

# Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

April 30, 2020

**ATTENDING:** Shelly Blaisdell, Ashley Cox, Jane Danforth, Matt DeLaney, Mike Elliott, Shelley Farrington, Diana Furukawa, Kevin Gregory, Kai Loundon, Josh McNaughton, Jeff Packard, Charlie Pray, Deb Roundtree, Lora Ryan, Jenn Sheaff, Eben Sypitkowski, and Lucy VanHook  
Note Taker: MaryAlice Mowry

## 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

## UPDATES:

### MOBILIZE KATAHDIN UPDATE

#### Shelly Blaisdell:

- Busy week, steering committee has done lots of work, meet daily
- Formed Communication Sub-Committee for outreach, etc.
- Flyer will be put in the take home packet to school, will be reaching out to principals in all schools in the region
- Press release and story in the paper
- Continue to help folks: gift cards mailed, food and supplies, still have some basic non-food supplies – they are slowly going out
- Doing more deliveries – did delivery in Island Falls this week and assisting “snowbirds” who are returning home
- Few Fuel Assistance request was made (50 gallons at a time)
- Agency assistance is now available, [fill out form for requests online](#)
- 3 new volunteers this week
- Volunteer training continues

#### Jane Danforth:

- Had Northern Penobscot Regional Food Pantry call this week
  - Experiencing food shortages at the pantries
  - Good Shepherd is now distributing some gift cards for individuals to purchase own food or for pantries to shop locally to restock their shelves due to the product shortage

#### Matt Delaney:

- Different sub-committees are set up and the work is going well
- Our Katahdin raised \$7,400 on web portal
- \$3,000 has been dispersed to date

#### Diana Furukawa:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Shared the new Flyer that will be going out in the school to home packs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL UPDATE</b></p>	<p><u>Josh McNaughton:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Next packets in Millinocket are going out on Monday</li> <li>● In regard to distribution of the flyer will be better to put in with meals vs. the school packets because many of the “packets” are delivered digitally</li> <li>● Teachers are working very hard, really engaging in strategies and getting new technologies to families</li> <li>● They are assessing internet services and distributing refurbished pads, etc.</li> <li>● Teachers are developing new materials – focusing on core academics – literacy, writing, mathematics --- will still have activities in other areas but core academics will be focus</li> <li>● Sorting out how to get personal items to families, delivering on buses that deliver food and families will be able to pick up</li> </ul> <p>Q: Jane: What was the last day of school?  A: Josh: June 12<sup>th</sup>  Kevin Gregory: The School Board is looking at ways to recognize seniors  Q: Jane: What is happening with the summer lunch program?  A: Josh: Food will continue through summer, the school has received a grant from Baylor University, through this grant - registered families will be getting food boxes mailed directly from Baylor University, more info later just trying to figure out best way to implement this program  Q: Josh: When will flyers be ready for the schools?  A: Diana/Shelly B: Hoping for tomorrow 5-1-20</p>
<p><b>HIGHER EDUCATION UPDATE</b></p>	<p><u>Deb Roundtree:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All current and summer programming will be done online</li> <li>● <a href="#">The Katahdin Region Higher Education Center Building has a hot spot – people can park in the lot and get access to WIFI</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Maine Community College</a> if offering free training online</li> <li>● CNA instruction will be offered again <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This is a \$1,700 value</li> <li>○ Requirement is GED or HS Diploma and over 18 years old</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Trying to build a workforce for the region</li> <li>● All activities and training are listed online: <a href="https://www.emcc.edu/discover-emcc/emcc/other-centers/katahdin-region-higher-education-center/">https://www.emcc.edu/discover-emcc/emcc/other-centers/katahdin-region-higher-education-center/</a></li> <li>● There are students who have persevered through all of this and will graduate this semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Graduation ceremonies have been pushed back</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 30-40 students will be finishing the program and be ready to enter the workforce</li> </ul> <p><u>Kevin Gregory:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● He is placed at KHEC and works for <a href="#">Eastern Maine Economic Development Corporation</a></li> <li>● Has 60-70 customers at this time, they are either in school or in job search</li> <li>● Struggling with how to get students their clinical practice, not able to place at MRH at this time</li> <li>● Lots of calls to assist with Unemployment Compensation</li> <li>● Starting 5-10-20 people who are self-employed are able to apply for unemployment compensation             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ These individuals will be individuals will be getting a benefit of both state and federal dollars for their assistance</li> <li>○ Mike Elliott is working for individuals on this program</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Q: Diana: We are currently directing people to Kevin, do you have a few tips that we could share with people, or just refer everyone to you?</p> <p>A: Kevin: Check out the website at <a href="#">Maine Career Centers</a>; perseverance is the biggest thing; call center opens at 8 a.m. – if you hear music you are in and just keep holding; if you have been laid off this week-call to apply before Saturday to file your claim</p> <p>Charlie Pray: Please remember everyone is frustrated, even the staff who are working with a person, staff have been inundated and the new hires are not fully trained yet; Patience and persistence are key.</p>
<p><b>REGIONAL BUSINESS UPDATE</b></p>	<p><u>Mike Elliott:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Friday, DOL launching <a href="#">Self Employment Assistance Program (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Big expansion to who is eligible</li> <li>○ Phase 1 begins 5-1-20 (claimants receive 50% of average weekly benefit amount/ about \$172, then gets \$600 in federal assistance- good through July 25)</li> <li>○ Mike is reaching out to potential folks who may be available and get them access to information on how to apply</li> <li>○ Mike will be sending of flyer to regional businesses</li> <li>○ Phase 2 – there will be more guidance</li> <li>○ 3-15-20 is backdate day for payment start date</li> <li>○ If folks have questions, he is a resource to help</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<b>FUNDRAISING UPDATE</b>	<p><u>Lucy VanHook:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Matt updated us on dollars raised</li> <li>● United Way of Eastern Way opened up another fuel assistance fund and Our Katahdin submitted an application to replenish heating assistance funds</li> </ul>
<b>FOOD INSECURITY UPDATE</b>	<p><u>Jeff Packard:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Sherman Food Bank is a Pickup site for EAAA Commodity Boxes</li> <li>● They are willing to put any flyers or information in their boxes</li> </ul>
<b>EAAA UPDATE</b>	<p><u>Jenn Sheaff:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meals on Wheels program increasing rapidly</li> <li>● Restarting Furry Friends Program, pet food distributed with commodity boxes</li> <li>● Continuing to work with people about Medicare and the Medicare Savings Program</li> <li>● Family Caregiving Program is starting follow ups via phone calls, this works better for caregivers than doing zoom calls</li> <li>● Being able to get people who are needing caregiver respite off the waiting list</li> <li>● Remember that people who are referred or call themselves get a full benefits check</li> </ul> <p>Q: Jane: Is there a waitlist for Meals on Wheels program?  A: Jenn: No, new deliveries can start within days; requirements are 60 years or older or person with a disability who is self-isolating, and caregivers who are self-isolating of any age</p> <p>Q: Shelly B: Best way to apply, is it on the website?  A: Jenn: The office is open for phone calls, can apply on website, and if you use the service referral link then EAAA staff can call an individual directly and that may save time</p>
<b>OTHER UPDATES</b>	<p><u>Jane:</u> New person on call. Lora Ryan (Town Manager for Patten) is on call for the first time.</p> <p><u>Diana:</u> Radio ad has started on the Millinocket Radio Station. Thanks to Jim Talbott and Sean DeWitt for getting it on the air for free.</p>
<b>RESOURCES DISCUSSED:</b>	
Deb Roundtree	<p>Maine Community College (free online training)  <a href="https://www.mccs.me.edu/">https://www.mccs.me.edu/</a>  Katahdin Higher Education Center  <a href="https://www.emcc.edu/discover-emcc/emcc/other-centers/katahdin-region-higher-education-center/">https://www.emcc.edu/discover-emcc/emcc/other-centers/katahdin-region-higher-education-center/</a></p>

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KREDB	Mike Elliott, 207-723-1862, <a href="mailto:michael.elliott@katahdinregion.org">michael.elliott@katahdinregion.org</a>
EMDC	Kevin Gregory, for help navigating unemployment, (207) 746-9608 Maine Career Center (especially use the “chat” function) <a href="https://www.mainecareercenter.gov/">https://www.mainecareercenter.gov/</a>
EAAA	Meals on Wheels, referral or self-referral: <a href="https://www.eaaa.org/homepage/contact/">https://www.eaaa.org/homepage/contact/</a>
NEXT MEETING	May 7, 2020 9:00 a.m.