

News Release
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Caption: Windy Thompson, DDS & Anne Meeuwsen, DDS, of the Rumford Dental Health Center, explained the importance of good oral health for people with diabetes during a recent “Dinner and Discussion” event hosted by Tri-County Mental Health Services (TCMHS), the practices of Rumford Hospital Primary Care, and the Dental Collaborative as part of the new Integrated Primary Care partnership.

Integrated Talk Covers Many Aspects of Diabetes Care

RUMFORD- The October "Dinner and Discussion" presentation at the Eagles Club in Rumford featured a look at diabetes from three disciplines: medical, dental, and mental health, showing the interrelationship of all systems in overall health and well-being.

The monthly dinners are hosted by Tri-County Mental Health Services (TCMHS), the practices of Rumford Hospital Primary Care, and the Dental Collaborative as part of the new Integrated Primary Care partnership between Tri-County and the medical practices of Rumford Hospital Primary Care, which includes Swift River Family Medicine, Elsemore Dixfield Family Medicine, and River Valley Internal Medicine.

About 40 people were at the event. Dr. Jennifer Dressel presented an overview of Type 2 Diabetes. Speaking to the link between oral health and diabetes were Dr. Windy Thompson, DDS & Dr. Anne Meeuwssen, DDS, of the Rumford Dental Health Center. Also present was Susan Isenman, Clinical Administrator. Depression often accompanies a diabetes diagnosis, and mental health providers were on hand to answer any questions on that aspect.

The next dinner will be on Wednesday, November 18, at the same time and place, and will examine Substance Abuse from a similar multi-disciplined approach. For information or to register, please call 369-1194.

The Integrated Primary Care Project is a three year initiative funded by the Maine Health Access Foundation. For more information about the project, visit www.tcmhs.org.

Tri-County Mental Health Services is one of Maine's most respected and progressive agencies dealing with the psychological and social well-being of children, adults, and elders. TCMHS serves nearly 10,000 individuals each year in Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin and Oxford counties and beyond with innovative programs and services addressing mental health, substance abuse, mental retardation/ developmental disabilities, autism, and more. The agency is a state, regional and national leader in trauma-informed and recovery-based service delivery, and strives to offer hope to individuals, families, and communities.

Rumford Hospital Primary Care includes Swift River Health Care, River Valley Internal Medicine, and Elmore Dixfield Center and serve more than 8,900 patients each year with 44,000 visits. It is part of Rumford Hospital and the Central Maine Medical Family.

MeHAF, founded in 2000, is Maine's largest health care foundation. Each year MeHAF provides approximately \$5 million in grants and program funding across the state to expand access to health care. MeHAF was established as a result of the sale of the not-for-profit Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Maine to the for-profit Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Maine. www.mehaf.org

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