

Maine AAP Spring Conference

Saturday, May 6, 2017

PEDIATRIC FOOD INSECURITY & THE OBESITY EPIDEMIC

3pm: Doug Michael

Title: **Partnering to Improve Community Health:
Addressing Food Insecurity in Maine**

Overview

Food insecurity and food access affect millions of Americans, increasing their risk of poor health outcomes. Despite a recent national decline in the rate of food insecurity, rates in Maine remain elevated, with the highest rates occurring in Maine's northern rural counties. More than 60,000 Maine children are food insecure.

In 2014, EMHS (Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems) was awarded a three year, \$4M CDC Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) cooperative agreement to convene a scaled prevention partnership working across 7 northern Maine counties to improve access to healthy food for rural Maine people. CDC PICH supports community partnerships that build capacity and implement strategies to address the greatest predictors of chronic disease.

This session will review the impact and experience of the collaborative to date, as partners have worked together using evidence-informed strategies to improve population access to nutritious food at local hospitals and area food pantries, and by actively screening and connecting patients with reliable sources of nutritious food.

By employing the Hunger Vital Sign as a new standard of care for preventive health, Pediatric providers are uniquely positioned to partner with families experiencing food insecurity, and to connect them with local food resources, helping to alleviate a significant barrier to good health.

3:30 Panel – Childhood Food Insecurity – What's a Community to do? (5-10 min each)

- Kristen Miale, Good Shepherd Food Bank
- Holly Courturier, Maine Principals' Association
- Karen Parker, Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program
- Katie Brown, Locker Project
- Jen Robichaud RN, TAMC Pediatrics

Questions to guide panelist remarks:

1. What is your organization doing to address childhood food insecurity?
2. What gaps or opportunities do you see as you address this issue?