NH Alliance for Healthy Aging
Quarterly Meeting

September 14, 2016; 9:00-12:00
NH Audubon McLane Center
84 Silk Farm Road
Concord, NH

Meeting Summary

What's New
Presenters: Alison Rataj and Jennifer Rabalais (*slides 3 – 7*)
The presentation commenced with Jennifer Rabalais reminding AHA members about the commitment wall and anyone can add or update their commitments at any time. Jennifer also provided a brief communication update, specifically that there will be a website for AHA with the goal to have it complete by the end of January. Alison updated about BOX, an online cloud based storage system to collaborate and share files with all the members of AHA. There is no special log-in or permission needed to access BOX click here to view: https://unh.box.com/s/euc2o9pu4zja2b5g4dfxs5agq0nan0pg
If you have questions or need assistance with BOX contact Alison Rataj at Alison.rataj@unh.edu.

Building An Aging Advocacy Network
Presenters: Cheryl Steinberg, Steve Norton, and Jim Monahan (*slides 8 – 14*)
Cheryl Steinberg discussed the work of the AHA Advocacy workgroup which has received funding from the Endowment for Health and Charitable Foundation. NH Legal Assistance (NHLA) is the fiscal agent for the funding award. The AHA Advocacy group recently convened stakeholders to prioritize aging efforts for the 2017 Legislative. From this a Proposed 2017 Legislative "mini agenda" was created, that includes: 1) Advocating for a rate increase for home and community based providers 2) Advocacy to protect against cuts for any existing services 3) Support passage of bills being spearheaded by other AHA members 4) Support passage of the uniform power of attorney act. Cheryl explained the need for impactful personal stories that can be shared with legislators and provided a template to be used in capturing these stories. AHA members were encouraged to submit these stories to NH Legal Assistance. Cheryl also asked that AHA members communicate information about any pertinent bills outside of the priorities listed so that NHLA can track these bills.

Steve Norton from the NH Center for Public Policy Studies presented on the upcoming state budget. In Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016 there was a 7% increase in revenues. In current conversations Steve has had with new leadership, they see this as a one-time increase and are not looking to build the increase revenue into the new biennium budget. For Fiscal Year 2016 – 2017 the growth is still happening with the potential of about $200 million dollars surplus even after money is allocated to the rainy day fund. The Agency Efficiency Budget has been submitted and is available for public view on the state's website. This legislative session could see a discussion about the cost effectiveness of Medicaid Managed Care. There is not a specific budget line for Elder Services in the budget making it difficult to see where elderly and adult's funds are being used in the Department.

Jim Monahan provided an overview of the legislative process in NH (slides 8 – 14). He discussed the make-up and process of the NH Legislature and the role of state agencies in offering guidance. He also discussed how decisions are made and stated that house committee recommendations usually get passed on the floor. He also provided highlights and predictions for 2017 including:

- There is a new governor and all republican control but stability in legislature leadership
- Budget is not bad. Main question: workforce investment vs. tax cut with the excess revenue
- Medicaid expansion will slowly change, Jim predicted that NH will wait on what U.S. Congress does with ACA in the first 100-200 days of new administration.
- Managed Medicaid Phase II – New RFP for managed care organizations are scheduled to be realeased in May or June with contracting in the fall of 2017.

Jim and Steve held a Question and Answer session. Below is an outline of what was discussed.
- The 1115 waiver and managed care for mental health connection is that each Integrated Delivery Network (IDN) has their own interpretation and IDN's are assuming that Managed Care Organizations will be the payers vs. ACOs or other payment models.
- In regards to who to approach at DHHS about having line items for Elder Services, the past commissioner felt most of the responsibility of long term services falls to the counties therefore the infrastructure was not built internally. DHHS has hired a new deputy commissioner who is a past county nursing home administrator, this could be a sign of a shift back to an elder focus.
- Maine has an aging caucus, would that work in NH? Jim has seen more failures in NH with caucuses. However, the children's caucus has succeeded but need to let it bubble up from the legislature.

Measuring Our Progress
Presenter: Martha Tecca (*slides 15 – 24*)
Martha Tecca provided an overview of the AHA Measurement approach. Martha also discussed that the focus today is on domain level and hoping that AHA can provide input on overarching indicators of how the work is going to be achieved. The group broke into table discussions to provide input on indicators for each of the domains.

Bright Spot:

Winnipesaukee Public Health Council – Aging and Disability Workgroup.
Presenters: Stace Dicker-Hendriks and Marian Gill (slides 26 – 40).

The Aging and Disability Work Group is made up of 16 organizations and is leading efforts to improve the health and well-being of older adults and their caregivers through their Community Health Improvement Plan. The group is focusing on caregiving and preventing older adult injury due to falls. To implement these goals, the group is ensuring that all providers of Powerful Tools for Caregivers program is distributed across their community; developed a caregiver survey to get a baseline of caregivers in their area and will invite them to a focus group; offer matter of balance classes; and have cards filled out by emergency medical staff that are given to ER staff if an older adult falls.

Strategic Group updates
Presenters: Alison Rataj and Heather Carroll (*slides 41*).
Alison presented about the overall group process of the work groups. Groups in the action plan development stage include care coordination and information is coordination. Groups developing measures and SMART goals include workforce, caregiving, and cross-disciplinary. Groups that are

implementing action steps include advocacy, zoning, and transportation. Heather Carroll provided a more in depth update on the work of the cross disciplinary group. This group is defined as: "*Convene a cross-disciplinary workgroup including medical, mental health, social service, community service, and oral health providers, in order to plan and coordinate efforts*". Heather discussed that this group aims to change policy (e.g., rule setting, organizational change) by bringing together a broad array of stakeholders in the area of health and wellbeing to highlight common challenges and identify opportunities to solve these challenges. This group functions in a different capacity than the advocacy group and is focusing specifically on the area of quality physical and mental wellbeing supports and will elevate specific policy items to the advocacy group. Currently, the cross disciplinary group is focusing on how to operationalize convening a larger cross disciplinary stakeholder group, establishing a vision statement of their work, and developing policy priorities in the area of health and wellbeing.

Lunch Activity

A new lunch time activity for all AHA members to join was unveiled during lunch, a book club! The book club will be meeting right after the AHA Quarterly Meetings during the lunch hour (12:00 – 12:30) at the Audubon. After each quarterly meeting, the group will brainstorm and vote on a book to be read and discussed at the next quarterly meeting. The first book that was chose is titled: "This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism" by Ashton Applewhite. Click here to read a synopsis of the book: https://thischairrocks.com/. Discussion of this book will be held on March 15th from 12:00 – 12:30. Find out more information about other books on the voting ballot in the BOX folder. Click here to access the folder: https://unh.app.box.com/s/euc2o9pu4zja2b5g4dfxs5agq0nan0pg.