

Grantees in the news



Hardy Girls Healthy Women received three honors this year. Its executive director, Megan Williams was chosen as one of *MaineBiz's* 10 Nexters and received the first Frances Perkins Center's Open Door Award for shining the spotlight on girls' leadership capabilities. The organization itself won first place in the Governor's Award for Non-profit Excellence for achieving significant results by combining ingenuity with sound management practices and principles.



Megan Williams



Devore Culver



Warren Cook

Two other Bingham-related folks were also Nexters. Devore Culver, executive director of Bingham grantee **Health InfoTech** and Warren Cook, former Bingham advisory committee member, joined Megan on the list of MaineBiz award winners. Congratulations to all!

Thanks to the hard work of the **Environmental Health Strategy Center**, the Maine Board of Environmental Protection unanimously adopted proposed regulations to implement Maine's landmark 2008 comprehensive chemical policy law. The Environmental Health Strategy Center, which has been working for two years to get the state adopt the rules, held a press event in Monument Square to dramatize what's at stake for Mainers' health.

The law and rules aim to protect the health of children and other vulnerable populations by ensuring that priority chemicals of high concern in consumer products are replaced with safer alternatives in an orderly, systematic manner.



The Center held two press events to dramatize what's at stake. "Let's Make A Deal" (left), and "Dude, Where's my sperm count?" (right)



Major Medical Breakthrough, a play developed by **Add Verb Productions** with Bingham funding, has been accepted for presentation at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine conference to be

held this coming January in Houston. The play is being used extensively at the University of New England to train medical students in all fields about how and why to screen patients effectively for domestic violence.

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #238
Hallowell, ME 04347

THE BINGHAM PROGRAM
61 Winthrop Street • Augusta, ME 04330



The Bingham Program

61 Winthrop Street • Augusta, ME 04330
207-622-2085 • info@binghamprogram.org • www.binghamprogram.org

Advisory Committee

Nona Boyink
Senior Vice President,
MaineGeneral Health;
President, HealthReach
Network and MaineGeneral
Rehabilitation & Nursing Care
Waterville

Eric Brown, M.D.
Family Practice Center
Bangor

Deborah Deatrck, MSPH
VP for Community Health,
MaineHealth
Portland

Deborah Joelson
Senior Vice President,
Strategic Services,
Tufts Medical Center
Boston

David L. Linney
President, Groundnut Hill
Nurseries, Inc.
Cape Neddick

William Meserve
Ropes & Gray
Boston

Stephen Sears, M.D., MPH
State Epidemiologist
Maine CDC
Augusta

John Wentworth
Consultant, Moosehead
Manufacturing
Monson

Staff

Lisa Miller, MPH
Senior Program Officer
The Bingham Program
Augusta

Karen Heck
Senior Program Officer
The Bingham Program
Augusta



Changing the cultural acceptance of violence against women and children

Capping a busy year of progress for Bingham's initiative was the week-long visit in June of Dr. Vincent Felitti. Dr. Felitti was the researcher who, with Robert Anda, MD of the CDC, uncovered the connection between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and adult physical and mental health. Working with 17,000 insured patients at Kaiser Permanente in California, the pair discovered ACEs links to addictions, obesity, COPD, teen pregnancy, suicide and early death.

and their impact, not just to people's health but also their impact on the health of the state's economy.

Over 400 people attended one or more of the talks Dr. Felitti gave in Portland, Augusta, Bangor and Downeast at the Washington County Caring Collaborative's Summer Institute in Machias. Participants from philanthropy, the medical community, service providers, education, community organizations and business leaders heard and discussed Dr. Felitti's findings.



Dr. Vincent Felitti at Acadia Hospital's Grand Rounds

The response has been heartening...and surprising. For example, planning committee members of the state's Sentencing Institute attended by over 300 judges, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, corrections officers, and law enforcement personnel are hoping to have Dr. Felitti address their annual Sentencing Institute next fall.

Bingham helped bring Dr. Felitti to Maine to raise awareness of the ACEs connections

In conjunction with the work of the Maine Children's Growth Council, the ACEs presentations are helping people understand the importance of providing quality child

care and education experiences for children at the earliest stages of brain development.

Why focus on early childhood?

The architecture of a baby's brain is built from the bottom up. Like the architecture of a house, building it right the first time is a lot less costly than fixing it later in life. Early experiences literally shape how the brain gets built and opens the pathways to all social, cognitive and emotional future learning. The toxic stress of Adverse Childhood Experiences literally causes a chemical reaction that keeps those pathways from being built.

Rigorous research demonstrates that children who participate in high-quality early learning programs are significantly more likely to enter school with the underlying skills they will need to succeed in school and later in the workforce. The best programs increase language skills, lower the need for special education, lower dropout rates and increase graduation rates. For those children who are experiencing ACEs in their home lives, the need is even greater. Bingham's goal is a healthy Maine and supporting quality childcare and education during children's earliest years is an important component of our anti-violence initiative.

Bingham partnering to address nursing shortage

The Bingham Program has been chosen as one of nine foundations nationwide to receive funding from Robert Wood Johnson's *Partners Investing in Nursing's Future (PIN)*. The national initiative is designed to help find innovative ways to create an adequate nursing workforce to meet the changing demands of the 21st century patient population.

The project will also address Maine's nursing faculty capacity challenge by expanding opportunities for clinical staff to work as adjunct faculty. The grant will be matched by \$200,000 in local and regional funding.

The Bingham Program has forged local partnerships with the Maine Partners in Education and Practice (a statewide collaborative representing healthcare providers and nursing education programs), OMNE – Nursing Leaders of Maine, The Betterment Fund, One Maine Health (a collaborative of Maine Health, Maine General and Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems), the University of New England, former State Representative Darlene Curley and the Maine Department of Labor to create solutions to the workforce issues in Maine.



The two-year grant of \$200,000 will tackle nursing education in Maine including, preparing new nursing graduates with the competencies needed to begin practice in today's complex healthcare environment.

Congratulations to our colleagues!



Congratulations to our partners in health the Betterment Fund and MeHAF for their recent awards from the Maine Development Foundation. Both organizations were honored for their work to support the health of the Maine economy!

You might be interested to know...

As many of you who have applied to Bingham know, we encourage collaboration to widen the impact of your work and to avoid duplication. We want you to know we're not just talking the talk; we're out walking that talk!

Lisa is a member of the Oral Health Funders group which she started about 7 years ago. Karen is a member of the Early Childhood Funders group which is just getting started thanks to Nancy Brain at the Sam Cohen Foundation. Both Lisa and Karen have talked with others interested in food security

and recently participated in a forum of health funders initiated by the Betterment Fund and we are looking forward to more networking with those funders.

While it's always been true that we can get more accomplished working on common goals, as you all know, it's even more important in these times of reduced resources. We strongly believe, however, that Maine leads the way in ingenuity and we're happy we can play a role in the creative process!



Lisa Miller (right) with Bingham Program Scholar Elisabeth Deeran. The Bingham Program is funding two half-scholarships for students from Maine at Tufts Medical School. Tufts and Maine Med are partnering to increase rural-based primary care physicians.



The Bingham Program advisors are pleased to announce that Maine Epidemiologist Stephen Sears, MD, MPH has joined the board. VP for medical affairs at two major hospitals, Steve has had a long career in public health advocacy at the local and state levels.

2009 Program Grants

Acadia Hospital

One year – \$32,237

To train pediatric practices, school personnel and the community on the early warning signs of psychosis

Add Verb Productions

Three years – \$75,000

For a longitudinal study of teens to test the effectiveness of the play *You the Man* as an intervention in dating abuse and violence

Barbara Bush Children's Hospital

Two years – \$58,281

For the expansion of Kids CO-OP 5-2-1-0 program to 150 early childhood centers across the state

Long Term Care Ombudsman

One year – \$25,000

To develop and launch a coordinated statewide network of older Mainers to promote and protect a higher quality of life for Maine seniors

Maine Center for Public Health

One year – \$10,000

To research and develop grant proposals for new public health stimulus money

Maine Children's Trust

One year – \$30,000

To implement the *Strengthening Maine's Families* program

Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Three years – \$84,838

To engage young men in the effort to end violence against women

Medical Care Development

One year – \$11,914

Planning funds for a 10 year project to develop and pilot programs that can be replicated

Penobscot Nation Health Department

One year – \$30,632

To support the comprehensive community health assessment of the tribes in Maine

Pine Tree Hospice

Three years – \$43,100

Capacity building to increase volunteers

Quality Counts

Three years – \$100,000

To implement and evaluate the Patient Centered Medical Home model with 26 primary care practices

St. Mary's Health System

One year – \$25,000

To support the community planning process for the *Local Food for Lewiston* initiative

Discretionary grants

Add Verb Productions

\$5,000 to support performances on Major Medical Breakthrough at medical venues in Maine

Barrels Community Market

\$5,000 Community outreach with strategic partners to low income and senior groups

York County Child Abuse and Neglect Council

\$1,000 to support the reactivation of the community task force created to stop abuse

Community Dental Center

\$5,000 to support handicap access

Kennebec Behavioral Health

\$1,000 conference support for speakers

Maine Children's Trust

\$5,000 for a grant writer to leverage \$500,000 ARA money for the work of the Maine Children's Growth Council over the next three years

Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

\$5,000 for a planning grant designed to give mental health counselors on-line training opportunities regarding power and control and domestic violence

Maine Women's Policy Center

\$5,000 to support its work on Family Medical Leave

Restaurant Health Education and Outreach Project

\$5,000 to support an employer education program on occupational safety and health to improve health outcomes for low-wage restaurant workers

U Maine Center on Aging

\$1,000 conference support