

SUCCESS



MAINE TOBACCO PREVENTION

A Statewide Behavioral Health Organization Continues their Community Health Leadership Role

NEED / ISSUE

Community Care is a Behavioral Health organization providing services for adults, children and foster families in Bangor, as well as providing clinical management of homeless youth at the Shaw House Shelter. Community Care continued its mission in the midst of the Covid Pandemic, and opened many new statewide satellite offices to meet the needs of clients and to show leadership in promoting tobacco-free environments, and role modeling healthy behaviors for families. The clinical leadership team understands as a health provider they have the responsibility and unique opportunity of advising clients about healthy behaviors and specifically the importance of quitting tobacco for life as their clients and families navigate the new emerging vaping epidemic, and all tobacco products addiction. Tobacco use is still the number one preventable cause of death, and takes the lives of behavioral health clients twenty-five years sooner than people without the issues.

INTERVENTION

Having partnered with the Community Care Executive Director and Clinical Manager on updating the Shaw House tobacco policy in 2021, our Bangor District Prevention staff felt comfortable offering Community Care the opportunity to work together again with a Community Health Partnership Agreement mini-grant.

The agreement was reached for the Bangor Public Health prevention staff to provide technical assistance and guidance to the clinical management team to develop an updated workplace tobacco policy utilizing the Gold Star Standard of Excellence, (GSSE), recognition program. The annual voluntary award program consists of 10 evidence based, environment-specific standards for organizations to meet through written, sustainable policies and procedures. The goal of the program is to encourage, support, and recognize Maine's behavioral health organizations that are addressing smoking and tobacco use by creating and maintaining smoke and tobacco-free policies. The Executive Director and the Clinical Management Team agreed on a 100% Tobacco-Free Campus Policy which includes all offices, and was adopted in July 2021.



Congratulations to Community Care for achieving the Gold Star Standard of Excellence award and to Sean Scovil, Clinical Director for receiving the Individual Gold Star Champion Award.
" This level of commitment to the families that they serve is astounding and should be the gold standard for all organizations in this field."

Bonnie Irwin, BPH&CS

Super Success!!

Result/Success

Most smokers want to quit, including behavioral health clients, and support for repeated quit attempts is an evidence-based recommendation that gives smokers the best chance of quitting for good.

Staff attended the Center for Tobacco Independence (CTI) virtual training to learn about the Maine QuitLink - Quit Your Way program and how to make a client referral for guideline-based tobacco treatment counseling and Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) products for those that qualify.

Their long-term plan, because of delays with the pandemic, is to provide not only screening and brief interventions but also a professional development opportunity for staff to attend the CTI tobacco treatment counseling trainings and provide on-site treatment and client/family education. In addition, they are willing to provide Maine Prevention Services educational materials on second and third-hand smoke, vaping, and the Smoke-Free Homes Pledge information in their offices.

Contact Information

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CITY OF BANGOR