



COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter



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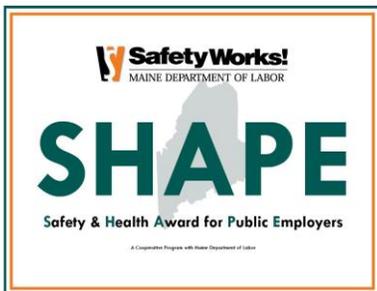
Stepping Up Celebrates Two Years of Efforts to Reduce Mental Illness in Jails

Since Stepping Up's launch, more than 365 counties—representing 36 percent of the U.S. population—have passed resolutions to join the initiative and work to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in their jails.

“Stepping Up provides a boost to help counties respond to people with mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders in the justice system,” said Matthew Chase, NACo executive director. “Many of them need help, not jail time,” Stepping Up counties are guided by an online toolkit and the initiative’s foundational document Reducing the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jail: Six Questions County Leaders Need to Ask. Considered a roadmap, the document addresses key elements of a successful plan for reducing mental illness in jails, including the need for screening and assessments for mental illness upon admission to jail; establishing a baseline of data; tracking progress on key outcomes, such as recidivism rates; and ensuring connections to treatment for people leaving jail. “Stepping Up provides counties with a framework and the technical assistance to create and enhance plans that are in line with best practices and at a scale necessary to make an impact on jail prevalence rates,” said Richard Cho, director of Behavioral Health at the CSG Justice Center.



~Click here to learn more about the program and how you can take action.



The Safety and Health Award for Public Employers (SHAPE) recognizes public sector employers who maintain an exemplary safety and health management system. Acceptance into SHAPE by the Maine Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards is an

achievement that distinguishes your organization as a model for workplace safety and health.

In November of 2014 Sagadahoc County became the first, and still only, Maine County recognized by the Maine D.O.L. for Excellence in Workplace Safety through the SafetyWorks! SHAPE Program.

This past spring, SafetyWorks performed Sagadahoc’s renewal consultation to extend their award for two more years. Due to employee commitment, the County had minimal items identified by the Safety Professional and have received the SHAPE award for the second time.

Participation in the program includes:

- A SafetyWorks consultation visit and a complete hazard identification survey with employees involved in the process.
- Correction of all hazards identified in the consultation
- Implementation and maintenance of a EHS (Employee Health and Safety) management system (recordkeeping)
- An opportunity to lower occupational injury and loss-time rates.
- A consultation before implementing major changes to working conditions or introducing new hazards into the workplace.

The SHAPE award offers many benefits including:

- Higher degree of employee awareness of occupational safety, and an increase of their own accountability for keeping themselves and their coworkers safe
- Increased morale as employees hear the “we care” message from their employers
- Once awarded by the SHAPE program, an exemption from program inspections throughout the time the SHAPE award is valid.
- Cost benefits include discounts for workers’ comp insurance as well as lower absenteeism due to injury.

~Click here for more information about the SHAPE program.



Congratulations!

Transport Deputy Sharon Roy to the left with Sheriff Joel Merry. Deputy Roy was awarded Employee of the Year for her work in the Sagadahoc County Sheriff’s Office Outreach Jail Diversion Program in March.



The statewide **Click It or Ticket** campaign, which was a Bureau of Highway Safety Grant initiative, ran for two weeks, May 22nd to June 6th. Sagadahoc County deputies issued 306 summonses for seatbelt violations in that time frame. Statewide there were 2,310 summonses issued during the campaign.

Another Bureau of Highway Safety grant is the OUI enforcement Regional Impaired Driving Task Force or **RIDE Team**. This is a team of specialized deputies who work exclusively to apprehend intoxicated drivers. This year alone, the RIDE team has arrested eleven people for OUI alcohol or drugs through the course of eight details. These details encompassed one checkpoint and six saturation patrols. It has also resulted in thirty-seven miscellaneous arrests or summonses, one Operating After Suspension summons, four drug charges, and one warrant of arrest.

The 2017 RIDE grant ends in September and culminates with a two-week, “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign scheduled to take place August 16th through September 3rd.



For a superior passport experience - Deputy Register Hannah Dickenson and Register Carolyn Bird welcome customers with smiles!

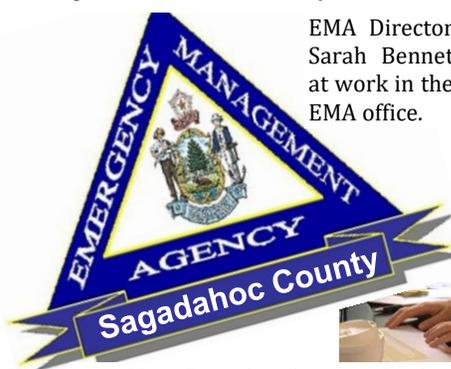


Sagadahoc Step-It-Up Challenge: Looking to Walk to 1 Million Steps

Sagadahoc County Deeds employees were the first department to achieve 100% participation in the Step-It-Up Challenge. Left to right, Lynn Moore, Registrar; Karen Brown, Lynn Green and Cheryl Oliver show off their step-tracking tools while Lynn Moore works on her step count on a stepping machine.



Starting in mid-July the Sagadahoc County Wellness Team launched a walking initiative to encourage employees to get out and walk. Taking recommendations from the CDC and American Heart Association, the team put together a program that challenged and encouraged employees to walk to one million steps before the end of the year. *~ Click here for more info.*



EMA Director Sarah Bennet at work in the EMA office.



Matt Fournier, Communications Supervisor, will be joining Sarah when he steps up to EMA Deputy Director!

NARCAN

Sagadahoc County Sheriff’s deputies have been using Narcan for just over a year now. In that time frame, they have administered it six or seven times. Deputies have had to administer Narcan twice in the past three months alone, clearly resulting in saving both of those lives. Because they cover rural areas, the deputies often arrive on scene before the ambulance. Therefore, having Narcan available to deputies has proven to be a successful emergency tool.



This is the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety’s mobile alcohol and drug testing vehicle set up on Route 196 in Topsham. It certainly provides a safer and more convenient roadside check-point.

