



Greater Sullivan County
Public Health Network

2019-20

ANNUAL REPORT

About the Region

The Greater Sullivan County Public Health Region is one of 13 New Hampshire public health regions. This region includes the following 15 rural towns and one city with a combined population of approximately 47,000 people: Acworth, Charlestown, Claremont, Cornish, Croydon, Goshen, Langdon, Lempster, Newport, Springfield, Sunapee, and Unity in Sullivan County and Newbury, New London, Sutton, and Wilmot in Merrimack County. There are two community hospitals located in the region: Valley Regional Hospital on the western edge of the region in Claremont and New London Hospital in the eastern part of the region. The priority updates in this report include initiatives led by the Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) and community partners.



2019–20 Public Health Priority Updates

Many other projects, programs, and initiatives were launched that are not listed in this report. Contact us to learn more!

Public Health Advisory Council

Chair: Catherine Bardier, New London Hospital

The Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) consists of community leaders representing multiple sectors and towns/cities throughout the Public Health Region. In early 2019, the PHAC welcomed a new chair, Catherine Bardier, and reviewed our regional priorities based on the most recent Community Health Needs Assessments and newly available data for our region. We always welcome new partners to the table. We meet on the first Wednesday of each even month from 9:00-11:00 AM in the Buckley Conference Room at Valley Regional Hospital but switched to meeting virtually in Spring of 2020 when COVID-19 hit the region.



GSC Public Health Advisory Council Vision:

To foster a community that supports healthy lives, health equity, and wellbeing for people of all ages.

Community Partners Meeting

Contact: gscphn@hitchcock.org

The Community Partners Meeting (CPM) is hosted in partnership with the Greater Sullivan County Public Health Network, Southwestern Community Services, and Service Link. The CPM aims to connect community-based organizations in a roundtable discussion and resource sharing. The Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) utilizes the CPM to disperse information throughout the community on topics that include: community dental offering, Hepatitis clinics, housing and homelessness, transportation, and healthy eating. The CPM is best equipped to take information shared at the meeting and provide the populations that the organization serves with the most up-to-date information about emerging trends and topics regarding all types of health and wellness. The group meets on a monthly basis on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 12:00-1:30 PM in either Claremont or Newport or virtually via Zoom.

Substance Misuse Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, & Recovery

Contacts: Jacqui Baker & Lauren Chambers - gscphn@hitchcock.org

Greater Sullivan County 360 (GSC360) is a group of community members and professionals working together to reduce harms from alcohol and other drugs through education, policies, practices and programs related to substance misuse prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery. GSC360 serves as the PHAC's Substance Misuse workgroup. Due to an increase in youth use of vaping devices in recent years, GSC360 invested resources in decreasing this trend. Providing information is just one part of changing perceptions about how harmful drug use can be and increasing knowledge about the harmfulness of a drug is shown to decrease drug use. In fiscal year 2020, GSC360 held 9 workshops providing information about vaping in which there were 196 attendees, including 105 middle school youth. GSC360 shared information about vaping on the radio twice with an overall reach of 22,000 in addition to sharing 23 social media posts on the Greater Sullivan County Public Health Network Facebook page with a reach of 714 people. In April 2020, West Central Behavioral Health began administering Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) services at 251 Elm St. Claremont, NH providing a much needed service in Sullivan County.

Emergency Preparedness

Contact: Kirsten Vigneault - gscphn@hitchcock.org

This past year has been very busy for our public health emergency preparedness (PHEP) workgroup. The summer of 2019 - early 2020 the team worked to provide Hepatitis A vaccines with help from our regional partners in response to the state's declared Public Health Incident. Additionally, in September, 2019 the region collaborated with more than nine partners to hold a closed point of dispensing emergency drill that helped to advance readiness and capacity across the region in the event we needed to get medications/ vaccine to the people quickly. The spring and summer of 2020 were spent responding to COVID-19 through the setup of our Alternative Care Site, information sharing, and planning for COVID-19 vaccines among many other planning efforts. We are grateful for our PHEP partners and their dedication to the wellbeing of our communities.

Healthy Families

TLC Family Resource Center

Contact: Stephanie Slayton- stephanie@tlcfamilyrc.org

Teach Loving Connections Family Resource Center staff continue to be working on reducing unplanned teen pregnancy through the SHINE program (Sexual Health Information Network and Education). A big project this past year was getting the SHINE Mobile, a gift through a grant from the NH Charitable Foundation, up and on the road. The idea of the SHINE Mobile is to take the message of the importance of conversation and information about sexual health throughout the communities we serve. The SHINE mobile is equipped with information that can be distributed throughout the county. It can be seen at the schools where we teach the program as well as community events like the Farmer's Markets and health fairs. The Healthy Families group also continues to provide free condoms to participating organizations and agencies.

Lead Task Force

Contact: gscphn@hitchcock.org

The public health network received two grants provided by the Department of Health and Human Services and supported by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to do planning for the reduction of lead hazard in child care centers in Claremont. The first grant was aimed at outreach to child care centers to educate early care providers on the affects of lead poisoning in children. This grant also worked to add lead education into the curriculum of the Sugar River Community College. The second grant which was awarded Spring of 2020 aims to test the water at 8 child care centers in Claremont and also provide Renovate, Repair, Paint (RRP) training to 20 individuals in the spring of 2021. These grants are working in partnership with Southwestern Community Services and the City of Claremont.

Health & Wellness

Contact: Catherine Bardier - Catherine.Bardier@newlondonhospital.org

The Wellness Connection Coalition (WCC) serves as the PHAC's Health & Wellness workgroup. New London Hospital is the backbone organization for the Wellness Connection. The PHAC further supports the mission and partner collaboration goals of the WCC. The Coalition strives to act as a convener for partner organizations with a focus on healthy eating, active living, stress reduction and general well-being of the community.

The continued expansion of the Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program (FVRx) is a highlight for 2019/2020. The program is being offered with two educational programs (12-week Diabetes Prevention Program and 8-week Healthy Weight and Wellness Series) and with food insecure patients at Newport Health Center. Individuals receive a \$15 per week FVRx and families receive \$30.00 FVRx weekly to spend on fresh fruits and vegetables at seven retail partner locations (three farm stores, two farmers markets and two Demoulas Market Basket locations during the winter, spring and fall months)

Access to Care

Mental Health

Contact: Cynthia Twombly - ctwombly@wcbh.org

West Central Behavioral Health's (WCBH) Open Access model has been in place since June of 2017. WCBH has met its overall goals and has reduced and eliminated all its wait lists as of the end of 2017. From July 2019 to June 2020, 537 clients utilized Open Access and initiated their treatment with West Central Behavioral Health.



Wait lists

537

Clients who utilized Open Access

Region 1 Integrated Delivery Network

Contact: Jessica Powell - Jessica.J.Powell@hitchcock.org

The Integrated Delivery Network (IDN) serves as the PHAC's mental health priority area. The Region 1 IDN Aligns the Greater Sullivan County workgroup in DSRIP 1115 Waiver funded projects targeting Medicaid recipients focused on Behavioral Health Integration, Expansion of Substance Use Disorder Services and Enhanced Care Coordination. The IDN strives to act as a connection for new organization collaboration in program implementation and to leverage the inter-organization relationships that are successfully delivering care across the region today. Additionally, in 2020 the IDN in partnership with the PHAC, county governance, and local partners has led Greater Sullivan Strong, a community coalition geared towards COVID-19 response in Sullivan County.

COVID-19 Pandemic

When the COVID-19 global pandemic touched our region and we started to see the financial and resource struggles facing many of our partners and their clients, the Greater Sullivan Strong (GSS) Coalition and GSS Community COVID-19 Relief Fund was started.



Learn more about the Public Health Advisory Council and our partners by visiting www.GSCPHN.org

Greater Sullivan Strong By The Numbers



32

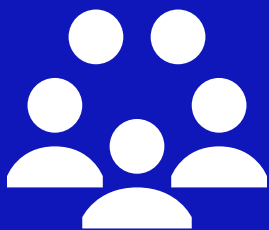
**Number of non-profit
requests granted**

Nearly \$100,000 have been granted to non-profits in Greater Sullivan County to support families and individuals experiencing difficulties during the pandemic through the Relief Fund



50%
Increase

A local Community Dental Center was able to increase both capacity and revenue by 50% due to dollars granted through the Community Relief Fund



82
Clients

Served with Funds from the Community Relief Fund by providing new, updated technology to run hybrid (online + in-person) recovery support groups more effectively



50%
**of Greater Sullivan
County**

Has been served with the Community Relief Fund. We are still looking to serve the remaining 50% of the region

Greater Sullivan County Public Health Region

Community Health Priorities 2019-2020



Substance Misuse Prevention and Reduction

Contacts: Jacqui Baker & Lauren Chambers - gscphn@hitchcock.org



Emergency Preparedness

Contact: Kirsten Vigneault- gscphn@hitchcock.org



Strengthening Families

Contact: Stephanie Slayton - Stephanie@tlcfamilyrc.org



Access to Care

Contacts: Mental Health- ctwombly@wcbh.org
Dental Health- cdcc@comcast.net
Integrated Delivery Network-
Jessica.J.Leandri@hitchcock.org



Health and Wellness

Contact: Catherine Bardier- Catherine.Bardier@newlondonhospital.org



Housing

Contact: Beth Daniels- bdaniels@scshelps.org



Transportation

Contact: Beth Daniels- bdaniels@scshelps.org

"The Greater Sullivan County Public Health Council is comprised of passionate local partner organizations with a common goal of identifying and positively impacting the health priorities of our community. There is an impressive level of knowledge, commitment and collaboration that happens within the Public Health Advisory Council. I am honored to be a member of such a dedicated team."

Catherine Bardier, M.S.

Vice President, Population Health & Wellness, New London Hospital
Chair, Greater Sullivan County Public Health Advisory Council



Greater Sullivan County
Public Health Network

in partnership with



Dartmouth-Hitchcock

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the members of the GSC Public Health Advisory Council and all of our community partners that dedicate their time and effort to improving public health in our region.

The Public Health Advisory Council member agencies include, but are not limited to:

Valley Regional Hospital, New London Hospital, the City of Claremont, Community Dental Care of Claremont, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Claremont Lead Action Task Force, Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice, SAU 43, SAU 6, Summercrest Senior Living Community, Southwestern Community Services, Sullivan County, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, West Central Behavioral Health, TLC Family Resource Center, the Center for Recovery Resources, Newport Fire Department, River Valley Community College, Groups Recover Together, Better Life Partners, HIV/HCV Resource Center, Keady Family Practice, Region I Integrated Delivery Network, Service Link, Turning Points Network, New Futures, Newport Police Department, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center, Upper Valley Public Health Council, Larry Flint-Senior Advocate and others.

Hilary Schuler

Public Health Advisory Council
Lead

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www.GSCPHN.org

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