

What is the Maine Alliance for Health and Prosperity?

The Maine Alliance of Health and Prosperity convenes and engages partners across sectors to increase impact through collective action and leverage resources to expand our reach and amplify results. We are not implementers of programs or services – that’s what Alliance members do best. Our strategies include engaging, educating, and advocating through actions like conferences, workshops and webinars, issue briefs, policy analyses, and op-eds. Our strength lies in our collective deep experience, longstanding relationships, and commitment to positive, systemic change.

Our Vision: All Maine people and communities thrive as the result of statewide, cross-sector collaboration that ensures an integrated approach to improving the public’s health and prosperity. Communities of particular concern are Black people, Indigenous people, people of color, rural regions, and those impacted by multigenerational poverty and other health concerns.

Our Beliefs: Our individual and collective health is inextricably linked with our economic prosperity. The conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age determine the presence or absence of both health and prosperity. Health is not only the product of affordable and accessible medical care but of safe housing, quality childcare, nutritious food, accessible transportation, and economic security.

Our Members:

- Keith Bisson, CEO, Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
- Rebecca Boulos, Executive Director, Maine Public Health Association
- Yellow Light Breen, President and CEO, Maine Development Foundation
- Andy Coburn, Professor Emeritus, University of Southern Maine, Muskie School
- Liz Cotter Schlaw, President and CEO, United Way of Greater Portland
- Barbara Crowley, Executive Vice President, MaineGeneral Health
- Luisa Deprez, Professor Emeritus (USM)
- Lori Dwyer, President and CEO, Penobscot Community Health Care
- Morgan Hynd, Director, The Bingham Program
- Jennifer Hutchins, Executive Director, Maine Association of Nonprofits
- Barbara Leonard, President and CEO, Maine Health Access Coalition
- Heather Marden, Co-Executive Director, Maine Association for the Education of Young Children
- Robyn Merrill, Executive Director, Maine Equal Justice
- Claudette Ndayininahaze, Co-Executive Director, In Her Presence
- Hibo Omer, Executive Director, New Mainers Public Health Initiative
- Tony Plante, Chief Operating Officer, Greater Portland Council of Governments
- Abdulkerim Said, Health Equity Partnerships Coordinator, Office of Population Health Equity, Maine CDC
- Megan Shore, Policy and Strategy Director, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
- Lisa Sockabasin, Director of Programs and External Affairs, Wabanaki Public Health
- Tara Williams, Co-Executive Director, Maine Association for the Education of Young Children
- Mike Wilson, Senior Program Director, Northern Forest Center
- Shawn Yardley, Retired, former CEO, Community Concepts

Staff/Consultants:

- Deb Deatruck, Consultant
- Lisa Miller, Consultant
- Jan Kearce, Maine Development Foundation
- Sophie Drew, Maine Development Foundation

Maine Alliance for Health & Prosperity

Value-Based Messaging and Priorities

Updated March 31, 2021

Why?

The Maine Alliance for Health and Prosperity exists because health and economic opportunity are closely intertwined, existing systems are both inequitable and inefficient, and addressing the two issues in concert can help all people benefit from the abundance that Maine has to offer.

Values

Members of the Maine Alliance for Health and Prosperity are committed to working in ways that are:

- **Welcoming** - we extend an open invitation to all who are interested in the intersection of public health and the economy in Maine and will practice cultural humility to be sensitive to the different ways people feel welcome or unwelcome in a group.
- **Fair and Equitable** - we will work to understand and give people what they need to enjoy full, healthy lives, acknowledging that currently people face barriers to this due to systemic inequities that affect outcomes of people's lives based on identities and characteristics outside of their control such as race, gender identification, sexual orientation, ability status, and others.
- **Informed by Data and Lived Experience** - we seek out understanding through current scientific research and the qualitative data provided by the people living through conditions we hope to improve.
- **Intentionally Diverse** - we seek out the involvement of people with different racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds as well as those from many different professional sectors. Those are not mutually exclusive either.
- **Action Oriented** - we are committed to moving ideas forward and getting things done.
- **Bold** - we are courageous and willing to take risks
- **Creative and agile** - we are ready to act quickly and easily, and are especially open to original, outside the box ways of thinking and acting
- **Honest and Transparent** - we will show our work, cite sources, name assumptions, and admit when we don't know.
- **Trauma-Informed** - we recognize the deep impact that disturbing physical, psychological and emotional experiences have on people and communities.

Core Beliefs

We are grounded in the understanding that our individual and collective health is inextricably linked with our economic prosperity, and the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age determine the presence or absence of both health and prosperity. We are further guided by these beliefs:

- We believe all Maine people and communities have the right to the opportunity for good health and economic prosperity.
- We believe in the urgency of now.
- We believe that abundance and opportunity surround us

- We believe investments in collective health are vital to Maine's economic future
- We believe diverse perspectives matter and are critical to problem-solving and equity

Vision

We will know that the Maine Alliance for Health and Prosperity is successful when:

Inequities in health and economic outcomes for BIPOC, poor, disabled, and LBGTQIA+ people are eliminated, ensuring that all people and communities in Maine and Indigenous sovereign nations can thrive.

MAHP Priorities for 2024-2025

(Generated during the November 2023 Mobilizing Across Sectors Working Conference and in conversations with Alliance members and partners afterward)

NETWORKING

- Widespread desire for more networking opportunities for people doing this work
 - Create a shared online forum for people to connect outside this conference.
 - Convene another in-person meeting around a collaborative challenge.
 - Consider an annual statewide MAHP conference—good place to engage with business and private sector partners
 - Go TO people (MAHP “ambassadors”) rather than asking busy people to come to new meetings or events

TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Deeper training sessions on the CCI model presented by Robin Hacke
- More skill-building opportunities for multisector collaboratives building health and prosperity
 - BUT FIRST! Create a matrix of existing training, mentoring, and leadership development opportunities already available throughout the state, identify gaps.
 - Dedicate spaces for BIPOC leaders and leaders-to-be in leadership development programs
 - Skill-building needed in:
 - Conflict resolution and facilitation (collaboratives don’t always have to resolve it—work with it)
 - Communication strategies in team and collaborative settings
 - Advocacy and lobbying
 - Accountability systems for collaborations and members

COMMUNICATIONS

- Develop a more targeted approach to communicate problems and solutions to the public—a communications strategy around some key issues that reframes core messages. Foster open conversations about the root of problems and then move into ideas for solutions rather than communicating solutions up front.
- Consider use of a communications consultant and/or possible training sessions. Partner with professionals to get some things done, such as developing media plans for organizations, setting up websites, etc.
- Media training: how to convey what you want to in print, online, radio, in person.

Suggested areas where MAHP should continue its own organizational development:

- Engage the private sector business community (B-corps?) Sense that business community doesn't always take the nonprofit community seriously, so the two groups often work on parallel tracks. Find examples of partnerships that have worked well: recovery friendly workplaces, some examples in education and housing, SEAMaine, FOR/Maine, Jess Maurer's Healthy Aging work
- There's an expressed need for an overall organization that can create opportunities and build skills to move this multisector work along—should MAHP take this on? Become a collaboration think tank?
- Bring in next “outer ring” of people not involved in the conference—including people at the grassroots level affected by inequities
- Explore where MAHP and Working Communities can work together
- Involve community colleges and university system AND K-12 education
- Partner with New Mainers office

Maine Alliance for Health and Prosperity
2024 Bimonthly Meeting Schedule (all via Zoom)

Tuesday January 30th

1:30 – 3:00pm

Tuesday March 26th

1:30 – 3:00pm

Tuesday May 28th

1:30 – 3:00pm

Tuesday July 30th

1:30 – 3:00pm

Tuesday September 24th

1:30 – 3:00pm

Tuesday November 26th

1:30 – 3:00pm

Maine Alliance for Health and Prosperity Decision-Making Process

Step One – Vetting the Issue

- Is this an item currently in front of the legislature?
- Is a cross-sector network already effectively working on the issue?
- Is this an issue where there is an opportunity to connect the public’s health with the economy?

If the answer to any of the questions is YES, the issue is likely not appropriate for the Alliance

Step Two – Action Scoping

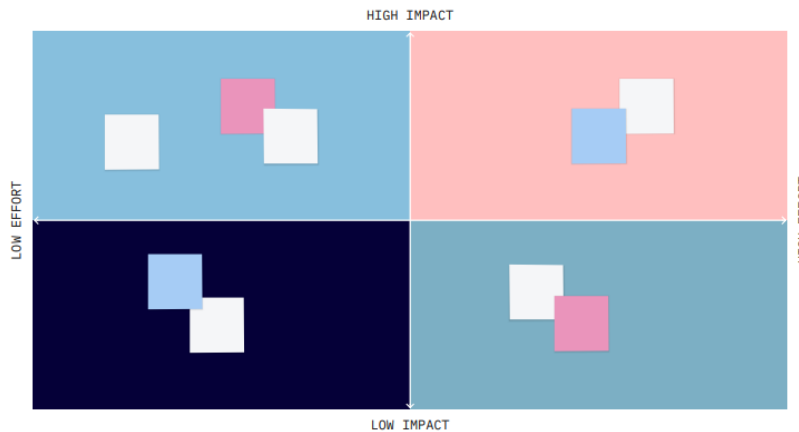
- Which social factors of health are most affected?
- Who is the most impacted by this issue?
- Who is currently engaged in addressing this issue?
- Who is missing? Who is impacted by the issue but not currently engaged in addressing it?
- Which plans currently include this issue?
- What is needed?
- What are the desired outcomes?

Step Three – Action Ideation

- With values and desired outcomes in mind, brainstorm as many ideas as possible
- Narrow to 6-8 ideas to bring to Step Four

Step Four – Action Selection

- Arrange ideas identified in Step Three along an impact/effort matrix



Step Five – Impact Evaluation

- What will be measured and how?

Step Six – Roles and Responsibilities

- Assign roles and responsibilities

Maine Alliance for Health and Prosperity
Memorandum of Agreement

Maine Alliance for Health and Prosperity is a nonpartisan, voluntary coalition of Maine leaders who recognize that health and economic opportunity are closely intertwined, existing systems are both inequitable and inefficient, and addressing the two issues in concert can help all people benefit from the abundance that Maine offers. We believe all Maine people—especially those who are Black, Indigenous or People of Color, LGBTQIA+ people, those living in rural regions, and those impacted by multigenerational poverty and other health concerns—deserve good health and economic prosperity and that conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age determine the presence or absence of both health and prosperity.

By joining the Maine Alliance for Health and Prosperity, you agree to:

- Be committed to the purpose stated above that has been decided by the Alliance;
- Be committed to the planning and collaboration that said Alliance undertakes;
- Act as an individual, not a representative of an organization, unless duly noted;
- Acknowledge the contributions and expectations of the other members of the Alliance;
- Participate in scheduled meetings and activities;
- Read minutes, reports, and other information to keep up to date about Alliance activities;
- Keep information confidential when the Alliance agrees it should not be shared externally; and
- Allow your name to be listed on the Alliance website, letterhead, and other materials.

Benefits of membership include:

- Networking with diverse and visionary leaders sharing information, resources, and expertise
- Opportunities for cross sector advocacy on priority policy issues

Name: _____

Organization (if relevant): _____

Date: _____

On Alliance materials, identify me as (i.e. Full Name, Role, Organization or just Full Name):

Sector and/or Communities You Identify With (please choose all that apply and specify as needed):

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Economic Development | <input type="radio"/> Health Care | <input type="radio"/> Community of Color
_____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Public Health | <input type="radio"/> Housing | <input type="radio"/> Indigenous Community
_____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Education | <input type="radio"/> Business | <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Social Services | <input type="radio"/> Telecommunications | |
| <input type="radio"/> Child Care | <input type="radio"/> Transportation | |