

Public Health and Transportation (PHiT)

Greater Portland Council of Governments
68 Marginal Way, Portland, Maine
October 3, 2012
1:00—3:00

Meeting Summary

Today's meeting focused on two primary areas: an overview of the past year's work and setting expectations about the structure of PHiT going forward; and discussion regarding potential funding changes in the Community Transformation Grant (CTG).

Elizabeth Trice (Co-Chair), Grants and Special Projects Coordinator, Cumberland County
Zoe Miller (Co-Chair), Director, Healthy Maine Partnership, Healthy Lakes, Opportunity Alliance
Carl Eppich, Portland Area Transportation System (PACTS)
Tim Fuller, Portland Public Health
Shane Gallagher, Cumberland District Public Health Council
Valerie Landry, Meeting Facilitator
Paul Niehoff, Portland Area Transportation System (PACTS)
Jackie Rogers, Healthy Casco Bay
Jim Tasse, Bicycle Coalition of Maine
Jennifer Thibodeau, Director, Healthy Maine Partnership, Rivers Division

1. Community Transformation Grant Update

In January 2011, the Cumberland District Public Health Council Community Transformation Grant (CTG) Oversight Committee determined that the Cumberland County CTG grant would include three components including two CTG required objectives (physical activity in schools & childcare, and nutrition policy in schools, childcare, employers, and other institutions); and one CTG optional objective (Active Community Environment "ACE" Team). The PHiT Coalition acted as an advisory body to the ACE objective. "On the ground" work was handled by Healthy Maine Partnerships and the Bicycle Coalition of Maine. Similarly, groups were established to develop action plans for the other two objectives. As a result of this cumulative work, the CTG Oversight Committee became aware that allocated funds were insufficient to support the expected outcomes for the required objectives—physical activity and nutrition. Thus, all groups were asked to propose solutions to meeting this budget "shortfall." Members at today's meeting proposed the following for the CTG Oversight Committee's consideration:

- Do not eliminate the ACE objective altogether.
- Consider staffing changes to all proposals.
- Consider how to better intersect the three groups from a planning perspective.
- Use a similar process to organize communities and schools.
- Fund ACE fully in the Year One (while the other groups are ramping up) and then taper off in subsequent years.

The next step in the process involves a meeting on 10/4/12 of the CTG Oversight Committee at which time a decision could be made regarding restructuring the grant.

2. Overview of Year One

Co-Chairs Miller and Trice expressed appreciation for the participation of PHiT members over the past year. Specifically, they acknowledged that when the group was convened, the public health and transportation members did not even know each other, let alone work together. As a result of the PHiT effort, numerous joint initiatives have been undertaken,

information has been routinely shared, and members understand much more about one another's issues, priorities, resources, and challenges.

2. Discussion regarding PHiT structure in Year Two

With the benefit of a one-year hindsight, members discussed how best to structure PHiT going forward into Year Two. Options ranged from expanding the group substantially, to maintaining a smaller, more efficient working group. After considerable discussion, members agreed that:

- a PHiT steering team should be formed that would meet monthly; anyone can be a member of the steering team who is willing to attend most meetings as well as communicate between meetings;
- larger meetings would be convened on a regular basis (timetable TBD) that would provide both informational and relationship building opportunities for a broader array of stakeholders;
- thought will be given to key stakeholders who should be encouraged to join the steering team. In that regard, the PHiT Coalition could mirror local ACE teams and include members such as: elected officials, public health decision-maker, and representatives from law enforcement representative, disability community, recreation, elderly, immigrant, and United Way; and,
- consideration will be given to formally aligning the PHiT Coalition with another (or other) group(s). Examples included the Public Advisory Committee of PACTS, Cumberland District Public Health Council, and Sustain Southern Maine. It was agreed that presentations would be scheduled regarding these possibilities. In considering affiliation with other groups, the key question should be, "how can we have the most impact?"

Next Meeting: November 1, 1:00 – 3:00 at PACTS new location at 970 Baxter Blvd.