



# COUNTY NEWS

## Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter



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### MEETING THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

by Vernon Smith

More than 20 million adults in the United States have a substance use disorder. NACo, supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge, has created the Meeting the Needs of Individuals with Substance Use Disorders series to share strategies and interventions county leaders can use to provide justice-involved individuals suffering from substance use disorders support at the law enforcement, jail and reentry level. This series includes briefs and webinars highlighting innovative solutions from jurisdictions across the country. These policies, practices and programs can improve outcomes for individuals with substance use disorders, protect and improve public safety and more effectively use taxpayer resources.

Free Webinars Linked Below:

- [Strategies for Law Enforcement](#)
- [Strategies for Jails](#)
- [Strategies for Reentry from Jail](#)



Strategies for Law Enforcement

Strategies for Jails

(Click for Briefs)

Strategies for ReEntry



### Penobscot County's Unorganized Territory

Penobscot County's Unorganized Territory TIF (Tax Increment Financing) program continues to flourish. Last year we shared a story about a grant the county commissioners approved to fund repairs to the Matagamon Dam, which is located in T6 R8 WELS. Approximately 80% of the work was completed last fall but winter comes early in that neck of the woods and the project had to be put on hold due to early snowfall. The project will be completed this spring when weather and water levels are appropriate. In addition to the dam project, the commissioners have voted to fund a rapid response vehicle for the Mt. Chase Fire Department, two snowmobile trail drags for the Bowlin Matagamon Snowmobile Club and an economic development director position for the Katahdin area. Our TIF committee is currently reviewing an application from Katahdin Area Trails for the construction of a world class mountain bike trail system in T1 R WELS. There is nothing like this trail system currently in Maine and offering this recreational opportunity in the Katahdin Region would be a real economic boost for the area.

### Penobscot's Emergency Management Spotlights Active Threat Training



Emergency Management (EM) training is based on a number of things. First, we determine the current threats and hazards within our geographical area as well as current events happening around the world. Emergency Managers within EM as well as our area partners, including healthcare, support agencies whether local, state or federal, municipalities and first responders complete a risk assessment to identify what exactly our risks are and the severity of each. With those threats identified, we then look at the overall response to each and any possible gaps that can be overcome with training and/or exercises. Another way we identify training is based on an agency's need. This is determined by their corrective actions from exercising their response plans on a specific event. EMA puts this information into a three-year training and exercise plan that also goes into the State's Training & Exercise Plan.

Over the last two years, active threats, whether they are shootings within schools, malls, businesses, etc., or homegrown terrorism has been a top priority for us. During 2018, Penobscot County EMA offered the Department of Homeland Security's Active Shooter Preparedness Workshop which consisted of a full day of how organizations can enhance their preparedness against active threat incidents by developing plans, identifying strengths and weaknesses or gaps in your physical security and how you can possibly prevent an active threat incident by recognizing behavioral indicators on the pathway to violence. ~Read more by EMA Director Michelle LaBree



### COMMUNITY LAW ENFORCEMENT ENGAGEMENT

Amid recent tensions between law enforcement and the public nationwide; the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office wanted to share a few examples of the tremendous partnerships we share with those we serve. Community Policing is made up of three key components community partnerships, organizational transformation and problem solving. Methods in which we reach out to our communities have changed; the days of hosting a strict agenda town hall meeting have passed. Today, law enforcement must engage the community through interactive forums. When these partnerships are developed and trust has been established, then the real problem-solving work begins. ~Please click here to see some of these fantastic programs!



With an average daily population of 194 inmates and nearly 5,100 admissions a year, providing food services is critical to the Penobscot County Jail. With four correctional cooks and six inmate helpers 206,576 meals were served in 2017. With an increase in special and medical diets, the 5-week rotating menu can be a challenge. An independent licensed registered dietitian approves the menus, however the creativity of the correctional cooks, allow for well balanced and appropriate meals.

### Penobscot County Corrections Treatment Program Receives National Attention



The RISE program is a recovery program which offers treatment of opioid use disorder via medication-assisted recovery. The program also includes group therapy and case management with wrap around services. RISE is a collaboration between Penobscot Community Health Care (PCHC), Penobscot County Jail (PCJ) and the State of Maine. Who is the RISE Program for? The RISE Program is being offered to men and women at PCJ with a history of opioid use disorder. The program is designed so men and women can begin recovery treatment while in PCJ, and then continue treatment after release. It is meant for those who are going to be released within a few months. Eligible men and women will be identified by jail staff and assessed by PCHC for participation. RISE Program MAT for Opioid abuse



### CIVIL DIVISION

SGT LEWIS &  
TRAINING SGT  
RAY GOODSPEED

The Penobscot County Sheriff's Office Civil Division served nearly 10,000 papers in 2017. Two full time servers and one clerical staff member are supported by approximately ten deputies. Through a team effort, this division is able to process and serve civil papers to nearly every town and community in Penobscot County.

### Congratulations



Several of Penobscot's very own PRCC team members were awarded or nominated for awards at the 2019 Maine NENA (Nation Emergency Number Association) conference. Chris Lavoie PRCC Director received the 2018 Director Award which is presented to a 9-1-1 Director/Operations Manager in recognition of their accomplishments, encouragement, motivation and support. This award was well deserved Director Lavoie! Other awards were the Stork Awards, Silent Hero Nominations and Critical Incident of the Year Award Nominations. ~Please take a moment to click here to see the full list of amazing county employees recognized.

