

Government Operations Committee Meeting
Homelessness Related Services Summary
February 23, 2022

Video Recording at www.bangormaine.gov/video

Agency Website: [Home](#) | [HealthEquityAlliance \(mainehealthequity.org\)](http://HealthEquityAlliance (mainehealthequity.org))

Health Equity Alliance (HEAL)

Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director

- Started in 1987, previously known as Downeast Aids Network started in Ellsworth. Now has home office in Bangor with satellite office in Ellsworth.
- Originally founded in an effort to address stigma for marginalized individual's HIV positive, substance use disorder, and LGBTQ community.
- Serve 155 people every year with HIV. Provide testing, safe sex supplies, and work to reduce stigma with six case managers that manage their care.
- Sexual health and wellness see 2,500 clients a year. Not a large overlap between the services as may think, less than 12%.
- Harm reduction and opioid crisis has taken spotlight but for those who are active substance users sharing of needles and partners still creates spikes in community and across country.
- 95% of clients are on Mainecare. They receive case management services.
- Organize and run Bangor Pride every year.
- Works closely with Bangor Public Health for harm reduction services. Have 1,500 + clients (or 40-45 day) that are actively coming to use their services. They help folks use safe, clean supplies and make connections to hopefully see opportunity to get help and seek out treatment.
- 60% of their substance use clients are unhoused. Second and third generations are not uncommon. Stories of parents using with their children is not uncommon and can be hard to understand.
- Pandemic has complicated things and now seeing high levels of relapses, depression, and reduction in those receiving treatment.
- Naloxone training is performed in community and they work closely with other agencies to do so. Ms. Thompson gave examples of businesses having folks overdosing in their bathrooms and the staff and public not being trained in that. They want folks comfortable going to HEAL for support and help.
- Ms. Thompson shared that there aren't as many people outside this winter than they expected but are finding that folks are bartering, staying with family, etc. Worried it may result in spike in infectious disease. Seeing a greater need in general, factors compounded by pandemic.
- HEAL has a \$2.2 million annual budget. Donations is 2%, drug assistance program through federal program is 46% (pays for staffing and coordinated care. There are a lot of requirements for this), 10% is billable services (case managers), federal grants 3%, state grants 34% primarily through MCDC, and private foundations/nonprofit support 5%. Currently functioning on deficit budget but have made progress and are working to close gap. The need would be great should they close their need and don't know how quickly other agencies could adapt to offer services that they currently provide.
- Education is vital. Work with folks who found needles in city, but they don't go on private property. Offer one for one exchange. 75-82% return rate, so waste isn't always from them.

This document was compiled by the City of Bangor based on information provided at a City meeting. For complete information and for questions related to this agency's services, please contact them directly.

HEAL

Health Equity Alliance

HIV+ Care.

Sexual Health & Wellness.

Harm Reduction.



About HEAL

Health Equity Alliance is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization that provides HIV+ care, sexual health and wellness services, and harm reduction programs.

Our commitment to people in Maine living with HIV, people who use drugs, and our LGBTQ+ community members has been at the core of our story, nearly 35 years in the making.

Hours and Locations

304 Hancock Street, Bangor
207.990.3626

Monday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Tuesday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: Closed

5 Long Lane Road, Ellsworth
207.667.3506

Monday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tuesday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: Closed

CONTACT US

 mainealthequity.org

 **207.990.3626**

 info@mainealthequity.org

**DONATE, LEARN
MORE, OR ACCESS
OUR SERVICES**



Sexual Health & Wellness

We offer free HIV and Hepatitis C rapid testing, sexual health supplies, consultations, and linkage to the care that's right for you.

Stay tuned for pop-up testing and community events. To request a pop-up testing event at your school or organization, contact us!

We also offer cultural competency trainings. To book a cultural competency training for your staff or organization, email wellness@mainealthequity.org.

HIV+ Case Management

Our case managers provide compassionate care and service to people living with HIV in Maine.

Case management services include coordinating care and appointments, connecting clients to the Ryan White Program, food and nutrition services, arranging transportation, and much more. Reach out to us to find out if case management is right for you.



Harm Reduction

HEAL operates Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) in Bangor and Ellsworth. These services are offered at no cost, anonymously, and free of judgement.

We offer naloxone training and distribution, fentanyl testing strips, and educational materials and resources to help reduce rates of overdose in the community.





HIV+ MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT


Serving people living with HIV in Maine since 1987.

HEAL

Health Equity Alliance

CONTACT US

 mainehealthequity.org

 207.990.3626

 304 Hancock Street, Suite 3b, Bangor
5 Long Lane Road, Suite 1, Ellsworth

WHAT CAN OUR MEDICAL CASE MANAGERS DO FOR YOU?

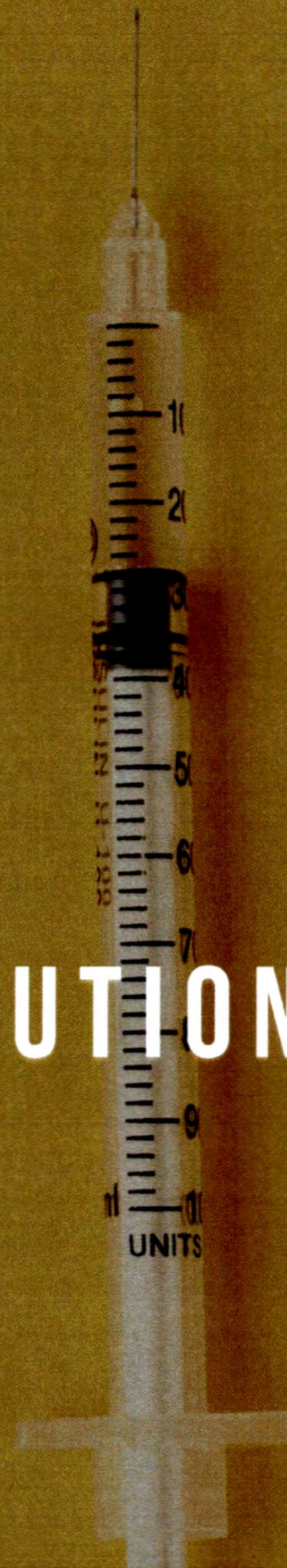
- Help coordinate medical services and appointments
- Develop a plan for treatment adherence
- Navigate health insurance systems, MaineCare, and other social support services
- Help patients access community resources including primary care providers, mental health resources, and substance use support
- Set up state-funded transportation to medical appointments
- Food pantry and nutrition services
- Signing clients up to receive assistance from the Ryan White Program, including ADAP, housing, dental, and food assistance

HARM REDUCTION SERVICES

➔ SAFER USE SUPPLIES


➔ NALOXONE TRAINING & DISTRIBUTION


➔ OVERDOSE PREVENTION



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HEAL

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1 mL
Sterile / Stérile
**Injectable
Naloxone
Hydrochloride**

**Our services are offered at no cost, anonymously, and free of judgement.
We are here for you.**

SAFER USE SUPPLIES

HEAL operates Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) in Bangor and Ellsworth.

NALOXONE TRAINING & DISTRIBUTION

HEAL offers free naloxone training and distribution!
To schedule a training, contact us!

OVERDOSE PREVENTION

We offer naloxone training and distribution, fentanyl testing strips, and educational materials and resources to help reduce rates of overdose in the community.