
- Successfully tested the capacity of the Continuity of Operations Plan by prioritizing staff to fulfill the critical functions thus allowing increased staffing capacity for the H1N1 pandemic response
- Played an integral part in Maine's H1N1 response with Public Health Nursing Management Team participating in planning and responding to the ever changing pandemic event and providing a statewide team of Public Health Nurses who ran H1N1 and seasonal influenza clinics
- Contributed PHN data on Drug Affected Babies (DAB) for prenatal, postpartum and infants to the Child Abuse Action Network

Projects/Issues Pending:

- Provide new PHN Consultant with training on Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) deployment
- Apply for USPHS assignee to fill vacant Supervisor position in Northern unit
- Preparation to engage in the Home Visitation Grant Program from Health Care Reform Legislation
- Preparation for transition to paperless review of 50,000 Bright Future Assessment forms and follow-up contacts of 4, 000 forms for children on MaineCare in Maine
- Provide Training and education for PHN Emergency Response Plan to statewide staff
- Participation in SNS table top and functional exercise

Issues & Special Concerns for Public Health Nursing:

- Financial constraints, State revenue shortfalls-actually and projected
- 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
- Maintaining continuity of operations with an increase in retiring workforce