

Mobilize Katahdin Coalition

July 23, 2020

ATTENDANTS: Shelly Blaisdell, Mobilize Katahdin Resource Navigator, Diana Furukawa, Mobilize Katahdin Steering Team, Tina McLeod, Mobilize Katahdin Intern, Megan Marquis, Katahdin Collaborative Community Coordinator, MaryAlice Mowry, Katahdin Collaborative, Megan Day, KVHC, Shelley Farrington, Lincoln News, Bob Peterson, Millinocket Regional Hospital President & CEO, Katie Mackin, Millinocket Regional Hospital Marketing Coordinator, Barbara Hayslett, District Director for Congressman Jared Golden, Kai Loundon, Good Shepherd Food Bank Community Resource Representative, Louie Pelletier, Town of Millinocket Council Member, Charlie Pray, Town of Millinocket Council Member, Jeff Packard, UVEC Food Pantry, Susan Adams, Elliottsville Foundation Recreation Manager, Jennifer Sheaff, Eastern Area Agency on Aging Community Outreach & Program Manager

NOTETAKER: Tina McLeod

**MOBILIZE KATAHDIN
UPDATES:**

Shelly Blaisdell:

- MK has received a few calls for food, with volunteers delivering from Ellis' Market as well as local food pantries who are donating food.
- MK received a \$1000.00 grant from United Way for heating fuel assistance which is on account at I Care Ministries and will be used to meet the requests for fuel as they come in.
- We have seen an increase in requests from the Sherman/Patten area.
- Steering team is continuing to work on setting up and creating protocols and procedures for the new transportation services that will be offered soon. MK was created from a grant for transportation, so this will happen.
- More volunteer drivers are needed and recruitment will continue to take place. Once a solid volunteer base of drivers is established, training and safety protocols will be put in place to ensure the safety of both drivers and riders.
- MK will collaborate with Penquis Transportation and utilize a grant received by the Town of Millinocket to reimburse Penquis for rides that Tri Town residents take with Penquis through their General Public Transportation Program. Riders need to know they can get rides for free with this program, so MK hopes to get the word out to Tri Town area residents of this service available to them.

Financial Updates (given by Shelly Blaisdell in Nancy Dewitt's absence):

- Through the Our Katahdin public website forum \$8,130 has been raised; \$7,200 has been received on the private fundraiser page. \$10,386.46 has been dispersed leaving \$5,943.54 available. A \$1,000 grant was received from Unite Way for heating fuel funds.

Mask Up for ME:

- This is a collaboration MK is working on with Millinocket Regional Hospital, Thrive Penobscot and Mobilize Katahdin for a mask initiative to offer free masks to Katahdin region residents.
- Bangor received a grant through the State of Maine already but there is a round two for this grant. It needs to be applied for by municipalities.
- Grant money our municipalities received would be used to purchase masks and make them available for free to all residents of the Katahdin region.
- Jane Danforth will send an email to town of Millinocket council members about this.
- Charlie Pray said he is aware of the program, but not familiar with it. He has made some phone calls and left messages for information.
- Megan Day requested more information on the Mask Up for ME initiative and wants to be involved.
- MK is currently working on ways to best disperse the masks.
- The city of Bar Harbor is doing it by placing mailboxes around town at frequented businesses. If anyone has suggestions of creative ways to disburse the masks, please share!

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<p>MILLINOCKET MEMORIAL LIBRARY UPDATE:</p>	<p><u>Diana Furukawa:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The library is likely to open in some capacity the first or second week in August • The construction at 230 Penobscot Ave has been delayed; hope to be complete and available to use in the Fall. • Mobilize Katahdin may operate out of the library or stay remote
<p>GENERAL UPDATES:</p>	<p><u>MaryAlice Mowry:</u> MaryAlice Mowry introduced Katahdin Collaborative new hire Megan Marquis. Megan is the new Katahdin Collaborative Community Coordinator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Megan said she is very happy to be here and loves the Katahdin region. She is excited to be working to revitalize these communities • Diana Furukawa welcomed Megan and says she will be a big resource for the Katahdin region • Shelly asked if anyone knows of any rentals, Megan is looking to rent locally and would appreciate any referrals or suggestions.
<p>EASTERN AREA AGENCY ON AGING UPDATE:</p>	<p><u>Jennifer Sheaff:</u> EAAA continues to collaborate with Mobilize Katahdin for grocery and food assistance they offer, reimbursing them \$20 for each event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAAA has rides available for medical related events only under their guidelines. Jenn will send Shelly Blaisdell the information • Meals on Wheels continues to be going strong in the 4 counties that EAAA serves • USDA Farm to Family food boxes are available in Millinocket and Lincoln for the next 4 weeks on Fridays. Dixie Shaw with Catholic Charities will be in Millinocket and Lincoln on Friday August 31 at the Hannaford parking lot. Boxes available to everyone • Wellness classes are not available for in person sessions at this time. They are working on a virtual platform as that will open up more opportunities for broader coverage and participation • There is an EAAA wellness group on Facebook for guided meditation, yoga, cardio/strength, stretching courses. These are great opportunities for people to get some exercise in the comfort of their own homes. The sessions are recorded to be watched at a later time • At the end of August there will be a caregiver savvy training class for loved ones dealing with dementia and Alzheimer's. This is a 12-hour course divided up into 2-hour classes over 6 weeks: Perception of Dealing with Alzheimer's, Caregiver Attitude & Caregiver Self-Care • Support groups are via zoom, creating a broader location. This is a great way for people to connect with others in the same situation • Another organization that EAAA has partnered with is the Christine B. Foundation which is a cancer serving foundation. They have set up at Cancer Care of Maine spot where boxes of food can be picked up. It works out great if patients from the Katahdin region who are going to Cancer Care for treatment because they can stop by the Christine B site and get a free box of food. This does not interfere with MK's service. Just another free food opportunity for cancer patients or a household with a person undergoing current active treatment.
<p>FOOD/FOOD PANTRY UPDATES:</p>	<p><u>Kai Loundon:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pineland Farms in Aroostook County donated 80,000 boxes of perishable food containing milk, cheese and potatoes. Good Shepherd took 20,000 boxes to give away to their agencies • The remaining went to Catholic Charities who will do a public mass distribution in different locations around the State for CFAP: Corona Virus Food Assistant Program. USDA is paying farmers for product they would normally sell to institutions or the market. The distributors are boxing it up and Good Shepherd helping distribute them • Maine boxes contain potatoes, onions, carrots, cucumbers, lettuce, tomatoes, oranges and apples; about 25 pounds of food. These boxes help people to eat healthier and help farmers stay afloat

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Monday they switched over to their normal fee structure for food bank product again. It's been a busy month with lots of case lot product going out. <p><u>Jeff Packard:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> His food pantry is doing well and maintaining 70-72 families Aroostook Area Agency on Aging got mini awards through the Cares Act \$500-\$2000 for community-based organizations in Aroostook County serving older Mainers and their caregivers in a program that's at risk of closing or struggle because of Covid.
<p>MILLINOCKET REGIONAL HOSPITAL UPDATE:</p>	<p><u>Bob Peterson:</u> Q: Charlie Pray asked if MRH had applied to be one of the COVID-19 testing sites because of Baxter Park and the National Monument? A: Bob replied when the Swab & Go funds became available, MRH was already up and running in East Millinocket so there was no reason to get involved and stated MRH should already be on the list of approved sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a second round of Swab & Go funds available that MRH has applied for. If received, those dollars will go to do testing at MRH. The turn-around time for test result will be quicker; testing will be less expensive. This gives patients the information faster so they can do contact tracing and cut down on future exposer. MRH is doing good; no positive cases in a while They are ready for positive cases. They have PPE for staff <p>Q: Shelly Blaisdell asked about timing for test result A: Bob stated that it's 24-48 hours for the test result to come in. If we could test locally it could be the same day results, but in order for this to happen, need availability of equipment. MRH was going to order that possibly today.</p> <p>Q: Susan Adams would like information on testing at KVHC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelly will email Megan Day about KVHC testing
<p>STATE OF MAINE UPDATES:</p>	<p><u>Barbara Hayslett:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Great American Outdoors Act passed in the House of Representatives. This will help deal with back log at our National parks. This permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation fund, which helps gets families outside, which is very important during the pandemic The Gold Star Family Act is moving forward. This makes National parks free for Gold Star Families Covid-19 relief was introduced this week for loggers and affiliated trucking industries. They need additional help A Covid-19 relief packet is continuing to move forward. Not sure what is going to happen with that yet. People can reach out to the office if they want to weigh in on that There was an Op Ed in Newsweek from two veterans saying how important the outdoors is for healing; very heartfelt. Barb put the link to that in the chat.
<p>FOLLOW UP/ACTION ITEMS:</p>	<p><u>Shelly Blaisdell:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This MK Coalition meeting is changing to once a month Starting August 6th, it will be the first Thursday of each month Please reach out between meetings if needed
<p>NEXT MEETING:</p>	<p>August 6, 2020 9:00 a.m.</p>