



Working together to reduce youth substance use and abuse by aligning existing resources, facilitating education, and supporting families, schools and communities.

94 River St., Rumford ME 04276 • (207) 364-7408
rvhccburke@ghi.net • www.rivervalleyrising.org

RVR June 13th Meeting Minutes

Introduction: Gary Dolloff, Justin Thacker, Pam Doyen, Denise Cross, Barb Radmore, Lorri Brown, Sabrina LoPizzo, Miki Payton, Allie Burke

There are many groups in the area working on Maine Public Health and community improvement. I thought I would break some of them down and how RVR is connected to them.

Western Maine District Coordinating Council- DCC

The DCC is part of the Maine Public Health Improvement Plan. Funded by the State (Funds for Healthy ME) through the CDC and DCC focuses on District #3 (Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford). Goal is to address Substance Use Disorder, Mental Health, & Obesity. RVR is a member.

Oxford County Wellness Collaborative- OCWC

A few years ago Oxford County ranked the least healthy county in the State of ME. This group focus is to be the healthiest county in ME by looking at the root causes of Isolation, Obesity and Substance Use Disorder. There are 5 sub-committees of the OCWC and RVR is not a steering committee member, but also serves on the Community Safety Group and the Behavioral Health Group.

Western Maine Addiction Recovery Initiative – WMARI

This group serves Oxford County and is a community based coalition dedicated to reducing the demand of heroin in Western Maine through the use of education, recovery, prevention, intervention and treatment along with legislative acts, legal resources, and proactive law enforcement. RVR is a member

Bethel Area Non Profit Collaborative- BANC

The Bethel Area Nonprofit Collaborative is a group of nonprofits with a wide variety of missions in the Bethel, Maine region committed to working together to improve the community. RVR is a member

Heathy Communities Coalition- HCC

Is similar to RVHCC in which the coalition is working to improve health and wellness of Franklin County. RVR is working with HCC under the UNE Substance Abuse Preventative Services grant.



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Updates

- **UNE & Healthy Communities Coalition Preventive Services**

Lorri and Sabrina are from HCC and they spoke to us about the UNE Substance Abuse Prevention Service grant that will cover Northern Oxford County till September. They have funding to address prevention and want to help RVR build on what we are already doing in this area.

They can do outreach at events, work with community partners, & help reach parents through dissemination of materials.

RVR and HCC will also work together to offer more RBS training for retailers and off premise retailers.

List of events that we came up with but please let us know if there are other events in the area: 4th of July Parade, Ole Home Day in Andover, Cultural of Compassion, anything else??

One idea is to have a float for the old home day in which the youth from the WFKA or GRCC could design.

HCC also has a Youth Empowerment Grant

They are looking to work with youth in the Northern Oxford County. The grant is partnered with MYAN (Maine Youth Action Network) and it is to help youth with leadership skills, advocacy skills, policies changes, and resources. HCC is looking to work with youth in our area and partner with RVR to make it happen.

HCC is starting a new youth group called Youth Wellness in the Franklin County. They don't know yet how well it will go. Focus will be to bring youth together for fun activities but also discuss underlying themes like prevention, ATOD, and other issues.

HCC might be able to partner with GRCC or the WFKA summer program to recruit youth.

- **Marijuana Env't Scan of our area w/ Adults & Youth**

We didn't have a lot of time to discuss this but Rumford Residents talked about getting phone calls about the MJ ordinance and to say NO. As many of you know the ordinance passed yesterday by a very narrow vote in favor to prohibit growing, harvesting, cultivating, and selling recreational MJ in Rumford. Town residents also voted to have more regulation over Medical MJ and that caretakers can't be within 750ft of public areas like churches, schools and youth centers.



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- **Media Messaging- What's working and what isn't working**

We didn't have time to discuss this

- **Mid-Year in Atlanta**

I will be attending the Mid-Year CADCA training in Atlanta, GA. We have funding to provide opportunities for other coalition members to join us. Dates are July 23rd-28th.

Gary Dolloff from GRCC spoke about how he would like to have activities for older youth who have nothing to do here. He talked about the pool that Black Mountain of Maine used to have and how it provided a place for kids to go to in the summer time. He said the pool has a crack and it would cost \$30,000 to fix it. He would like to provide activities like white water rafting, games, and things to keep them busy and away from drugs. He is sad about what he is seeing and hearing about many of his athletes that have moved onto unhealthy lifestyles. He walked in the "Walk for Recovery" and feels that more people in this community need to be aware of what is happening and he feels like this is an opportunity for him to get out there and help. He is also thinking of a doing a documentary to show people what is happening to our youth in our area.

Next Meeting:

RVR coalition agreed to meet in July. Date will be JULY 11th at 12:00pm

We will meet in our new office on 49 Congress Street. More info to come!

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to RVR, and to making our community healthy and safe for our youth!