

All important work requires commitment, dedication and patience.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (PHAC)



The primary work of the PHAC is to set regional health priorities, provide guidance for public health activities, and ensure coordination of health improvement efforts. This year, supported by Greater Derry Community Health Services (CHS) the PHAC extended its network participation by including PHAC members in the SMP/COC Leadership Team meetings in order to help them gain a better understanding of the work. In addition, the PHAC and CHS took on the Lead role in the Health Disparities Scope of Work, with a primary focus of connecting vulnerable individuals with what they need. The PHAC expanded its partnerships for this work to include The Upper Room and Isaiah 58 NH. See below.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION/ CONTINUUM OF CARE (SMP/COC)



The mission of the SMP/COC Scope of Work is to collaborate with partner agencies to identify public health priorities related to substance misuse across the ages and to implement solutions that improve health and safety in network communities through an ongoing process of outreach, engagement, and information sharing by engaging the six core sectors of the community, raising awareness, building capacity, leveraging partnerships and resources while working to change cultural norms. This year, activities have included increasing awareness of children's mental health and suicide prevention, supporting business compliance around sales of tobacco products to minors, bystander rescue using Naloxone and disseminating prevention information and resources throughout the region.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (PHEP)



The PHEP team continuously works to build strong relationships with first responders, municipalities, school districts, community healthcare providers, volunteers and other sectors across the region and throughout NH in order to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of residents in the South Central region. In this year, PHEP completed the regional After Action Report (AAR) on the COVID emergency, conducted an Emergency Shelter Operations training with the American Red Cross, participated in the Manchester Airport Triennial Exercise with Parkland, coordinated COVID bivalent booster clinics in the region, Distributed over 4,000 COVID test kits throughout the region and continued its oversight in activations, trainings, events and recognition for the many services provided by the South Central NH Medical Reserve Corps volunteers throughout the year.

Health Disparities/Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)



Health disparities exist when there are avoidable and unfair differences in access to critical services. They primarily impact those who have experienced greater social or economic obstacles based on their race, ethnicity, education, literacy, income level, sexual orientation or disability. To fulfill its obligation to address health disparities across the continuum and address the associated SDOH, the PHAC and CHS expanded its team to include CHS Case Managers, Isaiah 58 NH and The Upper Room, a Family Resource center to support coordination and core case management services, homeless prevention interventions and family resource center case management services and supports. From October until end of April 2023, the combined efforts of partners have connected more than 129 individuals to over 301 services that include support in accessing public assistance programs when eligible including Medicaid, SNAP, Fuel Assistance, WIC, electrical assistance, housing support including shelters and housing solutions, YMCA crisis services, free and reduced lunch programs, safety in the home, the emotional wellbeing of children, VA services and more.

THE SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK IS SPONSORED BY:

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