

[BETH]

THE FOREVER CHEMICALS KNOWN AS PFAS ARE NOT GOING ANYWHERE...
TWO MAINE DOCTORS SPENT THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER GATHERING
INFORMATION FROM MAINERS WHOSE WELLS WERE TESTED BY THE D-E-P.
AS JODI HERSEY TELLS US, ALL THE DATA THEY COLLECT WILL BE USED TO
STUDY THESE FOREVER CHEMICALS AND THEIR IMPACT ON PEOPLE'S HEALTH.

[PKG]

[TIME CUE:// 1:45]

[SUPER://MAINE DOCTORS DIG DEEPER INTO
EFFECTS OF PFAS/THORNDIKE]

[MAINERS LIVING IN SOMERSET, KENNEBEC AND WALDO COUNTIES, WHOSE
WATER WAS IDENTIFIED BY THE D-E-P AS HAVING HIGH LEVELS OF PFAS
WERE INVITED TO ATTEND ONE OF THE TOWN HALLS HELD IN WATERVILLE OR
THORNDIKE IN SEPTEMBER....]

[DOCTOR RACHEL CRISWELL OF REDINGTON-FAIRVIEW HOSPITAL IN
SKOWHEGAN AND RESEARCHER AND DOCTOR ABBY FLEISCH AT
MAINEHEALTH IN PORTLAND ARE STUDYING PFAS AND ITS IMPACT ON
MAINER'S PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH.]

[SUPER://DR. RACHEL CRISWELL/REDINGTON-
FAIRVIEW GENERAL HOSPITAL]

[ONE QUESTION WE'RE TRYING TO ANSWER IS WHAT OTHER EXPOSURE
PATHWAYS OTHER THAN WATER WERE PRESENT I N CENTRAL MAINE FOR
PFAS . WE'RE IN A UNIQUE SITUATION BECAUSE THE SLUDGE WITH PFAS IN IT
WAS APPLIED TO THE LAND SO IT'S IN OUR SOIL AND IN OUR FOOD.]

[DR. CRISWELL SAYS RESEARCH HAS SHOWN PFAS HAS BEEN LINKED TO
SEVERAL HEALTH ISSUES SUCH AS CANCER, HIGH CHOLESTEROL, AND LIVER
AND THYROID DISRUPTIONS.]

[UNITY RESIDENT AND FORMER FIREFIGHTER DAVID SMITH WAS MORE THAN
WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY BY FILLING OUT A SURVEY AND
GIVING A BLOOD SAMPLE.]

[SUPER://DAVID SMITH/UNITY RESIDENT]

[THE MORE EVERYONE LEARNS ABOUT THIS, THE MORE IT'LL HELP FIND
SOLUTIONS.]

[SUPER://JODI HERSEY/ABC7 & FOX22 NEWS]

[DR. CRISWELL SAYS 100 PEOPLE HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS PFAS STUDY
SO FAR. HOWEVER SHE'D REALLY LIKE 300 PARTICIPANTS FOR HER
RESEARCH. IT'S WHY SHE'S DECIDED TO EXTEND ENROLLMENT AND HAVE
FOLKS CONTACT HER AT THE OFFICE IN SKOWHEGAN SO SHE CAN GATHER
MORE INFORMATION ON THESE FOREVER CHEMICALS.]

[WHAT I'M HOPING IS THIS CAN FORM A BACKBONE FOR FUTURE STUDIES
ABOUT PFAS IN OUR COMMUNITIES. SO MAKING SURE WE HAVE A GOOD
FOUNDATION FOR THOSE FUTURE QUESTIONS IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO US
RIGHT NOW.]

[IN THORNDIKE, I'M JODI HERSEY FOR ABC7 AND FOX22 NEWS.]

[EMMA]

AFTER MORE THAN 19 MONTHS OF CONSTRUCTION, A NEW SECTION OF A BANGOR HOSPITAL IS ALMOST READY FOR PATIENTS. OUR DAVID LEDFORD BRINGS US AN INSIDE LOOK FROM THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY CELEBRATING THE UPCOMING OPENING.

[PKG]

[TIME CUE:// 1:32]

[NORTHERN LIGHT ACADIA HOSPITAL HAS EXPANDED WITH THE ADDITION OF A \$50 MILLION DOLLAR PEDIATRIC INPATIENT WING.]

[WEDNESDAY, STAFF PROVIDED TOURS OF THE NEW ROOMS AND FEATURES THAT WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE FOR ADOLESCENTS IN NEED OF PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES.]

[THE EXPANSION COMES AS THE HOSPITAL CONTINUES TO SEE A HIGH DEMAND FOR CARE.]

[SUPER:// TIMOTHY DENTRY/ PRESIDENT & CEO, NORTHERN LIGHT HEALTH]

["THIS IS A VERY BIG DEAL, AND A VERY TOUCHING MOMENT FOR A LOT OF US."]

[SUPER:// MARK LUKENS/ PRESIDENT, NORTHERN LIGHT ACADIA HOSPITAL]

["WE'VE SEEN AN INCREASE IN NEED FOR FACILITIES LIKE THIS FOR AT LEAST THE PAST 6 OR 7 YEARS -- WHEN COVID CAME AROUND IT JUST ACCELERATED THAT NEED, WE SAW A RAPID SPIKE... BUT THE NEED ALREADY EXISTED."]

[THE HOSPITAL IS LICENSED TO HAVE 100 BEDS, HOWEVER REPRESENTATIVES SAY AS MANY AS A THIRD OF THOSE BEDS ARE UNAVAILABLE ON ANY GIVEN DAY BECAUSE THE STANDARD OF CARE IS FOR PATIENTS TO HAVE PRIVATE ROOMS -- WHICH IS WHY THE NEW ADDITION IS ESSENTIAL.]

[SUPER:// DAVID LEDFORD]

["THE NEW WING WILL ADD 50 PRIVATE ROOMS TO THE HOSPITAL -- EACH WITH A NUMBER OF SAFETY FEATURES THAT REPRESENTATIVES SAY WILL HELP BOTH PATIENTS AND STAFF."]

[SUPER:// KENZIE TEFFT/ DIR. OF PATIENT CARE FOR PED., NORTHERN LIGHT ACADIA HOSPITAL]

["IF WE HAVE A PATIENT ATTEMPTING TO FLOOD A ROOM, YOU CAN COME RIGHT TO THIS PAD AND TURN OFF THE WATER... THIS IS NON-BREAKABLE... ANY FURNITURE YOU SEE IS VERY HEAVY AND CAN'T BE PICKED UP AND USED AS A WEAPON..."]

[SUPER:// NADIA MENDIOLA/ MED. DIR. OF PEDIATRIC INPATIENT SVCS., NORTHERN LIGHT ACADIA HOSPITAL]

["WE HAVE MORE STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY... WHAT THIS HOSPITAL MEANS IS THAT WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO CATER TO THOSE PATIENTS AND FAMILIES WHO FEEL STUCK IN THE COGWHEEL, STUCK IN THE SYSTEM."]

[THE WING WILL BE OPEN FOR PATIENTS STARTING MONDAY, JANUARY 8TH.]

[BETH]

THE FAMILY OF A BANGOR WOMAN WHO DIED OF BREAST CANCER EARLIER THIS YEAR IS SUING A MAINE HOSPITAL FOR MEDICAL MALPRACTICE. HERE'S MORE.

[PKG]

[TIME CUE:// 1:58]

[ELIZA BUTLER WAS A MOTHER OF FOUR AND FORMER OWNER OF BANGOR'S SPECIALTY SWEETS. NEARLY A YEAR AGO ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, SHE PASSED AWAY FOLLOWING A BATTLE WITH BREAST CANCER.]

[NOW, HER HUSBAND WADE IS SUING ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL AND HEALTHCARE FOR MEDICAL MALPRACTICE -- ALLEGING WRONGFUL DEATH AND THE INSTITUTION'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCEPTABLE CARE.]

[THE SUIT CLAIMS BUTLER'S MEDICAL TEAM FAILED TO DIAGNOSE HER CANCER FOR OVER 3 AND A HALF YEARS.]

[SUPER:// TAYLOR ASEN/ WADE BUTLER'S ATTORNEY]

["IN DECEMBER OF 2017, SHE WENT TO HER PROVIDER AND COMPLAINED ABOUT A LUMP IN HER ARMPIT. WHEN ELIZA WAS FINALLY SENT FOR AN ULTRASOUND IN THE SUMMER OF 2021, THE CANCER WAS CAUGHT BUT IT WAS TOO LATE. IT HAD ALREADY SPREAD TO HER LUNGS AT THAT POINT."]

[AFTER HER INITIAL VISIT IN DECEMBER OF 2017, BUTLER REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF ORDERING A MAMMOGRAM AND ULTRASOUND WITH HER PROVIDER, BUT ASKED TO DELAY THE TESTING BECAUSE IT WAS A BUSY TIME OF YEAR FOR HER CANDY STORE.]

[DURING A DEPOSITION PRIOR TO HER DEATH, BUTLER SAYS NO ONE FOLLOWED UP WITH HER ABOUT ORDERING THOSE TESTS.]

[SUPER:// ELIZA BUTLER]

["DID YOU EVER RECEIVE ANY FOLLOW-UP FROM ST. JOSEPH FAMILY PRACTICE TO SCHEDULE YOU FOR THAT IMAGING."]

["NO."]

["HAD THEY SCHEDULED YOU FOR THAT IMAGING IS THAT SOMETHING YOU WOULD HAVE DONE?"]

["YES, OF COURSE!"]

[THE SUIT ALLEGES THAT BUTLER MADE A NUMBER OF VISITS TO THE HOSPITAL BETWEEN 2017 AND 2021 -- COMPLAINING ABOUT ARM PAIN AND OTHER SYMPTOMS. AN ATTORNEY FOR THE FAMILY SPOKE WITH US ABOUT THE LAWSUIT -- WHICH HE EXPECTS TO EVENTUALLY GO TO TRIAL.]

[SUPER:// TAYLOR ASEN/ WADE BUTLER'S ATTORNEY]

["HOPEFULLY THE FOLKS WHO, IN OUR VIEW, COMMITTED MALPRACTICE WILL LEARN SOMETHING FROM THIS AND IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN TO SOMEBODY ELSE. I THINK THAT'S WHAT ELIZA REALLY CARED ABOUT -- THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO HER WOULD MEAN SOMETHING."]

[WE REACHED OUT TO ST. JOSEPH HEALTHCARE, BUT A REPRESENTATIVE SAYS THE ORGANIZATION DOES NOT COMMENT ON PENDING LITIGATION.]

[IN BANGOR, DAVID LEDFORD, ABC 7 AND FOX 22 NEWS.]

[BETH]

IN A MOVE TO BOLSTER THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR, THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HAS ANNOUNCED THE RELEASE OF \$19 MILLION DOLLARS IN ONE-TIME MEDICAID PAYMENTS.

[VO]

THE FUNDS FROM MAINECARE, ARE SPECIFICALLY ALLOCATED TO AID THE STATE'S NURSING FACILITIES IN THEIR ONGOING RECOVERY FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THERE'S A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON SUPPORTING DIRECT CARE STAFF. DHHS COMMISSIONER JEANNE LAMBREW HIGHLIGHTED THE CORRELATION BETWEEN WELL-TRAINED, CONSISTENT STAFFING AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND CARE IN NURSING FACILITIES

[SOT]

[TIME CUE:// 0:30]

[" BECAUSE WHAT WE'VE SEEN SINCE THE PANDEMIC IS THAT. HIRING AND KEEPING. NURSES AND CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS IS CHALLENGING. YET WHAT WE KNOW IS THOSE FRONTLINE STAFF ARE KEY TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND WELL-BEING OF OUR NURSING FACILITY RESIDENTS. SO THIS PAYMENT COMPLEMENTS WORK TO IMPROVE SUPPORT FOR NURSING FACILITIES. OUR WORKFORCE INVESTMENTS AS WELL AS OUR INTEREST IMPROVING QUALITY BECAUSE WE REALLY WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS IS AS GOOD. AS POSSIBLE."]

[VO]

IN ADDITION TO THESE STATE INITIATIVES, MAINE NURSING FACILITIES HAVE RECEIVED AT LEAST \$50 MILLION DOLLARS IN DIRECT FINANCIAL RELIEF FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

[EMMA]

THE HOPE HOUSE COULD BE CLOSING BY NEXT OCTOBER IF A NEW PARTNER ISN'T FOUND.

[VO]

P-C-H-C HAS BEEN RUNNING THE SHELTER FOR NEARLY 13 YEARS SINCE TAKING IT OVER FROM ACADIA HOSPITAL IN 2011.

THE HOPE HOUSE OFFERS A VARIETY OF SERVICES, INCLUDING HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING. PENOBSCOT COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE PRESIDENT LORI DWYER MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT...SAYING THE ORGANIZATION IS ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR A PARTNER WHILE NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGES OF FINDING FUNDING.

[SOT]

[TIME CUE:// 0:13]

[SUPER: LORI DWYER // PRESIDENT & CEO,
PENOBSCOT COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE]

["WE WANTED TO GIVE OURSELVES ENOUGH OF A RUNWAY TO BE ABLE TO REALLY HAVE THOSE IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS AND WORK REALLY HARD TO IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL FUNDING RESOURCES BECAUSE A PARTNER ORGANIZATION IS GOING TO HAVE SIMILAR CHALLENGES TO US."]

[1:15-1:28]

[VO]

DWYER SAYS FUNDING HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN ISSUE, BUT THE NEED HAS BEEN GROWING RAPIDLY.

SHOULD THE HOPE HOUSE CLOSE, DWYER SAYS THE HEALTH CARE AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS WILL REMAIN OPERATIONAL UNDER P-C-H-C.

DWYER SAYS CONVERSATIONS WITH POTENTIAL PARTNERS HAVE GONE WELL SO FAR AND SHE REMAINS OPTIMISTIC THE SHELTER WILL CONTINUE TO BE OPEN FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

UPON FINDING ITS NEW PARTNER, P-C-H-C WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PART OF THE CAMPUS, WHILE THE NEW PARTNER WILL ASSUME THE DAILY OPERATIONS OF THE HOPE HOUSE.