

## NH Alliance for Healthy Aging Quarterly Meeting

June 13, 2019; 9:00-12:00

NH Audubon McLane Center  
84 Silk Farm Road  
Concord, NH

### Meeting Summary

#### **What's Happening: AHA update**

***Presenters: Jennifer Rabalais, UNH CACL, Alison Rataj, UNH CACL (slides 3 - 5)***

Jennifer discussed that the Institute on Disability (IOD) in Concord is moving its offices. Many workgroup and committee meetings are held at the IOD in Concord. The new office address is **57 Regional Drive, Unit 8, Concord, NH**. The offices will be closed the week of June 24<sup>th</sup>, with office staff working remotely. The new office will be open July 1. Jennifer also stated that UNH CACL was awarded funding from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation to enhance communication capacity of AHA. Lastly, Jennifer announced that Alison Rataj applied and was accepted to the University of Massachusetts Boston, McCormack School of Policy and Global Studies for a PhD in Gerontology. She received a full tuition waiver and research assistantship and begins in the fall of 2019.

Alison discussed that the measurement committee has been focused on providing guidance and disseminating the [NH Healthy Aging Data Report](#) for the winter of 2018 and the spring of 2019. The NH Healthy Aging Data Report is a suite of online interactive tools that provide information on healthy aging across 150 indicators for every city and town in NH. The report was officially released on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the AHA Legislative breakfast with engagement from legislators and advocates alike. The NH Healthy Aging Data Report Ambassadors (mostly Senior Leadership Alumni) have been disseminating the report in their local communities and to selectmen, public planning boards, and local organizations. If you are interested in hosting a healthy aging data report session and would like an ambassador to present contact Laura Davie at [Laura.Davie@unh.edu](mailto:Laura.Davie@unh.edu)

#### **AHA Advocacy Strategic Priority Update**

***Presenters: Dawn McKinney, NHLA; Dan Hobbs, NHLA, and Martha McLeod, New Futures (slide 6)***

Dawn updated about the legislative priorities. The Commission on Aging is waiting for the Governor to sign, Dawn stated that she did not anticipate the Governor vetoing. The financial exploitation bill created a protective order for older adults and was modeled after the domestic violence statute that gave a judge the authority to remove firearms if there was a physical threat to an older person. The bill then was grouped with other "gun bills" and received push back from legislators, lobbyists, and advocates. The bill is headed to conference on committee to amend the bill to remove the firearm part. In the budget there is an increase for CFI, Title III, and Title XX funding, and currently there is a 3.1% senate budget increase for Medicaid providers each year but AHA Advocacy is asking to add \$5 million for home and community service rate increases for all Medicaid providers. The Workforce Bill ([SB 308](#)) went through some revisions and pieces were folded into legislation, except for the financial piece which was woven into the budget.

Dan talked about his outreach and grassroots development. Reiterated that the AHA Legislative breakfast on April 2<sup>nd</sup> was very successful because of the advocates in the room and the launch of the

healthy aging data report. Dan is coordinating in-district meetings to pull legislators and advocates together on a regional basis. Dan is also coordinating people on a regional effort in Keene, a group of individuals showed interest in tackling some community issues such as accessibility and housing. Martha also introduced herself and provided some of her background and discussed that she will be helping to support AHA advocacy in community and developing an outreach and infrastructure for advocates.

#### **AHA Workforce Strategic Priority Area Update**

***Presenter: Rebecca Hutchinson, AHA Steering Committee (slide 7 - 10)***

Rebecca discussed the workgroup's goal is to improve the availability of quality healthcare and social service workforces. The group has done this through two strategic intentions. The first is education and awareness. The group has focused this work around a PBS segment, *Call to Care NH*, which outlines the challenges and rewards of being a directcare worker. The group created a discussion guide for the film and has hosted screenings across NH. The segment can be viewed [here](#). If you would like a DVD copy of Call to Care NH and the discussion guide please contact Laura Davie at [Laura.Davie@unh.edu](mailto:Laura.Davie@unh.edu). The second strategy seeks to improve the number of direct care workers to meet the demand. To achieve this strategy, the group hosted a roundtable that brought stakeholders and leaders of initiatives that are working to improve the healthcare workforce together to align work, reduce duplication of efforts, and identify gaps to advance the field of the directcare workforce. Some of the conversation centered around training programs for directcare staff to improve and support the work they are doing currently. The workgroup's next steps include meeting with the AHA Advocacy group to debrief the 2019 legislative session and discuss opportunities for legislation in 2020, continue to support community viewings of Call to Care NH, and continued conversations about how to be an effective clearinghouse for information on the directcare workforce.

#### **Healthy Aging and Public Health**

***Presenter: Lisa Morris, Director, NH Division of Public Health Services (slides 12 – 43)***

Lisa discussed that the goal and mission of public health is to protect, promote, and improve the health and wellbeing of all people in NH. Equity is a core value within public health. There are several aims of the division of public health services including protecting the health of all people and communities, targeting evidence-based strategies, ensuring access to preventative focused care, collecting and analyzing data, and improving health outcomes. The division includes six bureaus and about 270 staff within the division. Public health work relies on partnerships and common plans and agendas to complete work in the community. The division is focusing on a cross-sectorial engagement and bringing many entities to the table to improve health of NH residents. Public health also focuses on social determinants of health, which are conditions in which people are born, live, work and age (e.g., food, education, environment, housing, etc.). Lisa discussed that the role of public health is still evolving but should play a role in improving social determinants of health, because social determinants of health are what distinguishes healthy people from non-healthy people.

Lisa also discussed boundary spanning leadership, which is a model for integrated work. Lisa discussed that a takeaway for her in this model is that time is dedicated for relationship building before the work begins which is crucial to cross-sector work. Lisa discussed that the NH State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) ends in 2020, and the division is doing a state health assessment and how public health impacts populations across the lifespan and how the division can better improve health outcomes. Also, Lisa discussed public health networks, which are regional partnerships of local entities to work towards improving health in their specific area using a regional plan. There are currently 13 public health regions. Lisa also provided resources and data sources. Lisa discussed that some practitioners do not see social determinants of health as important and cited that educating staff is key. Lisa also plans to address this

in the state plan, as well as package language around the different provider markets to relay how they will best understand the information as it relates to their organization. Lisa discussed that her ideal would be that individuals receiving care would receive a social determinants of health assessment, but funding is needed as well as buy-in from the various sectors.

### **Tufts Health Plan Foundation Funding Opportunities**

***Presenter: Kimberly Blakemore, Tufts Health Plan Foundation (slides 45 - 49)***

Kimberly provided information about two upcoming grant opportunities. Tufts Health Plan Foundation (THPF) is a regional funder in NH, MA, RI, and CT and funds a range of projects. The first opportunity is the policy and advocacy grant, this is offered on an annual basis and provides organizations the opportunity to work directly with individuals on a grassroots level. THPF hopes that organizations will identify problems and solutions based on community members feedback. This grant is a three-year funding stream and THPF is looking for clarified goals for years 2 and 3. Encourage applicants to reach out to THPF to talk about ideas before submitting an initial letter of intent. Find out more about the policy and advocacy grant [here](#). The second opportunity is the momentum fund, which are mini grants for 1-year for up to \$10,000 that focus on earlier stage solutions. Currently, THPF has earmarked \$100,000 for NH grants. If there is a work group of AHA that is interested in applying, hope that one of the organization's involved will be the fiscal sponsor. There will be an online webinar with more information, click [here](#) to register or find out more about the momentum fund [here](#).

### **Assistive Technology in NH (ATinNH)**

***Presenter: Stacy Driscoll, Institute on Disability (slide 50)***

Stacy discussed that Assistive Technology in NH (ATinNH) is a federally funded assistive technology program. ATinNH provides device loans and demonstrations, information and referral, and training around using devices. This program includes a website [www.atinnh.at4all.com](http://www.atinnh.at4all.com) where individuals can review devices and request loaner devices. ServiceLink Resource Centers also have devices available. Stacy provided a demonstration of some devices available such as pocket talkers, handybar, and others. Stacy also does training and will bring devices to you/clients. ATinNH does not do evaluations. If you have questions you can contact Stacy at [Stacy.Driscoll@unh.edu](mailto:Stacy.Driscoll@unh.edu).

### **Community Announcements**

- *Christina Shepard, DHHS.* State plan on aging update is that the public comment period ended in May. The commission of DHHS receives the plan tomorrow and will become an official draft.
- *Cary Gladstone, Granite United Way.* Save the date on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 [Asset Summit](#) put on by Ca\$h Coalition and focuses on best practice in financial education and asset building. Also Granite United Way is seeking to help homeowners with [property tax relief](#), find out more about [Granite United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance](#).
- *Tracey Tarr, DHHS.* The public hearing for Choices for Independence rules has been cancelled until further notice.
- *Joan Marcoux, DHHS.* Full day workshop in Brown Building on hearing and visual services. Contact Joan ([Joan.Marcoux@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:Joan.Marcoux@dhhs.nh.gov)) for more information.
- *Larry Flint, Senior Games.* Senior Games registration is open, there are 14 sports available, click [here](#) to find out more. Second announcement is the [Granite State 90 Day Challenge](#) is open from June 1 – Aug. 31; the challenge is to exercise for 20 minutes every day in June, July and August.

- *Janice McDermott, Home care, Hospice, and Palliative Care Alliance.* Kimberly Paul, author of *Bridging the Gap: Life Lessons Learned from Dying* is touring NH and has events scheduled around the state. Find out more [here](#).
- *Kelly Laflamme, Endowment for Health.* Currently has opportunity grants cycle open, which is one-time funding about seizing opportunities. The deadline is July 15<sup>th</sup> for applications. If interested find out more [here](#).
- *Jennifer Rabalais, UNH CACL.* CACL is hosting a statewide conference on aging on November 6<sup>th</sup> in Mills Falls in Meredith.

**NH Alliance for Healthy Aging 2018 - 2019 Meeting Schedule:**

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Thursday, December 12, 2019