

Choose to be Healthy will distribute some of the funding to local police departments in Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick and York with the York Police Department serving as the police lead on this 18 month initiative. York Police Department has assigned two experienced officers, Jamie Rooney, School Resource Officer and Owen Davis, A/Sgt. to head up the project.

York Police Chief, Douglas Bracy says, “We are looking forward to strengthening our partnership with York Hospital's Center for Community Health promotion with this program. The funding of this grant allows us to address a serious problem that is a problem not only locally but nationally.”

Deborah Erickson-Irons, Director of Choose To Be Healthy, states: “We are excited to continue support for our local law enforcement partners as we work together to reduce underage drinking and create healthier lives in our communities.”

Choose To Be Healthy’s new Prevention Specialist, Sally Manninen, will provide support and technical assistance to the region’s police departments and work with them to strengthen community collaboration especially among youth, parents and the police. Sally is a York resident with over 12 years experience in the fields of substance abuse prevention and youth development.

Choose To Be Healthy is one of twenty-eight Healthy Maine Partnerships across the state working to coordinate tobacco prevention and cessation, substance abuse prevention, physical activity and nutrition and serves the towns of Berwick, North Berwick, South Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, Lebanon, Ogunquit, Wells and York.

Healthy Maine Partnerships is a collaborative effort among the Maine Departments of Health and Human Services (Maine CDC and the Office of Substance Abuse) and Education, supported primarily by the Fund for Healthy Maine with federal grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the US Department of Education. For more information on this grant, visit the Office of Substance Abuse website at [www.maineosa.org](http://www.maineosa.org).