

# The Roundtable

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**November 30, 2017**

**N**ew member **Lori Dwyer** did not mince words when she described the effects opioids are having on the state, and country. In her new role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Penobscot Community Health Care, she oversees the nineteen clinics, labs and other services located from Jackman to Belfast. She joined PCHC in 2012 as General Counsel and Compliance and Risk Officer after working for a law firm in Portland for seven years.

She handled her classification talk well, considering she was asked just after she arrived at the meeting. Today's speaker slot was open, giving her the opportunity to tell us about her life as a lawyer, teacher and even a "ski bum."

Her education trail included graduating from Duke University (B.A.), the University of Alabama (M.A.) and the University of Maine School of Law (J.D.). She taught in Luxembourg at the International School, and taught high school in Maine (her mother is from Richmond, Maine).

In between teaching and law, Lori worked for ski companies in Taos, New Mexico. (Disclosure: your editor is a graduate of the University of Alabama and has a brother who lives in Taos.)

Lori started a business in which she imported children's clothing from Ecuador to help Ecuadorians gain income. She learned about the community health centers through her *pro bono* work, for which she was recognized by the Maine Bar Association in 2012. Her cases involved individuals seeking asylum from repressive regimes. She represented clients from all over the world, including the Congo.



“These were long and involved cases that took 2-3 years for an individual, and 5-6 years for families,” she said. Lori also did *pro bono* work for domestic violence cases.

Health centers, as such, were unknown until the Civil Rights movement when some doctors visited Mississippi and found there was no convenient health care. They found the work was dangerous and hard. Today there are 2,200 health centers in the United States. PCHC has revenue of \$70 million, and \$5 million from Federal sources.

Lori described the opioid epidemic as “like a hurricane. It is a huge crisis!” Add that to what she described as the biggest challenge to our health care system: “We do a woefully inadequate job of being patient centered. We need to meet people where they are.”



One of the successful services of PCHC is the Club House Program called Unlimited Solutions. It is one of 400 clubhouses around the country.

Unlimited Solutions opened in Bangor in October 2012 with the mission to “improve the quality of life for individuals who experience mental illness by providing social, vocational and educational opportunities.” Call Lori about a tour of The Clubhouse. She guarantees that you will have an emotional experience.

The difference between living in Portland and Bangor? “I like Portland, but it pretends to be the Boston of Maine. When we moved to Bangor, we were enthusiastically welcomed. There’s a small town feeling here that I love. I’m a poster child for why I moved here.” She said she is working to encourage young people to stay in Maine after graduations, and to also encourage young people to move to Maine. “The quality of life here is amazing!”

She sported a new Apple watch/phone that rang twice during her talk (“it’s my mother”). She said it rang during her interview for her CEO position at PCHC, “but I got the job anyway.” **Paul Miragliuolo** will advise Lori about fines levied if cell phones ring during the meeting.

### **As Our Wristwatches Ticked...**

There will be no morning meeting next week. That evening we will gather at Spectacular Events for the Dinner/Auction. **Kristy Kimball** needs about four more “top shelf” bottles of wine. She sent a clipboard with a sign-up list for tickets.

The Dynamic Duo of **Wahlstrom** and **Myers** warbled the birthday song to **Ken Kimball** and **Caroline King**. Caroline had the audio enhanced by everyone in the room singing to her.

**Judy Horan** promoted the need for shoppers and “unloaders” for the “Coats for Kids” project. Five or six shoppers will be needed for tomorrow evening’s (Friday) shopping at Burlington Coats. Meet at Burlington at 6 pm. She

needs helpers to unload the coats Saturday morning at Shaw's. Let Judy know if you can help at either or both events.

**Ken Nagle** unpocketed the fine levied by Paul for his appearance in the Cigaret Shopper ad. We extend condolences to **June Kontio** whose father died recently. Her good news was that the University of Maine accepted her daughter into the pre-med program.

Your editor has not seen **Bob Leavitt's** house, but he can only imagine the space Bob needed to host 47 family members for Thanksgiving dinner. The turkeys considered forming a union when they found out how many dinners would be served.

**David Zelz** lamented the paucity of tickets for the Elton John concert until a connection through his wife gained them two free tickets. Speaking of concerts, **Lisa Wahlstrom** promoted the Chamber Choir at St. John's Catholic Church on Saturday, December 9 at 7:30 pm. Free admission, but donations will be used to help with fuel assistance this winter.

The jangling of hat bells signaled **Greg Jamison's** reminder that bell ringing for the Salvation Army will happen Friday, December 15, 10 am – 5 pm at Sam's Club. He is looking for a few more ringers, so to speak.

Speaking of free tickets, Paul decided to use his Delta "Frequent Flier" miles to go to Florida. The flight to Sarasota stopped four times and took twelve hours. The airline shaved two hours off the return trip. "Never again," said Paul.

*Les Myers- November 30, 2017*

### **The Morning Gallery**



On Our Way Again