GRO WASHINGTON AROOSTOOK
Embracing the Future

Healthy Communities Group Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2013
11am-12pm

Present: Carol Bell, ACAP- Healthy Maine Partnership Director; Torry Eaton, Senior
Manager- ACAP; Stacy Boucher- MeCDC Public Health Liaison; Stephen Eyler-
Homeless Shelter; Gary Michaud- VA; Mike Eisensmith- NMDC; Linda Trickey-
UMCE Nutrition program; Tracy Tweedie- NMDC.

Topic: **Welcome and Introductions**
Discussion: Everyone introduced themselves and their organizations to show what the
connection was between the grant and their work.

Topic: **Overview of the HUD GRO WA grant**
Discussion: Mike gave an overview of the grant and the work behind it. He shared the
expected timeline and what the intent was. There were 4 people involved in
writing the grant- Mike, Ryan Pelletier, Judy East, and Jen Peters. There are 12
components in the grant. Some are being worked on in conjunction with
Washington County and others are being done separately for each county. The
Healthy Communities is one that is being done separately. Judy East is in charge
of the component down there. The work is supposed to be done by January
2014. There is a bit of money for some work such as asset mapping although not
a lot. This is a planning grant so the idea is to do more of pulling together the
resources that are already out there.

Topic: **Discuss Current Workplans that address similar healthy communities objectives**
Discussion: **a) Work Group**
Tracy asked if there were any other possible connections that might fit into this
section of the grant that weren't represented.
Some suggestions were:
Clarissa Weber – tribal representative
Susan Deschene- ACAP Nutrition Program
Jane Caulfield- Micmac Nutrition Program
Dixie Shaw- Catholic Charities of Maine
Chris Manson- Good Shepherd Food Bank

b) Inventory of existing initiatives
It was discussed what type of initiatives were targeted. Any that address healthy
communities type work is the goal. Some are one time programs, and others
might be continuous programs that are self sustaining (i.e. rec programs). It was

determined that a template might help make the gathering of this information easier to understand. That way when it comes in, it can be in the same format as the database and put into it without recreating the format needed.
A template will be created and sent around to see if it meets everyones needs. Stacy asked if the goal of the grant was to have a database of all things happening? Mike responded that the intent was to identify what needed to be done in the future around each issue. It is almost to determine the gaps and be able to work to fill them in with potential new grants.

c) Policies
Mike shared that this was a bit of a misnomer. It's not so much the policies that are created as to the activities, programs, and initiatives that are happening. This will be more of a needs assessment in order to determine the gaps mentioned above.

d) Database of activities/local food access
Carol shared that ACAP HMP has done a lot of collection of information regarding asset mapping. However, it might not be in the format that we are looking for. She will gladly share it if we can take it and put it into a usable database that can be shared with everyone.

The purpose of the database was discussed as some had questions regarding this work. Once the work is collected, will others be able to use/share it with their organizations and clients? Mike thought that it could be shared back with the organizations and agencies that are providing it, however to share it on with clients and groups that we all work with might not be helpful because of the format it will be in. The grant's goal is to create a plan that will help identify needs and gaps in services. Sharing that with the population that is using the services might not help with the purpose of the grant.

e) Website
A website has already been created and is up and running for the grant. The website is http://gro-wa.org/index.htm
Once the meetings and groups are established it will be populated with the information. The lead people are just getting trained to use the site and after some trainings are done, they will be uploading information regarding each component.

f) Adoption of Healthy Community Initiatives
The idea behind this task was to provide successful programs with communities that might benefit from others success. That way they won't have to recreate the programs from scratch and might be able to carry off events quicker. This might be done as simply as the front line workers sharing information with their clients, or the organizations sharing it with their contacts to spread the word.

Another meeting will be held as soon as we can start gathering data that has been discussed at this meeting.