

# Mobilize Katahdin Coalition

October 1, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

**ATTENDANTS:** Jane Danforth, Thrive Penobscot Director of Grants & Community Wellness; Matt Delaney, Millinocket Memorial Library Director; Tina McLeod, Mobilize Katahdin; Megan Marquis, Katahdin Collaborative Community Coordinator; Jennifer Sheaff, Eastern Area Agency on Aging Community Outreach & Program Manager; Katie Mackin, Millinocket Regional Hospital Marketing Coordinator; Susan Adams, Ellitsville Foundation Recreation Manager; Tom Malcolm, Millinocket Fire Department Fire Chief; Jeff Packard, UVEC Food Pantry; Kevin Gregory, Eastern Maine Development Corporation Peer Support Specialist; Angela Cote, Town of East Millinocket Administrative Assistant, Dr. Ron Blum, Physician PVHC, Peter Jamieson, Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce Director; Meg Crowder, Good Shepherd Food Bank, Marketing and Communications Coordinator; Louis Pelletier, Town of Millinocket Councilmen, Lisa Sturgeon, Sutherland Weston Senior Account Strategist; Lucy Van Hook, Our Katahdin Director of Community Development

**Minutes:** Shelly Blaisdell

## **MASK UP FOR ME CAMPAIGN UPDATE:**

### **Jane Danforth:**

- 18 Katahdin region “influencers” have committed to share a photo of themselves masked to promote the campaign. The goal was to have 20-25 people participate so we are doing well; trying to reach all of the Katahdin region; suggestions of additional influencers to participate is encouraged.
- Lisa suggested letting her know about events taking place in the region because they make great active posts and keep the campaign in the forefront of people’s minds. A new post to let people know they can request masks will be posted in the very near future.
- Tom said we still have plenty of masks to give away. He submitted his final order for masks with the remaining funds. The Millinocket Library still has plenty of masks left to give away and do not need more.
- Angela Cote said the Town of East Millinocket can use more masks as they have given away all of their supply. Tom reminded the group that signage needs to accompany the masks and be posted.
- Tom informed the group that the Maine CDC monitors every COVID-19 related Facebook post so each location that is distributing masks need to be wearing masks and following CDC guidelines.
- Tom has given away all of the wall mount hand sanitizers; there are plenty of free-standing automatic units left to give away. Tom said the foggers/sprayers are on back order and he is currently unable to get them. He adjusted his order to try and get what he can for foggers and hopes they are available before the end of the month when the campaign funding ends.
- Lisa informed the group that fliers can be downloaded and printed individually from the Mobilize Katahdin website at [www.mobilizekatahdin.org/maskupforme](http://www.mobilizekatahdin.org/maskupforme) Jane will continue printing posters and Tom will be giving each agency that receives a hand sanitizer unit and/or masks vinyl clings to post.
- Tom and Lisa had a brief discussion about invoicing, budgets/bills that need to be paid from grant funds
- Tina informed the group that Studio One owner Sandy Hartley agreed to take a masked photo for the campaign; Tom asked if anyone from Baxter State Park or Katahdin Woods & Waters would agree to be part of the campaign? Susan Adams will follow up with these agencies to see if someone from each business would be willing to share a photo and quote; she will report back to the group.
- Peter Jamieson offered to hand out free masks at the KACC community stimulus event at the Medway Recreation Area Saturday October 3, 2020. He will encourage mask wearing to everyone that attends.

## **MOBILIZE KATAHDIN UPDATES:**

### **Financial Updates – Matt Delaney:**

- Raised to Date: \$8,140.00 through the public community donation site on Our Katahdin’s page
- \$7,200.00 has been raised on the private side of the Our Katahdin site
- Grant through United Way (for heating fuel assistance): \$1,000.00
- Dispersed to Date: \$10,886.00
- Balance Available: \$5,453.00

### **Assistance Requests – Tina McLeod:**

- We have received numerous calls for food pick up and deliveries
- Received approximately 5 calls recently for heating fuel assistance. We are receiving calls for transportation but have not started the Mobilize Katahdin transportation services so we continue to refer requests to Penquis Transportation and help folks set up rides.

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	<p>Calls have come in for information on Meals on Wheels so EAAA contact information was shared; have also helped folks with the monthly food box sign up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Susan Adams asked who we refer folks in Patten to for rides since Penquis Transportation does not cover that area? She suggested that someone inform Tina on resources in the Patten area so she correctly refers those residents for transportation. Jenn Sheaff shared information about the Aroostook Area Agency on Aging who covers the Patten area and beyond, and offered to speak with Tina privately on transportation resources available for that part of the Katahdin region. Jenn also informed that the Elizabeth West Transportation Program has one van that services the greater Bangor area, and although it doesn't go that far North, it has mileage reimbursement for medical appointments only. Even though it does not provide rides, it can bridge the gap for folks who need help paying for a private ride; this program is meant for people who do not qualify for Penquis Transportation services. She suggested Tina go on their site and/or inquire with them directly about it.</li> <li>● Tom Malcolm asked why Penquis doesn't cover Patten since they are in Penobscot county? Jenn said she is unsure why, but Penquis excludes Patten from their services. She believes it is because Patten is covered under Aroostook County services. Jane offered to host a group call with Penquis to receive more information on this.</li> <li>● Angela Cote informed the group that starting November 1, 2020, the Public Utilities Commission has lifted their moratorium on utility disconnections. We may see an increase in requests for help paying for utility bills. People will be given 30 days to have their bills caught up and then they will be shut off. The myth of not being able to disconnect services in the winter months is just that, a myth and people can have their utilities disconnected in Winter.</li> <li>● Susan Adams asked if Mobilize Katahdin could apply for a Cares Act mini awards grant for up to \$2,500 to help fund people to drive instead of utilizing strictly volunteer drivers in order to get the transportation program up and running and offer a salary. Jane informed that we are working on additional funding for our volunteer transportation program and there are a lot of reasons why the Mobilize Katahdin transportation program is behind such as lack of volunteers feeling comfortable safely transporting others in their personal vehicles, etc.</li> <li>● Jeff Packard shared information about an Irving Oil service for families needing help paying for gas to transport family members for medical care to EMMC. Jane also received that information and shared it with the Resource Navigator at MK as a resource we can offer to residents.</li> <li>● Jenn Sheaff said there are many resources through individual agencies around disease processes and individuals needing transportation for medical appointments such as cancer care, etc; there are pots of money available for specific medical needs and/or groups struggling.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EASTERN AREA AGENCY ON AGING UPDATES:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Jennifer Sheaff:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● EAAA extended their grocery assistance agreement with Mobilize Katahdin for an additional 4 months; the new MOU has been signed and will establish the extension of this valuable program which allows EAAA to reimburse MK \$20.00 for each grocery assistance service we offer to qualifying individuals.</li> <li>● EAAA is very pleased with the success of this partnership; this is the first time Jenn has worked with such a program, and she has learned a lot from the experience and is pleased with all the work done!</li> <li>● EAAA has a need for volunteers to help with their Meals on Wheels program. They have many opportunities for volunteers in areas such as driving, packing, phone calls, data entry, etc. They also have other departments that could use help so if you know anyone looking for volunteer opportunities such as homeschoolers, someone needing community service hours, please refer.</li> <li>● The Meals on Wheels program has tripled this past month to over 25,000 meals per month. This helps people to stay home and stay safe as well as helping meal insecure folks.</li> <li>● They are continuing with their agency support groups online; numbers are down so please refer people as this is a peer to peer support service now available to anyone due to it being virtually.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are funds available to pay for respite care through their Family Care Program. This is for those caring for loved ones with Alzheimer’s disease, dementia or other related disorders. There is counseling and resources for people who can’t get out due to caring for their loved ones.</li> <li>• EAAA resource specialists are very skilled at referring resources to other agencies and to collaborate in order to offer the best services available; call anytime for information and resources to best help those in need and brainstorm ways to help people.</li> <li>• Medicare open enrollment is starting soon so please refer people to an EAAA resource specialist who can review their current plan, especially people experiencing high medication costs. Identifying ways to lower medication costs in order to give someone more money for food or other needs. Jenn will share with MK ways to identify other needs when speaking to someone and work out ways to best help them entirely, not just with one specific need.</li> <li>• Jane asked if the need for volunteers is on their social media pages and if so, can we share it on our FB page? Jenn encouraged people to share the need for volunteers with anyone.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EASTERN MAINE DEVELOPMENT CORP.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Kevin Gregory:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solidarity Harvest food program is gearing up for their annual distribution held at KRHEC in East Millinocket. They have 200 boxes arriving; they need to coordinate a plan to safely distribute them with social distancing guidelines just before Thanksgiving. They hope to utilize Mobilize Katahdin volunteers to deliver some to limit the number of people congregating in large groups.</li> <li>• If anyone knows of someone in need of receiving a food box, let him know. They hope to rent trucks to assemble the baskets and also help with the distribution to keep groups small.</li> <li>• Susan Adams asked for an explanation of this program. Kevin said it is a program through food and medicine in Brewer where food is donated to laid off workers, people unemployed and down on their luck. It is called Solidarity Harvest because the food is given in solidarity, not charity. This group raises all of the money themselves, approximately \$60,000, to purchase the food baskets. This is a Thanksgiving meal meant to feed 8-10 people.</li> <li>• He got involved with this program when the paper mills shut down and so many people became unemployed. This is their 18<sup>th</sup> year being involved in this program; they plan to give out 1,600 food baskets statewide and donate approximately 200 food boxes in the Katahdin region.</li> <li>• They take names of people in need of receiving a box and they could have the food cupboard distribute them on behalf of the group, but they would not just donate boxes to the food pantries. Susan requested boxes at the Patten/Sherman area food pantries.</li> <li>• Each box contains: 10 lbs. of potatoes, 5 lbs. of squash, onions, carrots, garlic, butter, cider, stuffing, turkey, turnip, beets, recipes of Thanksgiving items, etc.</li> <li>• Susan Adams offered to arrange pickup of the boxes from the organization in the East Millinocket area.</li> <li>• Kevin requested names of those in need of receiving a food box be sent to him by November 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>• Tina asked if these boxes could be divided up or redistributed for smaller households so food doesn’t go to waste and/or so special requests like a chicken instead of a turkey could be accommodated? Kevin said he will check on this as the boxes are pre-assembled in Brewer and then shipped to each location.</li> <li>• It is uncertain at this time whether an actual turkey will be donated or if a \$10.00 gift card will be included to purchase their own turkey; it will be determined as the date gets closer.</li> <li>• Actual names of those receiving the food boxes is needed, so they can make sure each request is met.</li> <li>• A volunteer can pick up for a group of boxes going to one location, he just needs the name of who will pick up. Email Kevin with names of those who could use a box of food for Thanksgiving.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NEXT MEETING:</b></p>	<p>November 5, 2020 9:00 a.m.</p>