

Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

May 21, 2020

ATTENDING: Susan Adams, Shelly Blaisdell, Jane Danforth, Megan Day, Matt DeLaney, Nancy DeWitt, Shelley Farrington, Barbara Hayslett, Peter Jamieson, Tina McLeod, Jeff Packard, Louis Pelletier, Jenn Sheaff, Kevin Gregory	
Note Taker: Diana Furukawa	
GENERAL OVERVIEW OF MOBILIZE KATAHDIN: Steering Committee Members are Shelly Blaisdell, Jane Danforth, Matt DeLaney, Diana Furukawa, and Robin Stevens. The Steering Committee meets biweekly	
UPDATES:	
MOBILIZE KATAHDIN UPDATES	<u>Shelly Blaisdell:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Requests:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Continue to answer the phones, take email requests○ Many heating fuel assistance and gasoline requests, mailed out gift cards for gas and grocery○ Many deliveries○ Volunteers are great, able to respond within an hour or two● We will be working with EAAA to enhance the shopping services we are offering● We have been putting together a plan for the future● Housing/rent assistance:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We were not able to meet a request for rent/security deposit assistance○ Collaborated with town of East Millinocket because it seemed like a good General Assistance case○ This is a need, people have not been able to be evicted, but that's coming to an end soon as the state reopens, and we'll have an influx of people needing help with rent and utilities● Tina McLeod is going to be an intern for us this summer. She is a student who will meet her needs for her degree and will help with projects going forward.
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE	<u>Shelly Blaisdell:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Created new rack cards and business cards to spread the word in the next few weeks at businesses, utility bills, town offices, libraries, etc.● Was contacted by the Houlton Pioneer Times to get a story up there

Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

May 21, 2020

	<p><u>Q: Louis Pelletier:</u> Can the rack cards be put up on community bulletin boards?</p> <p><u>A: Shelly B.:</u> Absolutely. I will add it to the Communications Committee agenda.</p> <p><u>Jane:</u> Angela Cote had mentioned doing rack cards through the utility bills, and maybe this is something we could do in Millinocket</p> <p><u>Louis:</u> It's too bad there isn't a community mailing soon.</p> <p><u>Shelly B.:</u> The town of East Millinocket does do utility mailings and they have offered to send them out or even when its tax bill time again</p> <p><u>Tina McLeod:</u> You should send them with school lunches.</p> <p><u>Shelly B.:</u> We did that a few weeks ago and have seen calls come in from those flyers.</p>
<p>FUTURE OF MOBILIZE KATAHDIN</p>	<p><u>Matt DeLaney:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Phase 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For the last couple months, the emphasis was on offering services, building website, getting volunteers on board, staffing our phone line ● Phase 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The region will be opening back up ○ Mobilize Katahdin was originally envisioned as a transportation-based project, but we broadened it because of COVID, and we're excited about these services that we've added ○ Transportation will definitely be a part of it, but we're thinking about what other services we can continue—we don't necessarily want to narrow our services ● Coalition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This has been an impactful platform to share information and resources ○ How does the coalition continue to be served by this group and what are the goals for it? ○ How frequently should this group meet? ○ We'll be sending a survey out soon to get your input on the frequency of meetings and the direction of the group
<p>EAAA UPDATE</p>	<p><u>Jenn Sheaff:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We're hearing from our other partners that they're getting more requests for food boxes as opposed to grocery shopping, so we're adjusting our offerings to do more of that, including other consumable goods like household supplies

Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

May 21, 2020

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We'll be taking the CARES Act funding that we received, and looking for collaborations to expand the reach of EAAA services, and we're excited to partner with Mobilize Katahdin and other groups ● Anyone aged 60 or over, adults with disabilities, or a care provider for one of those populations can qualify for our services ● What we can offer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Per event, per qualifying person, we can pay Mobilize Katahdin (and other partners) \$20 that they can use however they see fit ○ Some data is required ● The arrangement should be finalized on Wednesday to begin on June 1st <p><u>Jane:</u> Another success story!</p> <p><u>Jenn:</u> In April our MOW went from 8,000 to 13,000, so it's incredible. Lots of food. We're hoping that we're helping people reduce the grocery shopping they need to do, so the shopping might be smaller trips. I know from talking to older community members, it's hard to reach out because they don't want to feel like a burden, so this is something that MOW can be helpful for.</p> <p><u>Jenn Sheaff</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All of the MOW consumers in the greater Katahdin region will be receiving with their deliveries another emergency food box which we were able to purchase through Good Shepherd Food Bank. This is the second time since the pandemic that we were able to <p><u>Q: Jane:</u> Can we get our updated flyers in the boxes?</p> <p><u>A: Jenn:</u> They go out of Stearns Assisted Living, connect with Tom Kenny to do that.</p>
<p>OUR KATAHDIN FUNDRAISING UPDATE</p>	<p><u>Nancy DeWitt:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$7,785 raised on the public site, \$525 remaining ● We also have a private site where businesses and organizations can contribute. It has raised \$3600 with a \$3600 match, so \$7,200 total. <p><u>Q: Louis:</u> So the match is only linked to the private/business fundraiser?</p> <p><u>A: Nancy:</u> Yes, they didn't want to discourage individuals from donating.</p>

Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

May 21, 2020

	<p><u>Louis</u>: It's too bad we couldn't broaden this, get more businesses on board.</p> <p><u>Nancy</u>: Most of the \$3,600 has actually been from nonprofits. I can send a link to the private match site to Peter, and he can do whatever you think would be helpful. A lot of the businesses in the area are not in the position to donate, so we've been reaching beyond, such as to Nature Conservancy and Brookfield, who both contributed,</p> <p><u>Peter</u>: Those were the first two that came to mind.</p> <p><u>Q: Jenn</u>: Is there an expiration on the match?</p> <p><u>A: Nancy</u>: No. Worst case, this donor will probably still give the amount.</p> <p><u>Q: Tina</u>: Does Stephen King give anything to this? We got a grant for the playground from him.</p> <p><u>A: Jane</u>: Yeah. We do have a Grants Committee, and I haven't been on top of it, but we should start looking into more things. Last week Jeff mentioned something.</p> <p><u>Jeff Packard</u>: You should approach Katahdin Trust because they have a certain amount they have to donate annually.</p> <p><u>Jane</u>: Yeah, Shelly had mentioned that. Aren't they doing a radio ad for us?</p> <p><u>Shelly B.</u>: Yeah they donated a radio ad for us.</p> <p><u>Jenn</u>: Have you been getting this in the news?</p> <p><u>Shelly B.</u>: Yes, articles in Katahdin/Lincoln News, Houlton Pioneer Times, and sending out a press release this week.</p> <p><u>Jenn</u>: I'd reach out to WABI about your match funds.</p> <p><u>Shelly B.</u>: I'll do that</p> <p><u>Jenn</u>: They're eager to jump on a story like that.</p> <p><u>Shelly B.</u>: That could be a good idea for a story next week for Shelley F.</p> <p><u>Susan</u>: I think that press release already went out so when they contact you, Shelly, you can mention it.</p>
<p>FOOD INSECURITY UPDATE</p>	<p><u>Susan Adams</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Patten Community Food Cupboard is now an official Good-Shepherd-certified food pantry. ● Wanted to let Shelly know that Herb can't do deliveries right now
<p>SCHOOL/SUMMER LUNCH DISCUSSION</p>	<p><u>Q: Susan</u>: I got an update that Katahdin Schools will be continuing their meal program throughout the summer. Did you connect with Ben Rush about rack cards?</p> <p><u>A: Shelly B.</u>: I've been in touch with them, yes.</p>

Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

May 21, 2020

	<p><u>Jane</u>: I got an update from Josh McNaughton and asked people to watch their website and Facebook pages for updates on graduation, etc.</p> <p><u>Shelley F.</u>: There are two different Facebook pages, one for Granite St and ones for Stearns, and their website is www.millinocketschools.org.</p> <p><u>Q: Shelley F.</u>: I've been talking about the summer lunch program, and I know that a few weeks ago they had planned to continue it, but we weren't sure. Louis, do you have insight from the town of Millinocket side?</p> <p><u>A: Louis</u>: I haven't heard anything but would advocate for its continuation this year.</p> <p><u>Shelley F.</u>: It's been a great program for over 10 years. We usually do it through the Rec Department.</p> <p><u>Kevin Gregory</u>: I think Deb and Matt have been in touch about this, and she's been in contact with the schools, but I don't know where we landed on it. It's a grant-funded program, so they had to apply again.</p> <p><u>Shelley F.</u>: There are no income requirements, but you must be 18 or younger and eat it on site, so I don't know if that will be changed this year.</p> <p><u>Kevin</u>: I can try to find out.</p> <p><u>Q: Jane</u>: I'm on the Rec Commission and haven't heard anything. Matt, the library was a site, do you have any insights?</p> <p><u>A: Matt</u>: Yes, we want to be a site again if the program is happening, but I don't have details.</p> <p><u>Barbara</u>: I'd be happy to check on those rules about summer lunch needing to be eaten on site, to see if those rules could be relaxed this summer</p> <p><u>Shelley F.</u>: Kevin might be in a good position to do this since he's on the school board</p> <p><u>Kevin</u>: Yeah, I can</p>
HOUSING ASSISTANCE DISCUSSION	<p><u>Q: Diana</u>: Back to the housing/rent assistance gap, does anyone here have any leads? We'll be researching this a bit for next week's meeting.</p> <p><u>A: Jenn</u>: I'd reach out to community health and counseling centers or any Charlotte White centers. You can look these up on www.maine.gov and find stuff. They are well versed in homelessness</p>

Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

May 21, 2020

	<p>prevention. If someone is already homeless, they are eligible for significant financial assistance.</p> <p><u>Shelly B.</u>: When I worked in this field, I did this kind of thing, and it's a huge undertaking, but we could use ideas of where to begin in this community- working with landlords or something?</p> <p><u>Q: Jenn</u>: Do you know about the Maine Housing Authority website?</p> <p><u>A: Shelly B.</u>: Yes</p> <p><u>Jenn</u>: That would list anyone that does subsidized housing</p> <p><u>Shelly B.</u>: We're looking at the CARES Act to see if there might be funding</p> <p><u>Jenn</u>: We can't provide this, but homeless shelters are receiving a lot of funding. Maybe you could reach out to them to see if there are resources available to prevent homelessness in the first place.</p> <p><u>Shelly B.</u>: Bangor has the Hope House, and I've been in touch with them</p> <p><u>Tina</u>: There is also an organization that helps with safe housing in this community- Partners for Peace.</p> <p><u>Barb</u>: [in chat] Maine Housing Authority COVID Rental Relief Program</p> <p><u>Shelly</u>: Thanks, Barb for sharing that resource, I will share it with the person who reached out yesterday.</p> <p><u>Barb</u>: I have to go, but I'll send you more information.</p> <p><u>Susan</u>: I was going to agree with Shelly, to say that we're opening a can of worms if we start getting into paying peoples' rent.</p> <p><u>Diana</u>: Yeah, I don't think we'll ever be paying peoples' rent, but just being able to pivot them to the best resources available.</p> <p><u>Shelly</u>: Yeah, it's a big catch 22 because you have to prove homelessness. I'm passionate about finding creative solutions so we don't have to leave anyone hanging, so I try my best to give resources so they can help themselves. It's very difficult.</p> <p><u>Louis</u>: Try reaching out to General Assistance officers and a local group of landlords, led by Carl Mott.</p> <p><u>Q: Susan</u>: Should we get General Assistance officers on this call to share?</p> <p><u>A: Shelly</u>: We have had Lori Santerre and Angela Cote on.</p> <p><u>Q: Susan</u>: Are landlords a part of the chamber?</p> <p><u>A: Peter</u>: No. AirBNBs, but not landlords.</p>
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Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

May 21, 2020

	<p><u>Susan</u>: I'm ignorant about this stuff, but I'm grateful for Shelly's experience, so any time we can get leniency for people in our situation, we should because a lot of laws aren't designed with rural places in mind.</p>
OTHER UPDATES COMMENTS	<p><u>Jane</u>: Charlie Pray said he had an update he wanted me to mention about the allocation of federal funds to counties and municipalities relating to the pandemic. Details as to how the public will participate has not been worked out. If there is any additional information to share around this, Jane will send it out in an email.</p>
RESOURCES DISCUSSED:	
Partners for Peace	https://www.partnersforpeaceme.org/
COVID-19 Rental Relief Program	https://mainehousing.org/programs-services/rental/rentaldetail/covid-19-rental-relief-program
Carl Mott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leader of a local group of landlords, may have contributions to the discussion about rent relief ● Runs the Central Street Laundromat: (207) 723-8849
Hope House, Bangor	https://pchc.com/locations/hope-house/
Community Health & Counseling Services	https://www.chcs-me.org/
Charlotte White Centers	http://changingmaine.org/listing/charlotte-white-center/
Millinocket Schools	<p>Facebook pages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stearns: https://www.facebook.com/stearnshighschool/ ● Granite St: https://www.facebook.com/granitestreetschool/ <p>Website: http://www.millinocketschools.org/</p>
Eastern Area Agency on Aging	Meals on Wheels: https://www.eaaa.org/meals-on-wheels/
FOLLOW UP ITEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Steering Committee will contact Tom Kenny to get Mobilize Katahdin flyers into Meals on Wheels boxes. ● Shelly B. will reach out to WABI to see if they would do a story on the match funds.

Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

May 21, 2020

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Barbara and Kevin will both try to find out if there can be an exception made to the summer lunch program guidelines this year so that kids don't have to eat meals on site.● The Steering Committee will send out a poll to the Coalition to get input on the future direction of Mobilize Katahdin and the ideal frequency of coalition meetings.● Shelly will reach out to Carl Mott about the landlords group
NEXT MEETING	May 28, 2020 9:00 a.m.