



# NORTH COUNTRY HEALTH CONSORTIUM

*"To lead innovative collaboration to improve the health status of the region."*

## North Country Health Consortium Staff

**Nancy Frank, MPH**  
*Executive Director*

**Elaine Belanger, LPN, BA**  
*Public Health Coordinator*

**Drew Brown, BA**  
*Program Specialist/IT Administrator*

**Annette Cole, RDH**  
*Dental Hygienist*

**Diana Gibbs, BA, CPS**  
*NCHC Program Manager*

**Colleen Gingue**  
*Finance Director*

**Ken Gordon**  
*ACO Administrator*

**Amy Holmes, MHA**  
*Community Public Health Director*

**Emily Jacobs, MA,MS-CED**  
*Marketplace Navigator*

**Kathleen Kennedy**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Iris Marcus**  
*VISTA VetCorps*

**Francine Morgan, MBA/HRM**  
*Sr. Program Manager*  
*The Molar Express/Marketplace*

**Kayla Ramsay**  
*Dental Assistant*

**Sean O'Brien**  
*Youth Prevention Program Coordinator*

**Bob Thompson, B.Sc., CPS**  
*Sr. Prevention Programs Manager*

## History and Purpose

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The North Country Health Consortium (NCHC) is a rural health network, created in 1997, as a vehicle for addressing common issues through collaboration among health and human service providers serving Northern New Hampshire. NCHC is engaged in activities for:

- Solving common problems and facilitating regional solutions
- Creating and facilitating services and programs to improve population health status
- Health professional training, continuing education and management services to encourage sustainability of the health care infrastructure
- Increasing capacity for local public health essential services
- Increasing access to health care for underserved and uninsured residents of Northern New Hampshire

## Organizational Services

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- Community health status monitoring and needs assessment
- Convening and facilitating of health and human service providers to develop collaborative solutions
- Forums on health issues
- Conference management
- Strategic planning
- Program development, project management and grant writing
- Technical assistance
- Advocating for rural health
- Management and financial services for regional collaborative initiatives

# Programs:

## **North Country Accountable Care Organization**

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The North Country Accountable Care Organization (NCACO) is a collaboration between the North Country Health Consortium and several of its member organizations. NCACO is a participant in the Medicare Shared Savings Program, sponsored by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and is dedicated to promoting better care coordination, improving patient outcomes and creating a collaborative environment across healthcare systems in rural northern New Hampshire. NCHC provides administrative services, financial management, and information technology support to the NCACO.

## **Molar Express**

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A mobile public health dental clinic designed to provide dental services to North Country residents who experience barriers to accessing dental care in traditional dental practices. Molar Express services are delivered in schools, nursing homes and community sites and include:

- Diagnostic and preventative care
- Restorative care
- Dental health education
- Dental Health Careers Exploration Program

## **Northern NH Area Health Education Center**

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The Northern New Hampshire Area Health Education (AHEC) is one of two federally designated AHECs in New Hampshire. Northern NH AHEC serves health and social service organizations and educational institutions in Coos, Grafton, Carroll and Belknap counties with the following programs and services:

- Public Health Training Center
- Medical database for members
- Conference coordination and continuing education for health professionals
- Support for health profession students in community-based sites and community-based preceptors
- Health careers pipeline activities
- Rural focus to statewide health professions workforce development
- Community-based health education

## **Community and Public Health**

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North Country Health Consortium fosters a regional public health system to ensure the capacity for providing essential public health functions to the region. NCHC, with its North Country partners, provides the following:

- Community health assessment and planning
- Partners with community-based health providers, area municipal governments and other community representatives to improve the public health infrastructure through local public health networks
- Prepares for Public Health emergencies
- Recruits and manages Public Health volunteers
- Promotes healthy behaviors and workplace wellness
- Provides education and training to public health and public safety professionals in the North Country

## **Community Substance Abuse Prevention**

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Community Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) staff provides leadership, facilitation and coordination for individuals, agencies, and community coalitions to work together in the North Country to develop and implement substance abuse prevention activities. Assessment, training, evaluation, and communication strategies are used to strengthen substance abuse prevention initiatives in the North Country.

Coalition and youth-facilitated community-based activities are focused throughout Northern Grafton and Coos County. Activities are designed to reduce access to alcohol by youth and reduce abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and prescription drugs by youth. Initiatives include:

- North Country Regional Prevention Network
- Coordination and facilitation of local Community Action Teams
- Local implementation of evidence-based initiatives
- Building and enhancing school-based Prevention Youth Councils
- Clearinghouse for prevention information