

Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting

Meeting Notes

<p>ATTENDING: Susan Adams, Jutta Beyer, Shelly Blaisdell, Ashley Cox, Chris Cunningham, Jane Danforth, Matt Delaney, Nancy DeWitt, Sean DeWitt, Diana Furkawa, Rep. Jared Golden, Barbara Hayslett, Kai Loundon, Jeff Packard, Louis Pelletier, Bob Peterson, Charlie Pray, Jenn Sheaff, Eben Sypitkowski, Robin Stevens, and Lucy Van Hook</p> <p>Note Taker: MaryAlice Mowry</p>	
<p>GENERAL OVERVIEW OF MOBILIZE KATAHDIN: Steering Committee Members are Matt Delaney, Shelly Blaisdell, Robin Stevens, Jane Danforth and Diana Furukawa. The steering committee meets daily at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom</p> <p>GUESTS AT MEETING: Congressman Jared Golden, Bob Peterson, CEO Millinocket Regional Hospital</p>	
<p>UPDATES:</p>	
<p>MOBILIZE KATAHDIN UPDATE</p>	<p>Shelly Blaisdell:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Things are coming in steadily, requests for groceries, cleaning supplies, toilet paper – things people cannot find in the stores. ● Starting to see an influx of the snowbirds who are now in self-quarantine, they do not need financial help but do need – volunteers who can deliver their groceries so they can remain in quarantine. ● There have been a couple of requests for fuel assistance. ● Working with agencies EAAA and private local businesses to collaborate on resources. ● MRH staff have called directly to access services for individuals they are serving. (Nurse Navigator) ● Ellis’s does curbside pickup option (now doing 7 days per week) – and we are plugging in with them. <p>Diana Furukawa:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The volunteers have really contributed to identifying resources at a personal/local level. ● Update on the Mobilize Katahdin: website. There is a “Coalition” tab at the top of the home page. This page has information regarding the coalition members, minutes from weekly minutes, and general information is on the page. ● If questions about website, contact Diana directly.
<p>FUNDRAISING UPDATE</p>	<p><u>Nancy DeWitt:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have raised a total of \$4,000 on website for Mobilize Katahdin, of this \$1,200 was raised yesterday (4/15). ● Have disbursed \$1,460 with 3 checks. ● Let Lucy or Nancy know when you need checks disbursed. ● Fundraising committee is looking at matching grant funds and have reached out to foundations, etc.

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- Getting close to matching the 10K that has been donated anonymously.
- More fundraising needs to be done.
- There is an additional \$500 coming from the Town of Millinocket, it has not arrived yet.

Kai Loundon:

- Might want to consider applying to United Way of Eastern Maine for additional funding. They have streamlined their process just recently and have replenished their Covid 19 funds. Turn around for funds is less than a week.
- Also, might consider asking people who might be able donate part of the stimulus fund check to donate, there may be option to start a pool of stimulus dollars as another source for matching funds.

Sean DeWitt:

- Committee has been working with foundations to leverage the anonymous donation of \$10,000.
- Also are sorting out best way to reach out to other funders to help match the 10K and give them ways to easily donate, giving them a “back end” for donations that are not public facing.
- Will continue to keep committee posted, around progress with the matching the 10K.
- Application submitted to Ford Foundation (there is a pool of large of foundations that are working together) there is a \$29 million fund. The first step in the process is to determine eligibility. There is a 48 hour turn around in this step. Stay tuned.

Q: Sean: On the website family can request direct assistance, have we ironed out our process for an organization to reach out to request assistance or provide resources?

A: Matt: There is a subcommittee that looks at these issues regarding eligibility, an initial draft has been drafted and will share with this group, hopefully next week.

Shelly Blaisdell:

- Organizations have been reaching out and we have been collaborating directly with KVHC and MRH. Discussing the need for volunteers and how to link up our volunteers.
- Heating fuel fund is almost depleted. Need to replenish, there is definitely a need.

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<p>What are ongoing needs?</p>	<p><u>Jane Danforth:</u> Asked for input regarding identifying the need? What are you seeing that we need to know?</p> <p><u>Susan Adams:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food insecurity is increasing in demand. ● Ellis market is now doing 7 days a week shopping and then curbside pick-up of groceries. <p><u>Shelly Blaisdell:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Heating fuel fund is almost depleted. ● Need to replenish, ● There is definitely a need.
<p>FOOD INSECURITY UPDATE</p>	<p><u>Jane Danforth/ Shelly:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food is still coming from Hannaford- pantries pickup daily ● Ellis's donates great amount of meat and produce to food pantries.
<p>What do organizations Need?</p>	<p><u>Jane Danforth:</u> Are organizational needs different, and do we know what they are?</p> <p><u>Susan Adams:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spoke with a selectman in Patten, their concern is lots of people will not ask for help. ● Have set up community check in calls, where people are calling and checking in with neighbors.
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD FOOD BANK UPDATE</p>	<p><u>Kai Loundon:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good Shepherd food assistance and pantry boxes distribution models are in full production. ● 450 partners and programs. ● Cannot get food in fast enough, this is not about not having money to get food, but in the food distribution network. ● Working with Gov mills and USDA to sort out strategies. ● USDA is making unrestricted grant funding available; they range from \$700-\$5,000. ● At the state level we are not getting enough food in, but maybe partners have access to more local access; these grants (which we may be able to access) are meant to give more flexibility at a local level. ● All product distributed by Good Shepherd currently has no cost which can free up resources we have. ● Working with UM Cooperative Extension regarding Covid 19 Food Safety Training. This is geared towards food pantries but would be good for anyone working on food insecurity. There is a training at 2 pm today 4/16/20. If someone from Mobilize

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Katahdin could attend would be good. (Jane will forward on meeting information to coalition once received)</p> <p><u>Q:</u> Shelly: How do we sort out how to access food/milk being thrown away, plowed under and trashed?</p> <p><u>A:</u> Rep. Golden: The Maine delegation is working with USDA and Good Shepherd on lessening the situation of food waste/dairy farmers. They are working on ideas to try to help in the region.</p>
<p>SHERMAN- UVEC FOOD PANTRY UPDATE</p>	<p><u>Jeff Packard:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They did not get boxes this time. ● What they have done in the past in distributing commodity boxes is somewhere between 48-55 families and now they are serving 70 families. ● Volunteers made up the boxes, but Patten volunteers were not able to do that. ● Working with Patten and coordination with Good Shepherd. They get Shop and Save. ● Upper Valley – Sherman 2nd Tuesday of every month for the commodity boxes. <p><u>Susan Adams:</u> Might be good idea to schedule a call with all the food pantries in the region.</p> <p><u>Jane Danforth:</u> There had been a tri-town food council that met in the past, it is a good idea to have a regional task force around food.</p>
<p>TOWN OF ISLAND FALLS UPDATE</p>	<p><u>Jutta Beyer:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hanging in there. ● Have good group of volunteers making facemasks, sending out around the state. She will send link for the masks. ● Office is closed still receiving phone calls and town is working remotely.
<p>EASTERN AREA AGENCY ON AGING UPDATE</p>	<p><u>Jenn Sheaff:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New to group, thanks for letting he join. ● EAAA is continuing their resource connection program and they are still available to help with resources. ● Medicare counseling is available, there are some programs that people might be able to access to assist with questions regarding eligibility and cost, they are seeing an increase in the calls.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering meals on wheels, rapid fire has grown quickly. Homebound requirements have changes and meeting larger number of needs in rapid response program. • Commodity food program is continuing. • Family caregiver programs (dementia, Alzheimer’s) family caregiver specialists can assist in finding resources and problem-solving alternative solutions. • The EAAA Website has easy and secure referral link, can be done online. • When someone calls with a need a full level of benefits check, and a screening is done to more fully understand if there are other unmet need. • Cares Act has provided additional funding, money helps with innovative ways to meet needs (e.g. how are we going to get groceries), there is funding available.
BAXTER STATE PARK UPDATE	<p><u>Eben Sypitkowski:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have made public a delay in fully opening the park to July 1, 2020. • Check out website for details: Baxter State Park
RESOURCES DISCUSSED:	
Good Shepherd	https://www.gsfb.org/
EAAA	www.eaaa.org 207-941-2865 Local EAAA number is 723-2045
Millinocket Regional Hospital	207-723-5161 COVID Triage line - 447-4190
ACTIONABLE TO-DO’S:	
Jane/Shelly	Will set up meeting with the food banks in the region to get and give information.
Jutta	Will send link for the face masks that volunteers are making in Island Falls.
GUEST UPDATES:	
Bob Peterson – MILLINOCKET REGIONAL HOSPITAL:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital is planning based on the response that they expect to see and to try to seek balance to not over prepare or underprepare. • We have not plateaued or peaked in the region. We have not seen it yet. Not sure when this will come possibly in the next 1-2 weeks, but not sure. • Seeing a daily increase 25-35 increase each day. The good news is that we are not seeing an exponential increase, • the daily increases are basically level, and this is better than exponential growth. If that were to happen it would overwhelm our health care resources. • The rate is Progressing slowly and steadily, and we hope that that continues. 	

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- The reality is that **we do have Covid in tri-town area**. It is here in our region and we can no longer think that this is a problem somewhere else – it is here, and we must now be more vigilant. We must maintain social/physical distancing, hand washing, and wear masks.
- The hospital just instituted a new policy – everyone must have masks on. Hospital staff monitor everyone at door for symptoms.
- Penobscot County has been edging up- yesterday 36, but we have had several days of being flat.
- Because of the progression we have seen in the region MRH has had time to watch other states and cities and to participate in trainings, etc. Staff are well prepared, steady and focused, this has paid off (having time) now that there are positive cases. MRH can take quite a few patients if necessary.
- We need to **Get the Message Out**, this is NOT someone else's problem. The virus in , now it is here and it is our reality. Stay home. Don't interact. If we don't take it seriously, we will be inundated at hospital and in the community. Social Distancing is important.
- We are still seeing many people out and about, there is too much non-compliance in social distancing. Message not getting out. We all need to help with this.
- Bob thanked Representative Golden for all of his efforts on behalf of rural hospitals.

Representative Golden U.S. Congress:

- Currently involved in ongoing negotiations regarding the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to help small businesses in Maine. That program is also available to our hospitals. We need to continue to advocate for more funding for hospitals, set aside for rural hospitals.
- Please continue to update Rep. Golden and his staff regarding needs, issues that are arising, updates on impacts.

Bob Peterson - MRH did apply to PPP and have received funds. They are making a difference. Bob noted the financial vulnerability of rural hospitals in Maine and across the country. There have been numerous closures of rural hospitals. This pandemic highlights the absolute value and need for a rural hospital system. These rural hospitals have been taken for granted for quite some time. The rural hospital crisis needs to be addressed in the near future.

Rep. Golden – In rural areas hospitals are both a vital part of the health care system and a major economic driver issue, he continues to advocate for support.

Bob Peterson – In regard to the future, it is important to have strong hospitals, libraries, schools in our rural communities without them you cannot revitalize an area. Hospitals are in very precarious financial footing right now.

Q: Charlie Pray: could you clarify about testing capacity and PPE availability?

A: Bob Peterson: MRH sends swabs to the state lab in Augusta, there is a 24-hour turnaround time. If there is a timing issue can send to Northern Light Health but there is a cost to that testing. So far ok. Regarding PPE MRH has a good stockpile, right now fairly comfortable. If there is growth or delays in plateau will have to scramble to get more.