

Kennebec County, Maine

County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes August 5th, 2025



Present:

George Jabar, Commissioner
Joe Pietroski, Commissioner
Tom Doore, Treasurer
Lisa Bryant, Finance Director
Ken Mason, Sheriff
Devon Parsons, IT Director
Chris Read, Chief Deputy

Dan Brunelle, Facilities Director
Angela Molino, EMA Director
Spencer McKeown, Deputy EMA Director
Matt Boucher, Register of Deeds
Bryan Slaney, Jail Administrator
Corey Goodchild, Asst. Jail Administrator
Ronda Snyder, Register of Probate
Frank Hatch, Lieutenant

Audrey Fredericks, Finance Manager
Scott Ferguson, County Administrator
Brian Sites, VOA VP of Business Development
Courtney Gary-Allen, ME-RAP Executive Director
Stephanie Schredder, Executive Assistant

Absent: Patsy Crockett, Commissioner Chair, Sue LaPointe, Deputy Register of Deeds, Meaghan Maloney, District Attorney, Chris Brawn, HR Director, , Brielle Balmer, Deputy Register of Probate, Shay Freeman, DA Office Administrator, Frank Griffen, Deputy District Attorney

	Discussion	Action
Call to order	11:59pm	
Minutes	Joe Pietroski, Commissioner, made a motion to approve the minutes of July 16th, 2025, with the addition of the decimal on .5% page 8, and George Jabar, Commissioner, seconded the motion.	Approved 2-0
Promotion	➤ Jordyn Baker, Corrections Officer, was promoted to Corporal.	
Human Resources	Chris Brawn, HR Director: ➤ Chris Brawn, HR Director , is back in the office from medical leave this week. ➤ Recruitment: • Kennebec County is currently recruiting for six vacancies in the Jail and there were two resignations last week. • We have one Deputy vacancy at the Sheriff's office, and one new hire starting 8/11. • At EMA there is an open Mitigation Specialist position, and the GIS Planner employee gave notice yesterday. • Several new hires have come on board over the last couple weeks. ➤ Human Resources is working with the Safety Program Representative from MMA (Maine Municipal Association) regarding Kennebec County's Tier 3 Status. • There is a walkthrough site visit next week. ➤ Human Resources is preparing for NCEU (National Correctional Employees Union) negotiations and request cost analysis.	

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	Discussion	Action
	➤ There are more than usual administrative items, from legal research, records, requests, verifications of employment, UNUM claims, several FROI (First Report of Injury) incidents, new hires, and FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) paperwork. ➤ Chris Brawn, HR Director, is working through several requested policy updates and personnel matters. ➤ Chris Brawn, HR Director, thanked KelLee Gray, HR Manager, and Sara Moore, HR Assistant, for keeping things going when she was away.	
Treasurer/ Finance	Tom Doore, Treasurer: (See attached Treasurer's report) Lisa Bryant, Finance Director: (See attached Finance report) ➤ Civil Department reimbursements are still being processed. ➤ Municipal tax payment receipts are stated in the packets of the Commissioners. ➤ Joe Pietroski, Commissioner, asked for an unaudited balance of FY25 and Scott Ferguson, County Administrator, stated that he had sent the <u>unaudited</u> Financial Summary to Commissioners at the beginning of July.	
Sheriff/Corrections	Chris Read, Chief Deputy: ➤ The Sheriff's Office is currently recruiting one deputy. ➤ There has been an increase in call volume, which is normal for this time of year. ➤ Axon Body Camera Contract: • Joe Pietroski, Commissioner, made a motion to authorize George Jabar, Commissioner, to sign the contract, and George Jabar, Commissioner, seconded the motion. Captain Bryan Slaney, Jail Administrator: ➤ The population inside the jail is 158. ➤ Captain Bryan Slaney, Jail Administrator, will be meeting with the State of Maine regarding HIV funding for inmates. • The State of Maine has said they will provide materials for HIV treatment. ➤ Fire System Panel Update: • There will be a proposal in the next commissioner packet. ➤ Captain Bryan Slaney, Jail Administrator, met with a vendor for Medically Assisted Treatment injection funding and are exploring grant opportunities. ➤ Medicaid 90-Day Prior Release Coverage Expansion (Maine substance Abuse Disorder Care Initiative 1115 Waiver Renewal):	Approved 2-0

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	Discussion	Action
	• Joe Pietroski, Commissioner, made a motion for Scott Ferguson, County Administrator, to write a letter in support of the Medicaid coverage expansion Care Initiative 1115 Waiver Renewal, and George Jabar, commissioner, seconded the motion. ➤ Joe Pietroski, Commissioner, asked how many inmates are currently enrolled in the MAT program within the corrections facility, and Captain Bryan Slaney, Jail Administrator, stated that there were currently 60 inmates enrolled.	Approved 2-0
District Attorney	<u>District Attorney's Office:</u> Diana Murphy, Restitution Clerk: ➤ The supervision fees have increased from \$25 to \$50 per month. ➤ Restitution: • Financial reports were shared with Commissioners. • There is a check scanner in the Restitution Office to make deposits easier. • In 2024, revenues were \$353,000 in total and there was \$94,000 in revenues from garnishing the wages of offenders. • Diana Murphy, Restitution clerk, explained several statutory methods for the collection of restitution funds. • In the restitution archives, there is uncollected funding in the total amount of \$10 million, and Diana Murphy, Restitution Clerk, stated that she could work to collect those funds for victims if she had an assistant. Joe Pietroski, commissioner, asked Diana Murphy, Restitution Clerk, to submit a proposal package for the FY27 budget process for hiring an assistant. • George Jabar, Commissioner, wondered if there was a 10% collection fee that might be able to fund an assistant position.	
Probate	<u>Probate:</u> Ronda Snyder, Register of Probate: ➤ Ronda Snyder, Register of Probate, shared a photo of the current docket book and stated that it does not include a numerous amount of cases that will be added. • There are new forms for guardianships that will have to be used starting January 1st. ➤ The Probate Court has 2 brand new paralegals. ➤ Revenue Entry: • Ronda Snyder, Register of Probate, explained that the Finance Department would like all departments to enter their revenues into the Edmunds proprietary system, and that it is impossible for the Probate Court to make the entries requested because of the volume of work there is to be done. Ronda Snyder, Register	

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	Discussion	Action
	of Probate, stated that she spoke with the auditors and they confirmed that she could print a report for revenues instead of entry into the Edmunds system. ➤ Fees are going up on September 15th for 4 different items. ➤ Ronda Snyder, Register of Probate, stated that the Kennebec Journal is price-gouging the Probate Court for posted estate advertisements. • Legislation is being written to provide the ability of the Probate Court to publish notices on their own website instead of having the requirement of publishing in the newspaper publications. ➤ Ronda Snyder, Register of Probate, made commentary on the proposed Internal Control Policy that will not be discussed or voted on by Commissioners until September 2nd.	
Information Technology	Information Technology: Devon Parsons, IT Director: ➤ IT is working on Adobe software. ➤ The wiring project for the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) in the EMA (Emergency Management Agency) office is in process. ➤ The IT department is keeping up with employee turnover. ➤ George Jabar, Commissioner, asked if the IT department would be involved in supporting the new Axon body camera system for the Sheriff's Office, and Devon Parsons, IT Director, stated that the IT department is available, but the vendor will provide primary support.	
Registry of Deeds	Register of Deeds: Matt Boucher, Register of Deeds: ➤ (See attached) ➤ The Southern United States is experiencing a housing collapse. ➤ The Maine housing market is stabilizing. ➤ The state is changing the transfer tax rate, which is not good. ➤ The new fee schedule does not take effect until January 1st. ➤ September is usually a larger revenue month for the Registry of Deeds. ➤ Matt Boucher, Register of Deeds, says that MRS (Maine Revenue Service) might be asking the Registry of Deeds to violate tax law and Joe Pietroski, Commissioner, asked that the Commissioners investigate this.	
EMA	Kennebec County Emergency Management Agency (KCEMA): Angela Molino, EMA Director and Spencer McKeown, EMA Deputy Director: ➤ Ongoing: HSGP (Homeland Security Grant Program), LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee), and EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) administration.	

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	Discussion	Action
	➤ HSGP25 Grant Application submitted Friday Aug 1 total request \$245,000 ➤ Projects: Communications Upgrade, Portable radios, Communications & ballistic gear for special response, physical security upgrades, cyber security upgrades, training funds for public safety/EMA ➤ HSGP24 reimbursement: \$14,930.00 ➤ HSGP23 reimbursement: \$25,000.00 ➤ HSGP22 reimbursement: \$81,638.30 ➤ HSGP21 reimbursement: \$3,983.00 ➤ KCEMA hosting ICS 300 & ICS 400, invite/registration email ➤ KCEMA disseminated inventory/resources application & requested review ➤ Visited Fayette to review generator project EHP and installation progress at Starling Hall ➤ Staff completed FEMA K1302 Continuity of Operations Program Manager Training (3 day) ➤ Attended the IRON MAN water rescue exercise on the Kennebec River involving Gardiner FD, Waterville FD, Augusta FD, Farmingdale FD, Marine Patrol. ➤ Attended IRONMAN in the EOC ➤ Received desks for the EOC and tables for the training area. ➤ Electrical contractor finished installing drop boxes in EOC and Fax line ➤ Ongoing: KCEMA drone/UAS policy- legal review ➤ Ongoing: HazMat plan draft-received completed commodity flow study ➤ Ongoing: All Hazards Assessment: THIRA/SPR compiling data and creating jurisdictional profiles, consequence analysis, and community sector impacts. Swollen bladderwort is an issue with bodies of water within the county right now. • This takes nutrients and oxygen from the water • This needs to be documented. ➤ Joe Pietroski, Commissioner, asked if the bathroom wall issue was resolved, and Angela Molino, EMA Director, stated that it was resolved as far as she was aware.	
Facilities	<u>Facilities Maintenance:</u> Dan Brunelle, Facilities Director: ➤ Courtroom 7 is being repainted and getting a facelift. • The corrections staff and trustees removed the old carpet. • A comparable color to the original flooring was found of tiles which are being used around the Kennebec County in other offices and facilities as sections can be replaced if damaged. • There is a lot of intricate detail that is needed for this project. ➤ The garage cares for the fleet vehicles.	

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	➤ This Friday, the Facilities team will be taking a training course for the day and the department will shut down for the training. ➤ The lift was salvageable, and it cost \$2,500 to repair. • A trainer is coming in to certify everyone on the lift operation. ➤ The Facilities team will be certifying in chainsaw operation. The closest chainsaw certification training is in Connecticut.	
Administrator	<u>Scott Ferguson, County Administrator:</u> ➤ Palmer Road in Unity Plantation is scheduled for repair in the next week or so at no cost to the plantation or Kennebec County. ➤ Scott Ferguson, County Administrator, has been communicating with the Department of Corrections on the county jail funds operation distribution and sent a reminder out to all of the other county administrators to make sure that they've updated all their revenue and expenditure information for the year and also put their FY26 budgets into the system. • It is currently unknown how these funds will be distributed. Scott Ferguson, County Administrator, suggested promoting funds based on the initial budget initiative. • The Corrections Service Center expects the payment to be out by September. ➤ Professional Standards Council Call: • Pushing for a Corrections Service Center and the department funded position that provides JIMS (Jail Information Management System) oversight to the counties/ jails to ensure data is consistently treated and verifiable. ➤ Work on the FY27 budget model has begun. ➤ NCEU (National Correctional Employees Union) negotiations will begin soon. ➤ Peter Marchesi, County Attorney, is finalizing the FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) contract and CJC (Capital Judicial Center) lease agreement. ➤ Scott Ferguson, County Administrator, Dan Brunelle, Facilities Director, and Stephanie Schredder, Executive Assistant, inspected each of the Kennebec County buildings to record and examine capital equipment yesterday. ➤ Scott Ferguson, County Administrator, met with BerryDunn last week to discuss ARPA progress with Steve Whitney, Senior Manager Consultant and Zeb Letourneau, Consulting Manager. ➤ Dr. Timothy Pieh, MD-3 Director, has formed a nonprofit for MD-3. ➤ Scott Ferguson, County Administrator, is working on an August financial summary.	

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	June 30th summary has unaudited information that Joe Pietroski, Commissioner, asked for earlier in the meeting. That report was sent via email previously to Commissioners and Scott Ferguson, County Administrator, offered to send the document again if needed.	
Old Business/ Follow Up Items	➤ Kennebec County Sheriff's Vehicle Policy: - In review by the County Attorney. ➤ Axon Body Camera Contract: (See Chief Deputy Report) ➤ Courtroom Seven: (See Facilities Report)	
New Business	➤ ARPA Update: Zeb Letourneau, Manager Consultant: (See attached) - An updated funding reduction spreadsheet will soon be available. ➤ VOA (Voices of America: Housing initiative) ARPA Update: Brian Sites, VP of Business Development (See attached) ➤ Mobilize Recovery: Courtney Gary-Allen, Executive Director of ME-RAP (Maine Recovery Access Project) (See attached) - There may be additional funding secured for the next 7 years soon. Courtney Gary-Allen, Executive Director of ME-RAP, invited the Commissioners to visit the ME-RAP site and receive a tour. - On Tuesday, youth will be on Bangor Street in Augusta with hot dogs and slip n' slide. ➤ Napoli Opioid Settlement Letter: Joe Pietroski, Commissioner, made a motion to authorize George Jabar, Commissioner, to sign the Napoli settlement letter and George Jabar, Commissioner, seconded the motion. ➤ Commissioner Expansion Referendum: George Jabar, Commissioner, stated that the ruling by the legislature determined everything already, and Joe Pietroski, Commissioner, stated that he expects another proposed bill for additional Commissioners to come back to the legislature in next session.	Approved 2-0
Public Comments	None.	
Adjournment	There was a motion at 1:44pm by Joe Pietroski, Commissioner , to adjourn the regular session, and George Jabar , seconded the motion.	Approved 2-0

Respectfully Submitted: Stephanie Schredder, Executive Assistant

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Treasurer Meeting Notes 8/5/2025

General Fund Cash \$ 1,890,968.00 : All invested in the Insured Cash Sweep account with Kennebec Savings Bank

Investment Cash: \$ 4,000,000.00: All invested in the Intrafi Money Market account with Kennebec Savings Bank

Investment Cash: \$ 2,209,735.00: All invested in Kennebec Savings Bank Managed Investment Account. Balance increased \$ 4,551.00 since the last meeting.

Warrants for signatures:	Payroll W# 3 Payroll/Agency Checks	\$ 675,153.00
	AP W#4 Reg & ARPA	\$ 752,790.00
	AP W#4D Reg ACH	\$ 227,108.00
	AP W#06 Reg	\$ 15,000.00 (already signed) Kubota RTV
	AP W#72 FY25 Reg & ARPA	\$ 95,789.00
	W#26CR01 Civil Refund	\$ 141.00
	W#26R02 Restitution	\$ 16,320.00
	Correctional Psychiatric Services	\$ 57,879.00
	Maine Pers	\$ 131,381.00

ARPA Expenditures: Total \$ 395,446.00

Berry Dunn \$ 8,845.00	Professional Services May 2025
G&E Roofing \$ 386,602.00	Probate roof completion

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Finance:

PFML report submitted for 2nd quarter

The FY25 audit onsite visit was Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday July 29,30,31st. Going well. Auditors visited all departments that collect cash/funds. Finance, Deeds, Probate, Restitution, Civil.

Attended the KSB Business Fraud Protection Webinar

Distributed:

PFML – Maine DOL Maine Paie Family and Medical Leave Guide -Guide for Substantially Equivalent Private Plan Substitution Fully Insured Plan Substitution.

Kennebec Savings bank Handout from the Business Fraud Protection Webinar

Interest Rate for June and July

Municipal Tax spreadsheet

	REC. FEES	COPIES	CHGS	ESCROW CHARGE	LESS CHGS	CITT	TRANS TAX	CHG. PMTS	ESCROW PYMTS	REFUNDS	SURCH\$	DEPOSIT	DEPOSIT LESS RETURNS	RECORDING FEES	ESCROW WTHHLDG	WEBSITE	DIS. FEE	RETRO. FEE PROOF	Dir.Dep.	E-REC
0					0.00	-														
1	4,214.00	601.78	1,085.00	0.00	3,129.00	-	28,545.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	318.00	31,994.00	31,994.00	3,131.00	-	11.50	-	3,131.00	-	27,799.80
2	3,417.00	10.00	21.00	26.00	3,370.00	-	22,640.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	327.00	26,337.20	26,337.20	3,370.00	-	208.00	-	3,370.00	-	25,817.60
3	1,976.00	31.00	0.00	24.00	1,952.00	-	11,932.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	222.00	14,106.80	14,106.80	1,952.00	24.00	3.50	-	1,952.00	-	13,894.80
4**	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						0		0	0.00
TOT	9,607.00	642.78	1,106.00	50.00	8,451.00	-	63,118.00	2.00	-	-	867.00	72,438.00	72,438.00	8,453.00	24.00	223.00	-	8,453.00	-	67,512.20
7	2,920.00	13.63	66.00	-	2,854.00	-	10,337.80	26.00	-	-	207.00	13,424.80	13,424.80	2,880.00	-	278.50	-	2,880.00	22.00	10,814.80
8	2,200.00	18.00	21.00	50.00	2,129.00	-	13,047.10	-	-	-	246.00	15,422.10	15,422.10	2,129.00	50.00	2.50	-	2,129.00	-	14,926.10
9	1,447.00	11.00	19.35	179.65	1,248.00	-	10,238.80	-	-	-	150.00	11,636.80	11,636.80	1,248.00	179.65	208.00	-	1,248.00	-	11,446.80
10	1,890.00	31.00	-	102.00	1,788.00	-	13,849.00	-	200.00	-	204.00	16,041.00	16,041.00	1,988.00	(98.00)	23.00	-	1,988.00	-	13,653.00
11	3,423.00	21.00	21.00	-	3,402.00	-	22,554.40	4,100.00	14.30	-	294.00	30,364.70	30,364.70	7,516.30	(14.30)	30.00	0	7,516.30	66	23,597.80
TOT	11,880.00	94.63	127.35	331.65	11,421.00	-	70,027.10	4,126.00	214.30	-	1,101.00	86,889.40	86,889.40	15,761.30	117.35	542.00	-	15,761.30	88.00	74,438.50
14	2,698.00	2.00	85.00	0.00	2,613.00	-	16,715.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	273.00	19,601.60	19,601.60	2,613.00	-	28.50	-	2,613.00	-	18,245.60
15	2,877.00	3,384.19	4,386.19	65.60	-1,574.79	-	12,832.60	0.00	200.00	0.00	189.00	11,646.81	11,646.81	(1,374.79)	(134.40)	58.50	-	(1,374.79)	-	12,587.40
16	2,426.00	426.16	1,008.94	1,008.94	408.12	-	13,486.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	270.00	14,164.12	14,164.12	1,391.06	26.00	9.50	-	408.12	-	15,323.20
17	2,151.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	2,151.00	-	11,389.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	186.00	13,726.40	13,726.40	2,185.00	(34.00)	12.50	-	2,151.00	-	11,719.80
18	2,466.00	10.00	57.00	70.00	2,339.00	-	8,019.00	44.00	0.00	0.00	231.00	10,633.00	10,633.00	2,383.00	70.00	18.00	0	2,383.00	44	9,553.60
TOT	12,618.00	3,837.35	5,537.13	1,144.54	5,936.33	-	62,442.60	44.00	200.00	-	1,149.00	69,771.93	69,771.93	7,197.27	(72.40)	127.00	-	6,180.33	44.00	67,429.60
21	2,806.00	5.00	513.00	48.00	2,245.00	-	22,488.40	5.00	179.00	0.00	222.00	25,139.40	25,139.40	2,429.00	(131.00)	5.00	-	2,429.00	-	21,069.00
22	8,679.00	5.00	0.00	84.00	8,595.00	-	19,470.00	66.00	0.00	0.00	243.00	28,374.00	28,374.00	8,661.00	84.00	276.00	-	8,661.00	66.00	21,657.20
23	2,081.00	18.47	0.00	48.00	2,033.00	-	13,838.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	189.00	16,060.00	16,060.00	2,033.00	48.00	47.50	-	2,033.00	-	14,445.00
24	1,832.00	12.00	76.00	0.00	1,756.00	-	14,528.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	153.00	16,437.80	16,437.80	1,756.00	-	5.50	-	1,756.00	-	15,639.80
25	7,500.00	5.00	1,150.00	28.00	6,322.00	-	27,403.20	44.00	0.00	0.00	354.00	34,123.20	34,123.20	6,366.00	28.00	80.00	-	6,366.00	44	28,425.20
TOT	22,898.00	45.47	1,739.00	208.00	20,951.00	-	97,728.40	115.00	179.00	-	1,161.00	120,134.40	120,134.40	21,245.00	29.00	414.00	-	21,245.00	110.00	101,236.20
28	3,002.00	96.00	407.00	4.00	2,591.00	-	18,374.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	21,205.40	21,205.40	2,591.00	4.00	3.00	-	2,591.00	-	18,274.20
29	2,657.00	63.00	760.00	0.00	1,897.00	-	23,696.20	22.00	0.00	0.00	183.00	25,798.20	25,798.20	1,919.00	-	33.50	-	1,919.00	22	25,523.20
30	1,555.00	13.00	13.00	0.00	1,542.00	-	6,206.20	0.00	2.00	0.00	171.00	7,921.20	7,921.20	1,544.00	(2.00)	542.50	-	1,544.00	-	7,323.00
31	4,114.00	15.00	794.00	0.00	3,320.00	-	21,804.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	309.00	25,433.20	25,433.20	3,320.00	-	61.00	-	3,320.00	-	23,228.20
0					0.00	-														
TOT	11,328.00	187.00	1,974.00	4.00	9,350.00	-	70,081.00	22.00	2.00	-	903.00	80,358.00	80,358.00	9,374.00	2.00	640.00	-	9,374.00	22.00	74,348.60
G.T.	68,331.00		10,483.48	1,738.19	56,109.33	-	363,397.10	4,309.00	595.30	-	5,181.00	429,591.73	429,591.73	62,030.57	99.95	640.00	-	61,013.63	264.00	384,965.10

-SURCH	5,181.00
-TRANS TAX	363,397.10
90%T.TAX	327,057.39
10%T.TAX	36,339.71
CORP.INT.T.TX	-
90%CITT	-
10%CITT	-
-DEPST COR	-
+DEPST COR	-
TOT	61,013.63 (recording fees and copy money)
WEBSITE	2,223.00
10% T.Tax	36,339.71
10% CITT	-
GRAND TOT.	99,576.34

2025 99,576.34
2024 99,696.33
- 119.99

TOTAL DOCUMENTS =

*Includes direct deposit = \$
**

Escrow withheld -

	REC. FEES	COPIES	CHGS	ESCROW CHARGE	LESS CHGS	CITT	FTTP	TRANS TAX	CHG. PMTS	ESCROW PYMTS	REFUNDS	SURCH\$	DEPOSIT	DEPOSIT LESS RETURNS	RETRO REC FEES	ESCROW WTHHLDG	WEBSITE	DIS. FEE	RETRO. FEE PROOF	Dir.Dep.	E-REC
1	4,020.00	9.00	723.00	24.00	3,273.00	-	-	23,760.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	264.00	27,297.00	27,297.00	3,273.00	24.00			3,273.00	-	26,069.00
2	4,218.00	8.00	84.00	0.00	4,134.00	-	-	32,089.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	369.00	36,592.20	36,592.20	4,134.00	-			4,134.00	0	34,756.20
3	3,378.00	16.00	304.00	24.00	3,050.00	-	-	16,865.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	297.00	20,212.20	20,212.20	3,050.00	24.00			3,050.00	0	18,072.20
4					0.00	-															
5																					
TOT	11,616.00	33	1,111.00	48.00	10,457.00	-		72,714.40	-	-	-	930.00	84,101.40	84,101.40	10,457.00	48.00			10,457.00		78,897.40
8	2,835.00	15.00	38.00	26.00	2,771.00	-	-	19,014.60	169.00	-	-	282.00	22,236.60	22,236.60	2,940.00	26.00	-	-	2,940.00	22.00	21,677.60
9	3,432.00	57.00	37.00	24.00	3,371.00	-	-	15,369.20	-	-	-	216.00	18,956.20	18,956.20	3,371.00	24.00	-	-	3,371.00	-	16,149.20
10					0.00	-															
11	2,475.00	11.00	-	-	2,475.00	-	-	20,644.80	-	-	-	264.00	23,383.80	23,383.80	2,475.00	-	-	-	2,475.00	-	21,449.00
12	7,509.00	7.00	2,536.00	-	4,973.00	-	-	18,216.00	82.00	-	-	255.00	23,526.00	23,526.00	5,055.00	-	-	-	5,055.00	44	18,387.20
TOT	16,251.00	90.00	2,611.00	50.00	13,590.00	-		73,244.60	251.00	-	-	1,017.00	88,102.60	88,102.60	13,841.00	50.00			13,841.00	66.00	77,663.00
15	2,290.00	4.00	44.00	94.20	2,151.80	-	-	26,347.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	243.00	28,742.00	28,742.00	2,151.80	94.20	-	-	2,151.80	-	27,997.00
16	2,068.00	11.00	21.00	22.00	2,025.00	-		13,567.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	192.00	15,784.40	15,784.40	2,025.00	22.00	-	-	2,025.00	-	15,579.40
17	2,676.00	13.00	21.00	0.00	2,655.00	-		19,586.60	4,408.00	0.00	0.00	270.00	26,919.60	26,919.60	7,063.00	-	-	-	7,063.00	-	20,968.60
18	1,831.00	10.00	0.00	74.00	1,757.00	-	-	11,041.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	186.00	12,984.80	12,984.80	1,757.00	74.00	-	-	1,757.00	-	9,484.80
19	640.00	17.00	0.00	0.00	640.00	-	-	0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	27.00	707.00	707.00	680.00	-	-	-	680.00	22	100.00
TOT	9,505.00	55.00	86.00	190.20	9,228.80	-	-	70,543.00	4,448.00	-	-	918.00	85,137.80	85,137.80	13,676.80	190.20			13,676.80		74,129.80
22	8,582.00	4.00	532.00	0.00	8,050.00	-	-	26,595.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	354.00	34,999.80	34,999.80	8,050.00	-	-	-	8,050.00	-	28,775.80
23	2,370.00	5.00		26.00	2,344.00	-		18,405.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	249.00	20,998.20	20,998.20	2,344.00	-	-	-	2,344.00	-	17,787.20
24	3,237.00	26.00	954.00	52.00	2,231.00	-	-	9,310.40	84.00	0.00	0.00	234.00	11,859.40	11,859.40	2,315.00	52.00	-	-	2,315.00	-	9,668.40
25	2,597.00	15.00	554.00	0.00	2,043.00	-		24,211.00	19.00	0.00	0.00	192.00	26,465.00	26,465.00	2,062.00	-	-	-	2,062.00	-	25,771.00
26	2,118.00	35.00	95.00	66.00	1,957.00	-		15,595.80	0.00	300.00	0.00	210.00	18,062.80	18,062.80	2,257.00	234.00	-	0	2,257.00	0	17,337.80
TOT	18,904.00	85.00	2,135.00	144.00	16,625.00	-		94,118.20	103.00	300.00	-	1,239.00	112,385.20	112,385.20	17,028.00	286.00			17,028.00		99,340.20
29	3,149.00	19.00	41.00	0.00	3,108.00	-	-	19,301.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	282.00	22,691.70	22,691.70	3,108.00	-	-	-	3,108.00	-	20,319.30
30	2,510.00	2.00		102.00	2,408.00	-	-	13,640.00	22.00	0.00	0.00	285.00	16,355.00	16,355.00	2,430.00	102.00			2,430.00	22	14,245.60
31	1,812.00	15.40	0.00	70.00	1,742.00	-	-	30,573.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	165.00	32,480.40	32,480.40	1,742.00	70.00			1,742.00	0	27,160.00
TOT	7,471.00	36.40	41.00	172.00	7,258.00	-		63,515.10	22.00	-	-	732.00	71,527.10	71,527.10	7,280.00	172.00			7,280.00	22	61,724.90
G.T.	63,747.00	299.40	5,984.00	604.20	57,158.80	-		374,135.30	4,824.00	300.00	-	4,836.00	441,254.10	441,254.10	62,282.80	746.20	-	-	62,282.80	88.00	391,755.30

	-SURCH	4,836.00
	-TRANS TAX	374,135.30
	90%T.TAX	336,721.77
	10%T.TAX	37,413.53
	CORP.INT.T.TX	-
	90%CITT	-
	10%CITT	-
	-DEPST COR	-
	+DEPST COR	-
TOT	62,282.80	(recording fees and copy money)
WEBSITE	-	
10% T.Tax	37,413.53	
10% CITT	-	Escrow withheld -
GRAND TOT.	99,696.33	

TOTAL DOCUMENTS =

Kennebec County ARPA Status Update

8/5/2025

BerryDunn has completed, or is working to complete the following deliverables:

- To date, the County has received **\$13,561,368.71** in external grant project expenditures. BerryDunn is currently processing one reimbursement request and one true-up request.
 - MGMC Harm Reduction Program, Reimbursement Request: - \$6,166.29
 - Mobilize Recovery's Voices Project, True Up: - \$2,166.87
- The County has obligated all of its ARPA funds.

Discussion Items:

Kennebec County Q2-25 P&E Report Update

- The County's P&E Report was successfully submitted before the deadline to U.S. Treasury on 7/22/25
- Obligation Changes:
 - Accounting/Financial Consultant project: Completed under budget by \$250.00. BerryDunn moved the surplus of \$250.00 to the Jail Doors project.

City of Augusta Webster Center project site visit:

- The City would like to schedule a site visit with the Commissioners to tour the Webster Center in August or early September.

Q3 FY25 Subrecipient Monitoring:

- BerryDunn has completed accountability calls with City of Augusta, VOA.
- BerryDunn has scheduled accountability calls with the Voices project, Maine State Museum, North River, MGMC, and KVFD.

City of Augusta Accountability Call:

- Webster Center:
 - The sewer line replacement and window installation components of the Webster School project have been completed. The playground portion of the project is underway and is being executed in two phases, as the selected installer, GameTime, does not perform demolition or re-grading of the existing playground area. To address this, the City of Augusta entered into a contract with MainEX for \$11,000 to complete the demolition and regrading, which began in spring 2025. The installation of the new Webster School Playground is currently approximately 85% complete as of July 22, 2025. The project is scheduled for completion by August 31, 2025. The remaining tasks include finishing work such as attaching slides and swings and paving the Big Wheel track. Although weather-related delays have impacted the timeline, all work is anticipated to be completed no later than September 2025. The County has not received any recent reimbursement requests, which has been discussed with the City. The City expects to submit for reimbursement in August.
- Civic Center Roof:
 - The Civic Center roof replacement project officially commenced, with materials lifted to the roof via crane on April 7, 2025. GR Roofing remains the contractor, and Harriman is serving as the

architect. While the project is currently behind schedule due to weather delays, the City anticipates that the theater portion of the roof will be completed by August 2025. Auxiliary roof work is expected to continue into the following months, and the overall timeline may extend into summer 2026 depending on weather conditions, including both rain and heat. The City is committed to spending the Kennebec County ARPA award first to meet the expenditure deadline of December 31, 2026. The project remains on budget, and the full ARPA allocation is expected to be fully expended by February 2026. Although the County has not received any recent reimbursement requests, this has been discussed with the City. The City anticipates receiving the contractor's first invoice shortly, after which a reimbursement request will be submitted to the County. If the weather permits, the project will be approximately 80% complete by October 2025.

VOA Accountability Call and Presentation:

- The VOA project, in partnership with Developers Collaborative, aims to develop 20 units of permanent supportive housing and is currently navigating a complex pre-development phase. This is because in May 2025, VOA received additional funding through the Housing for Good initiative (formerly Housing First) to support 10 more units, supplementing the original 10 funded in part by County ARPA dollars.
- MaineHousing (MHA) has taken on a significant role in managing grant compliance and has placed VOA into a cohort model involving multiple agencies. Once released, VOA will be able to restart the pre-development process for the affordable housing project being funded by the County. VOA has completed the design phase with MHA and must now undergo a new environmental review due to the updated funding structure.
- Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in early 2026. MHA has proposed adding five more units, pending City of Augusta approval later this summer. While the project includes multiple funders and moving parts, it remains on track. HUD funds will be used for the land purchase in November, supplemented by ARPA dollars. ARPA expenditures are expected to accelerate once construction begins, and the project is on schedule to meet the December 2026 ARPA deadline.
- Goral Palmer is serving as engineer, and a general contractor will be selected once MHA finalizes the design phase. VOA is here today to provide Commissioners with a project update.

The Voices Project Final Report Update

- Courtney from ME-RAP is present to provide an overview of the final report submitted to the County and share an update on the project's progress toward meeting its stated goals and objectives. Additionally, Courtney will share a project update, including an outline of last steps as we work towards project close-out.



To: Maine Recovery Council
From: Courtney Gary-Allen, ME-RAP ED
RE: ME-RAP Access Center Outcomes & Fiscal Report
Date: July 1st, 2025

Background

The Maine Recovery Access Project (ME-RAP) is the recipient of Maine Recovery Council funding to implement the Access Center & Project Doorstep in Kennebec County, Maine, including the opening of a peer led recovery center, syringe disposal program, community canvassing project, and more. The total grant amount over the course of two years is \$499,536.00. This memo will serve as a running report of grant objectives and outcomes and will be updated every three months.

The funds will be used to accomplish the following deliverables from May 2, 2025, to April 30th, 2027:

- ***Access Center & Comprehensive Services:***
 - Establish a daytime drop-in center in Augusta that will operate at least five days a week.
 - Submit an application for certification of a SSP to the CDC by April 2025 and commence SSP operations by September 2025. (complete)
 - Increase the number of SSP service utilization in Kennebec County.
- ***Overdose Education & Naloxone Distribution:***
 - Conduct at least twelve (12) overdose prevention training sessions, including in local schools, for members of the community.
 - Conduct a canvassing campaign to knock on at least three thousand (3,000) doors and distribute overdose prevention information.
 - Educate at least one thousand five hundred (1,500) community members on the Good Samaritan Law.
 - Distribute at least three thousand (3,000) doses of naloxone.
- ***Community Clean Ups:***
 - Organize and complete four (4) syringe and community clean up events to improve community safety and cleanliness.
 - Increase volunteer engagement in community clean-up efforts.

January-June 2025 Outcomes

From January to June 2025, ME-RAP executed a robust schedule of programming and outreach rooted in harm reduction, recovery support, and grassroots mobilization, while also managing a massive renovation of the Access Center. Our work during this period focused on designing, renovating, and setting up the Access Center, as well as naloxone distribution and education, volunteer engagement, public-facing clean-ups, and advocacy training—each initiative aimed at reducing overdose deaths, empowering community members, and strengthening the infrastructure of recovery in Maine.



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Access Center & Comprehensive Services

Renovations

One of the most transformative accomplishments of this reporting period was the renovation of the ME-RAP Access Center in Downtown Augusta. The Center, envisioned as a welcoming hub for harm reduction, recovery support, and advocacy, underwent an extensive overhaul between January and June 2025—evolving from a raw, underutilized space into a vibrant, functional community resource.

Renovation efforts were guided by a trauma-informed, community-centered design philosophy. Every detail—from the fresh paint provided through the Sherwin-Williams Paint Out initiative to the layout of the community room—was selected to make participants feel safe, seen, and supported. Staff, volunteers, and people with lived experience in recovery and those who use drugs contributed input throughout the process, ensuring the space truly reflected the needs of the people it was meant to serve.

Key improvements included the installation of new flooring, lighting, signage, secure storage for naloxone and harm reduction supplies, a confidential space, and the creation of a community room and conference room for peer meetings, training, and support groups. The new layout also includes an open-access, public-facing supply box mounted outside the building, available 24/7, stocked with snacks, naloxone, fentanyl test strips, and hygiene items.

Volunteers from Sherwin-Williams, Home Depot, Needlepoint, and many local recovery groups rolled up their sleeves alongside ME-RAP staff, painting, assembling furniture, and cleaning to prepare for the Access Center's grand reopening. Their participation fostered a sense of ownership and pride in the space.

With renovations now complete, the Access Center stands as a model of what is possible when recovery work is grounded in dignity, peer leadership, and community-driven investment. It is more than a building or a renovation—it's a testament to what recovery looks like in action, and a launching point for ME-RAP's next phase of impact.

CDC SSP Certification

During this reporting period, ME-RAP successfully completed the process to certify the Access Center's Syringe Services Program (SSP) through the CDC. The application process required the development of a comprehensive suite of policies and protocols, including our SSP operations manual, participant confidentiality guidelines, and disposal and safety procedures. These documents were crafted with input from national best practices and adapted to reflect the unique needs of our local community. We also worked closely with peers in the harm reduction field to ensure our program design met both CDC standards and the needs of people who use drugs.



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Date: July 1st, 2025

In preparation for launch, ME-RAP collaborated with advocates and fellow harm reduction organizations to select appropriate vendors and build out our data collection and reporting system. This system will support ongoing evaluation of service delivery, participant engagement, and supply distribution—laying the foundation for responsive, data-informed program growth.

With certification in hand, ME-RAP is now positioned to offer syringe access, safe disposal, and other critical harm reduction supplies through a peer-led model rooted in dignity, trust, and public health. The certified SSP at the Access Center is a major step forward in reducing the harms of criminalization, stigma, and overdose—and a clear demonstration of ME-RAP's commitment to evidence-based solutions.

Community Outreach and Support

In the sweltering heat of late June, ME-RAP staff took to the streets of Kennebec County with cold water, snacks, and ice pops, providing basic care and hydration while connecting with community members in a non-judgmental and compassionate way. These seemingly small gestures are a vital part of our work—bridging gaps and building trust in populations often underserved.

Overdose Education & Naloxone Distribution

Harm Reduction and Naloxone Distribution

ME-RAP prioritized access to naloxone across several counties. One notable interaction took place when Joe, a recovery house manager, met with ME-RAP staff to pick up a full case of naloxone. These doses were essential for his facility's efforts to meet MARR certification requirements and ensure residents had access to life-saving medication.

Additionally, staff at True Connections Behavioral Health in Lincoln received in-depth naloxone training as part of their onboarding process, ensuring that new professionals in the field are well-equipped to respond to overdoses. We also trained Secretary Shenna Bellows and staff at the DMV in Kennebec County, expanding the reach of naloxone education into non-traditional public service sectors.

A major milestone was the distribution of naloxone to MYAN (Maine Youth Action Network). Two separate batches were delivered for staff leaders across the state, followed by a youth naloxone training session, preparing the next generation of recovery advocates with the tools they need to save lives.



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Education and Advocacy

At the 2025 HOPE Conference, ME-RAP staff led an Advocacy 101 Training session, giving participants practical knowledge and language to become more effective voices for recovery in Maine. The session was well-attended and sparked meaningful dialogue about local and state-level policy change.

We also partnered with Queercovery to deliver a training focused on the intersection of substance use disorder (SUD) and LGBTQ+ populations. This session brought together medical providers to increase cultural competence and reduce stigma in healthcare settings.

Importantly, our work helped build momentum for LD 1738, which has now passed the Appropriations Committee and is sitting on the Governor's desk. This legislation will help establish the infrastructure needed to fund clean-ups like the ones we led this spring—ensuring long-term support for community-driven solutions. We are grateful for the continued partnership and support of the Maine Recovery Council as we move forward.

Community Clean Ups

Our "Spring Into Action" Community Clean-Up event in Downtown Augusta was a visible success, taking place even before the Access Center's official opening. As our team cleaned up 100 bags of trash and large debris along Water Street, passersby honked and waved in appreciation—a powerful moment of visibility and pride for the recovery community.

During the event, we spoke with members of the unhoused community about the growing trash issue near the bridge and what resources were needed to address it. From that conversation, we made a simple agreement: if we brought a trash bag each morning, they would use it. Since then, we've followed through—and so have they. While this hasn't solved the broader trash problem downtown, it's made a noticeable difference in this corner of the neighborhood. It's a reminder that when people have the resources, they use them. 😊

In Lewiston, our Community Clean-Up Day brought out over 20 volunteers who collected 30+ bags of trash and 40 syringes while engaging with local residents. The day felt less like a task and more like an act of solidarity, care, and community healing. We partnered with Church of Safe Injection, Spurwink Services, and were joined by Lewiston City Councilors, OPTIONS liaisons, and local businesses like Mancini's Italian Deli, who donated food. The event underscored our shared commitment to a safer, healthier Lewiston—without stigma or punishment.

In collaboration with COSI, ME-RAP staff also conducted a mini clean-up around COSI headquarters, emphasizing hands-on, local impact in neighborhoods where we are deeply embedded. Finally, in Bangor, we participated in a Pre-Pride Clean-Up with Needlepoint to build relationships and prepare for Pride



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celebrations. The event not only helped beautify the area but also led to a media connection with Cali Warren from Fox Bangor, who expressed interest in covering our Access Center's grand opening.

Volunteerism and Public Recognition

A series of volunteer events further underscored the dedication and creativity of our partners. At our "Prime Out!" events, we had the perfect number of volunteers—not too many to crowd the space, but enough to get the job done efficiently. In our second event, three incredible volunteers from Needlepoint stepped in and saved the day by showing up when needed most.

ME-RAP was also honored to be selected by Sherwin-Williams as a recipient of their Paint Out volunteer initiative. A team of their employees generously donated time and materials to help us beautify the Access Center, reinforcing the value that businesses see in our mission and the power of cross-sector collaboration.

Total Grant Outcomes as of 7/1/25

- ***Access Center & Comprehensive Services:***
 - Establish a daytime drop-in center in Augusta that will operate at least five days a week. **(in progress)**
 - Renovations **(complete)**
 - Grand Opening **(in progress)**
 - Operation **(pending)**
 - Submit an application for certification of a SSP to the CDC by April 2025 and commence SSP operations by September 2025 **(in progress)**
 - Application for certification **(complete)**
 - Commence SSP operations **(in progress)**
 - Increase the number of SSP service utilization in Kennebec County. **(in progress)**
- ***Overdose Education & Naloxone Distribution:***
 - 4 of 12 overdose prevention training sessions hosted. **(in progress)**
 - 50 of 3,000 doors knocked. **(in progress)**
 - 21 of e 1,500 people trained on the Good Samaritan Law. **(in progress)**
 - 22 of 3,000 doses of naloxone. **(in progress)**
- ***Community Clean Ups:***
 - 4 of 4 community clean up events. **(complete + continuing)**
 - Increase volunteer engagement in community clean-up efforts. **(complete + continuing)**



To: Maine Recovery Council
From: Courtney Gary-Allen, ME-RAP ED
RE: ME-RAP Access Center Outcomes & Fiscal Report
Date: July 1st, 2025

ME-RAP/MRC Access Center Outcomes As of 7/1/25								
Types of Event	Goal	# of Events Helds	Adults	Naloxone	People Trained in Naloxone	Trash Bags Collected	Syringes Collected	Doors Knocked
Goal			1500	3000	1500			3000
<i>OEND Trainings</i>	12	4	20	22	21	0	-	-
<i>Canvassing</i>	3000	1	6	0	0	0	10	50
<i>Community Clean Up</i>	4	4	76	0	0	130	70	-
<i>Center Operation</i>	3720	-	-	-	-	20	0	-
<i>SSP Exchanges</i>	Increase	-	-	-	-	-	0	-
Totals		9	102	22	21	130	80	50

Color Code
Goal Met/Exceed
Goal in process
Goal not started

**Maine Recovery Access Project:
MRC Access Center
Quarter 1 & 2 Fiscal Report (1/25 to 6/25)
Prepared by CGA 7.7.25**



Maine Recovery Access Project: MRC Access Center		Total Budget 05/01/25- 04/31/27	Total Remaining	% Remaining	Q1 Actuals 1/2025 - 3/2025	Q2 Actuals 4/2025 - 6/2025	Q3 Actuals 7/2025 - 9/2025	Q4 Actuals 10/2025 - 12/2025	YTD Total	Remaining
Personnel			\$ -							
Salary	\$	293,800.00	\$ 276,666.49	94.17%	\$ -	\$ 17,133.51		\$ -	\$ 17,133.51	\$ 276,666.49
Fringe	\$	29,380.00	\$ 27,857.01	94.82%	\$ -	\$ 1,522.99		\$ -	\$ 1,522.99	\$ 27,857.01
Total Personnel	\$	323,180.00	\$ 304,523.50	94.23%	\$ -	\$ 18,656.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,656.50	\$ 304,523.50
Other										
Travel	\$	6,000.00	\$ 5,650.98	94.18%	\$ -	\$ 349.02		\$ -	\$ 349.02	\$ 5,650.98
Supplies	\$	40,000.00	\$ 39,312.78	98.28%	\$ 169.13	\$ 518.09		\$ -	\$ 687.22	\$ 39,312.78
Furniture	\$	5,000.00	\$ 4,154.07	83.08%	\$ 189.89	\$ 656.04		\$ -	\$ 845.93	\$ 4,154.07
Renovations	\$	60,000.00	\$ 2,520.68	4.20%	\$ 40,421.33	\$ 17,057.99		\$ -	\$ 57,479.32	\$ 2,520.68
Utilities	\$	11,600.00	\$ 10,480.84	90.35%	\$ -	\$ 1,119.16		\$ -	\$ 1,119.16	\$ 10,480.84
Data	\$	1,159.00	\$ 579.50	50.00%	\$ -	\$ 579.50		\$ -	\$ 579.50	\$ 579.50
Permits/Postage/Etc	\$	3,000.00	\$ 2,578.20	85.94%	\$ 356.80	\$ 65.00		\$ -	\$ 421.80	\$ 2,578.20
Total Other	\$	126,759.00	\$ 67,159.22	52.98%	\$ 40,778.13	\$ 18,821.65	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59,599.78	\$ 67,159.22
Direct Sub total	\$	449,939.00	\$ 369,800.55	82.19%	\$ 41,137.15	\$ 39,001.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,138.45	\$ 369,800.55
Indirect	\$	49,597.00	\$ 23,795.05	47.98%	\$ -	\$ 25,801.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,801.95	\$ 23,795.05
Total	\$	499,536.00	\$ 393,595.60	78.79%	\$ 41,137.15	\$ 64,803.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 105,940.40	\$ 393,595.60



PROJECT DOORSTEP

LESSONS LEARNED & BEST PRACTICES

2023-2024



A Note from Our Organizing Director



”

My biggest takeaway is that people care deeply about how this crisis is impacting their community. We are all affected by it in some way, and it is clear that our community is full of helpers—our next-door neighbors—who are motivated to be part of the solution.

Dear Supporters & Allies,

I am elated to share with you Maine Recovery Access Project’s (ME-RAP) report ***Project Doorstep: Lessons Learned and Best Practices***. I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to everyone that lend a hand in making Project Doorstep a success. Your dedication to community outreach and engagement is what makes real change possible, and I am honored to have worked alongside you to create a better future for our communities impacted by substance use disorder (SUD).

As I reflect on this project, I am reminded of **the power of connection and conversation**. The process of knocking on doors and speaking with neighbors has been a profound experience for our team. Deep canvassing is crucial in being able to talk with people in your community about things that **really matter**. These conversations have given us invaluable insight into the concerns, hopes, and struggles of those we serve. My biggest takeaway is that **people care deeply about how this crisis** is impacting their community. We are all affected by it in some way, and it is clear that our community is full of helpers—our next-door neighbors—who are motivated to be part of the solution.

Project Doorstep is about more than just deep canvassing; it is about people. It is about ensuring that our community members feel better prepared in responding to overdoses and saving lives. It is about removing stigma, empowering families, and sharing resources where they are truly needed.

I am forever grateful for each of you who have shown up, volunteered, and helped move this project forward. Together, we are making a difference. Together, we are reminding our neighbors that they are never alone in facing the impacts of substance use disorder. **Let’s keep going.**

In Solidarity,

Jon Reynolds

Project Doorstep

Using grassroots organizing tactics like door-to-door deep canvassing, Project Doorstep delivers Naloxone (also known as Narcan) and life-saving education directly to our friends, neighbors, and community members.

Deep canvassing is a proven community organizing method that fosters extended, nonjudgmental, and personal conversations—helping to shift perspectives on some of the most pressing issues we face.

Pioneered by LGBTQ+ organizers in the early 2000s, deep canvassing emerged as a powerful tool for changing public attitudes. Organizers found that personal storytelling and open-ended conversations were far more effective than traditional campaign techniques in transforming opinions on LGBTQ+ rights. Decades of research now support the idea that one-to-one conversations can change hearts and minds in profound ways.

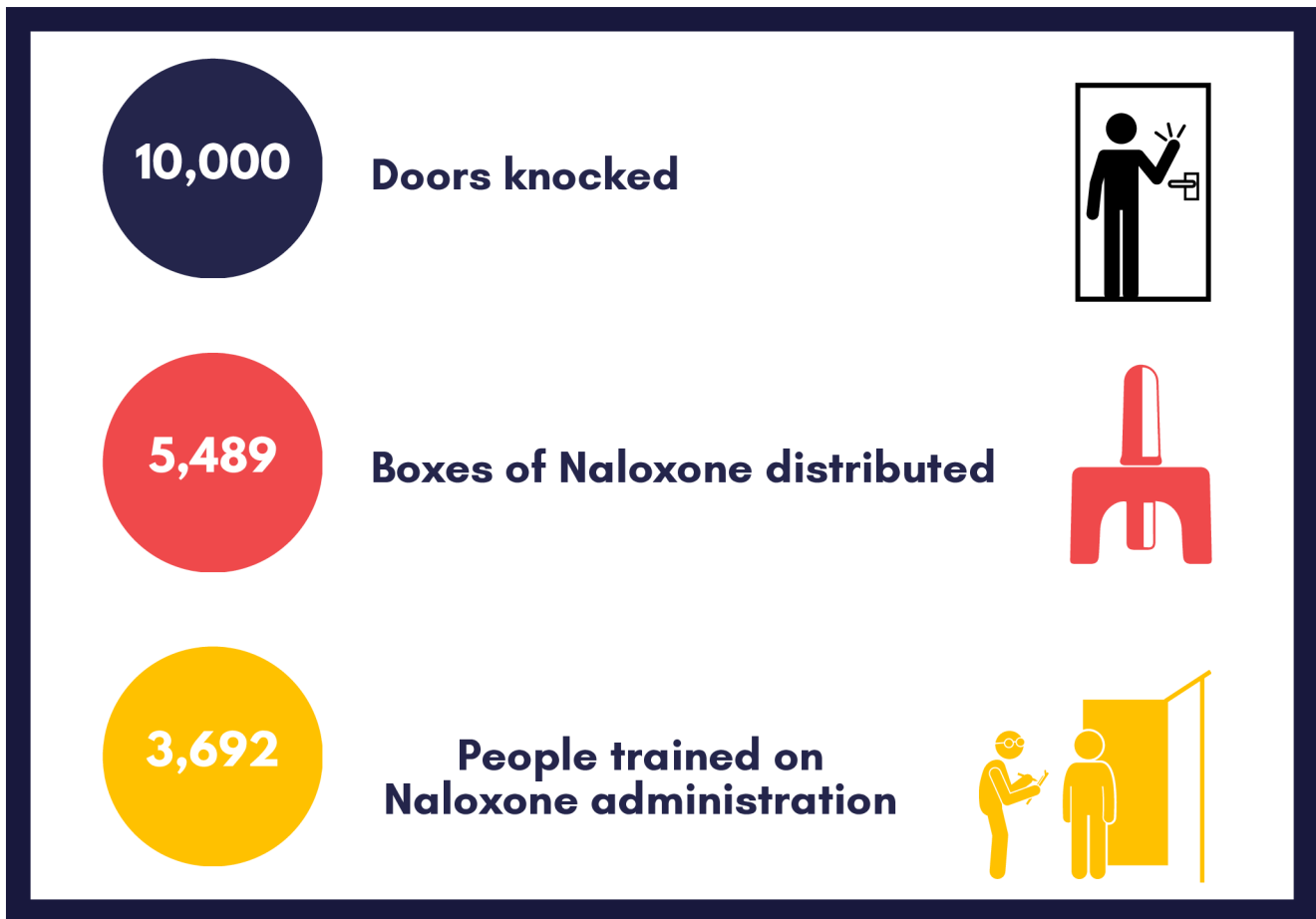
At Project Doorstep, our team brings lived experience and deep passion to this work, ensuring that every interaction empowers people with the tools and knowledge they need to save lives. Our volunteers' personal stories demonstrate firsthand how these conversations reduce stigma, ease family concerns, and shift public perception of substance use.

We knew that by building on the strategies of those who came before us, we could make a real impact. **And that's exactly what we've done.**



Project Doorstep Outcomes

In just the first two years, Project Doorstep knocked on 10,000 doors and distributed over 5,489 boxes of Naloxone. In total, we have trained 3,692 people on Naloxone administration and the Good Samaritan Law—ensuring more communities are equipped to prevent overdose deaths.



Changing Hearts and Minds!

During our conversations in the summer of 2024, we introduced a new approach at each door. Before sharing our stories or providing Naloxone training, we first asked individuals to rate their stance on Naloxone on a scale from 1 to 5—1 being strongly in favor and 5 being strongly opposed. After engaging with them, sharing our experiences, and offering training, we asked them again to reassess their stance. We call this process the “flip.” **On average, during this pilot project, we successfully shifted opinions by one point on the five-point scale.** We believe this early data highlights the power of conversation and storytelling in shaping public opinion. With more time and outreach, we are confident that we can further amplify this impact.

Stories From the Field

This is just a cross section of the stories we have gathered from the interactions at the doorsteps of the homes we visited. From day one of Project Doorstep to the day we knocked on the 10,000th door, we saw a difference in public attitude and awareness. We received fewer “no, we’re not interested” responses as time progressed. We had to explain a little less about the importance of Naloxone as awareness grew. Some people heard what we were doing and were actually excited to see us. There was no doubt we changed hearts and minds through Project Doorstep. See for yourself through our stories:

A healthcare worker who was in recovery

One of the first houses we went to during our first year of Project Doorstep was the home of a healthcare worker. He said he was already trained at work. He was excited to see us training people throughout the county because he was a person in recovery. He told us that twenty years ago when he was using there was no access to Naloxone. Even though he was trained at work he did not have any with him when he was off duty. He believes as we do that Naloxone belongs in every home and car.



Story about brother of an active user

It was turning to dusk one summer night, and we came to a father and very young daughter outside their home. As we asked do you know the signs of an overdose, the man started talking in whispered tones because his daughter was nearby. His expression also turned to that familiar look of worry. He told us his brother was an active user. He was pleased to receive the bag of information and box of Naloxone, and he took an extra one for the family member who was taking care of his brother.

Jon Reynolds' Story

One of our canvassers encountered a man whose response was the person who overdosed made a choice and should die. Jon turned his opinion around by telling his own story that without Naloxone he won't be there. He told him how now he is a strong member of the community, a loyal family man who at that time was expecting a son, a college student, an elected official and full time employee with a non-profit that saves lives.



A story of mutual hope

There are times when you start the conversation about overdoses at a doorstep and you immediately know the person has been impacted by a family member who is using substances. There is a distinctive look in their eyes of a worry that never goes away. I saw this look in one woman who told me of her daughter's experience. I mentioned my son had been saved by Naloxone. She was grateful to get the training and to learn how to get more Naloxone when she needs it. As I walked away, she re-opened the door and handed me a smooth, black stone with white lettering that said, "HOPE." I still carry this stone in my purse everyday.



Story of why face-to-face conversations work

If people ask why can't we just run public service announcements, we know the best way to reach vulnerable populations is in person. One of our canvassers was on a side street just off College Avenue in Waterville, Maine. As our procedure, she put door hangers on the doors that don't respond. After finishing the street, walking back to her car, a man asked her why did you put this card on my door. He explained he couldn't read and wanted to know what it meant. She explained to him about Naloxone and trained him. It turned out his daughter was in active addiction. He was appreciative of receiving a box and took a bag to take to his daughter.



A story of a middle school bus driver

We found there is no age limit to the people who need Naloxone. We knocked on the door of an older retired gentleman. He happened to be a bus driver for a local middle school. He was well aware that even at the middle school level the students are exposed to substances. He wanted to make sure he had Naloxone available if needed.

A story of recent loss

We were canvassing in a well-off neighborhood in a town outside of Augusta because overdoses hit families of all incomes. A man answered the door and told us he was pleased we were training people in the area and said it was really needed. He took the training, but when he was handed the bag with the box of Naloxone he hesitated and thought for a moment. His face went solemn as he told us he had just lost his daughter and having the box would probably make his wife sad.





Best Practices for Conversations at the Door

Best Practice #1: Go out in pairs. If possible go out on your route in pairs, it's quicker, safer and always great to have company. One person can be the driver and look up the route to the next house while the other person has the conversation at the door.

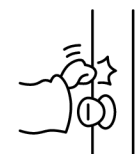
Best Practice #2: Identify who you are and why it matters. People are very leary these days of strangers coming to their front door. You only have a few seconds to gain their attention and their trust. Start by saying something like: "Hi, I'm [your name] with the Maine Recovery Access Project! I'm out connecting with neighbors today to talk about substance use in our community and share life-saving Naloxone training. Do you know what Naloxone is?"

Best Practice #3: Connect with the person at the door. The last thing the person at the door wants to hear is a survey, instead have a conversation, which means you need to engage them. Don't worry you'll get your questions in, just flow them naturally into the discussion.

Best Practice #4: Be ready to pivot. The answer to the first question will tell you volumes of what their attitude is toward people who use drugs, Naloxone, and saving lives. It will also tell you if they are currently experiencing a family member who is struggling with substance use or if they themselves are in recovery or a health worker who is already trained. Be ready to respond with part of your own story or one of the quick mythbusters we have below.

Best Practice #5: Be authentic. Include your own story into the conversation. If the person at the door seems to think reviving a person from overdose is a waste of time because another overdose is inevitable or it was their bad choice to use drugs – tell them you would not be here without Naloxone and what you have accomplished since. If you are an ally, tell them about a loved one who was revived and alive now to choose recovery.

Best Practice #6: Sense their hesitation. Some people at the door seem very supportive of the idea of carrying Naloxone but can't see themselves actually administering it at a scene. It's also okay for them to not take the Naloxone. Do not force anyone, ever.





Best Practices for Conversations at the Door

Best Practice #7: It's not just for illegal drugs. Many people will say, "I don't hang out with drug users" but they forget about grandma and grandpa who are prescribed opioid painkillers. It's common for our elders to sometimes miscount their medication. Remind them that Naloxone works to counteract prescription opioid-based medications.

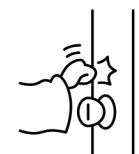
Best Practice #8: Know when to end the conversation. Although we have a good track record of changing hearts and minds, there are some people whose minds are entrenched in many misconceptions. Thank them for their time and walk away.

Best Practice #9: Mythbusters.

- "It will harm my kids and pets" – Not True!
 - Naloxone will not harm you kids or pets. Your teens cannot get high from Naloxone. The sole purpose of Naloxone is to kick the opioids of the opioid receptors in the brain.
- "I can't keep it in my car due to the cold and heat" – Not True!
 - Naloxone is only impacted approximately 2 percent by extreme temperatures. You are more likely to need it when you are out and about, so keep it in your glove compartment or better yet in your purse, briefcase or backpack.
- "Naloxone enables more drug use" – Not true!
 - People use drugs regardless if Naloxone is available. The only thing Naloxone enables is for them to breathe again so they can live to choose recovery.
- "What if it expires?" – Doesn't matter!
 - Research proves that Naloxone is still effective after the expiration date.

The bottom line is: It's always better to have Naloxone then to not have it.

Best Practice #10: Be sure to log your data. After each door visit, take a few seconds to log the responses. This data is vital in determining our effectiveness! Plus, it's instant gratification when you have a great conversation.





Best Practices for Organizing Group Canvasses

Best Practice #1: Start Early with Volunteer Recruitment. Begin recruiting canvassing volunteers and leads early in the year, well before the May launch. Focus on attracting individuals with experience canvassing in elections or those with personal experience administering or providing Naloxone training, as they make strong group leaders and canvassers.

Best Practice #2: Start with a great turf. The ideal turf is a continuous walkable turf with houses that are fairly close together.

Best Practice #3: Allow Sufficient Training Time. Allocate ample time for training before canvassing begins. Avoid rushing through preparation to ensure all volunteers, especially new ones, feel confident and ready.

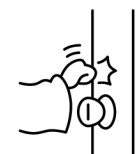
Best Practice #4: Form Smaller Groups. Organize groups of 2-3 volunteers per canvassing leader. New volunteers often need about an hour observing a leader before feeling comfortable approaching doors on their own. Smaller groups make it easier to learn from leaders' interactions, particularly when handling challenging responses.

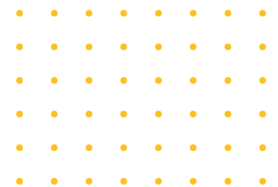
Best Practice #5: Provide Paper Turf Maps. Equip each group leader with a paper map of their turf. This helps plan efficient routes, minimizes backtracking, and reduces confusion.

Best Practice #6: Develop Future Leaders. Identify volunteers who excel at canvassing and training. Encourage them to step into leadership roles for future canvassing events.

Best Practice #7: Designate a Support Car. When possible, assign one volunteer to stay in a car to deliver extra supplies, like bags and water, to canvassing groups. On hot days, this person can also assist anyone struggling with the heat by offering breaks or transportation off the turf.

Best Practice #8: Debrief and Show Appreciation. After each canvass, take time to debrief with volunteers. Share stories from the day, discuss any challenges, and answer questions. This helps build stronger relationships and encourages continued participation in future canvasses.





Best Practices for Communicating with Volunteers

Best Practice #1: Start Outreach at the Right Time. Reach out to potential volunteers early enough to secure their participation but not so early that they forget. Sending save-the-date notifications about a month before the event, followed by a few reminders as the date approaches, has proven effective.

Best Practice #2: Leverage Partner Networks. Announce volunteer opportunities through partner organizations, local recovery residences, and organizations, churches, or businesses we've previously trained. Add a contact person from each organization to the volunteer list and send them tailored emails about opportunities that fit their group. Follow up with a phone call to strengthen the connection.



Best Practice #3: Build a Volunteer Database. Keeping a up to date list of names and contact information for volunteers is critical! Don't forget to ask your volunteers to provide that information so that you can follow up with them.



Best Practice #4: Engage Volunteers with Mandatory Service Requirements. Build relationships with organizations connected to court-mandated programs or college internships, where individuals need to fulfill specific volunteer hours. Offer opportunities that are easy to complete within set sessions, aligning with recommendations from the peer-reviewed paper Five Motivations to Volunteer: Tips for Volunteer Managers.

Best Practice #5: Include and Respect Vulnerable Populations. Recovery residences, recovery centers, warming shelters, and more can be a source of volunteers. When engaging with these volunteers, it's essential that their involvement is meaningful and aligned with causes they care about. Ensure their contributions are valued and, if the budget allows, offer tokens of appreciation like Dunkin' gift cards.



Best Practice #6: Consistent Follow-Up and Appreciation. Regularly communicate with volunteers leading up to and following events. Express gratitude for their participation and share the impact of their work to foster ongoing engagement and build lasting relationships.



Best Practices for Volunteer Engagement and Recruitment

Best Practice #1: Create Meaningful Roles. Volunteers need to find a sustainable sense of purpose and fulfillment in their roles. When they feel valued and see the impact of their contributions, they're more likely to stay engaged. Make sure every volunteer understands how essential they are to ME-RAP's success—because they truly are. A strong, dedicated volunteer force helps us achieve more, amplify our visibility, and increase our impact.

Best Practice #2: Distribute a Monthly Volunteer Calendar. Consistent communication is key to building strong relationships with volunteers. Share a volunteer opportunities calendar at least a month in advance, giving people time to plan before their personal schedules fill up.

Best Practice #3: Remove Participation Barriers. Identify and address potential barriers that might prevent volunteers from participating, such as transportation costs, lack of childcare, or accessibility issues. Offering solutions like gas stipends or childcare options can help make volunteering more accessible for everyone.

Best Practice #4: Send Regular Thank-You Emails. After every major event, group canvass, or volunteer action, send a group thank-you email to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of those involved. Regular recognition helps volunteers feel appreciated and motivated to stay involved.

Best Practice #5: Host an Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. Organize an annual event, like a BBQ at a local park, to celebrate volunteers' contributions, share successes, and build community. This is also a great opportunity to recruit new volunteers and strengthen relationships within the organization.





Contact



Courtney Gary-Allen
Executive Director



courtney@me-rap.org



Office Address
59 Bangor Street,
Augusta, ME 04330

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We are profoundly grateful for their foresight and belief in our mission. Together, we saved lives and changed hearts and minds.