



NH Alliance for Healthy Aging Quarterly (Virtual) Meeting

June 10, 2021

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Via ZOOM

Meeting highlights

NHAHA is pleased to share our updated mission, vision, and values statement.

Jennifer Rabalais shared that the NHAHA Steering Committee has recently ratified a new mission/vision/values statement. We are excited to share this document and feel that it will serve as a true road map to guide our work. Many thanks to the Steering Committee and the many people who worked on the document over the past several months. It has been posted to our website and is being shared widely. It can also be viewed [here](#)

Dementia Friendly Communities

We were pleased to welcome **Meghan Wentworth**- Memory Support Manager at [Riverwoods-Durham](#) and NH representative of [Dementia Friendly America](#) for an informative overview of Dementia Friendly communities (Durham and Portsmouth are among them).

Meghan shared with attendees that there four key elements to building a dementia friendly approach, they are:

- Convene key leaders across all sectors in the community.
- Engage these leaders and the community at large.
- Analyze and review data collected.
- Build an action plan.

There is no one cookie cutter approach. In Durham, the effort was built around a strong collaboration among state agencies like the Alzheimer's Association, UNH, Town of Durham, Public Works Department, Police Department, local merchants, first responders and others.

The town convened a series of meetings to plan next steps and map out how they would be dementia friendly. Key outcomes included: law enforcement paperwork specific to those with dementia, the development of a “silver alert” system, memory cafes or purple zones in local restaurants tailored to families with dementia, and a “Lead me home” project approved by the Durham Police Department.

Meghan’s slide presentation will be posted to NHAHA website. She invites further questions and comments at mwentworth@riverwoodsdurham.org.

Another great resource is Melissa Grenier, Regional Manager, at [Massachusetts and New Hampshire Alzheimer’s Association](https://www.massalzheimer.org/). Melissa can be reached at: mgrenier@alz.org

Emergency Broadband Benefit

NHAHA was pleased to hear an update from **Renee Coles**, consumer education outreach specialist at the [FCC](https://www.fcc.gov/) who shared a comprehensive update on the [Emergency Broadband Benefit](https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/emergency-broadband-benefit).

The overview covered who is eligible, how one can apply, and what some of the benefits are ranging from subsidies to help pay for broadband to discounts on equipment like laptops, tablets, or cell phones.

Renee also shared an in-depth view of how to qualify for the benefits, what steps to take to access the program, and what carriers were participating.

The FCC is also partnering with multiple organizations to get the word out about the new benefit and Renee discussed the toolkit that has been developed. It can be customized based on each audience, including multiple languages, braille formats, or for those who are hearing impaired.

Renee’s presentation will be posted to NHAHA website.

She invites follow-up questions at: broadbandbenefit@fcc.gov

NHAHA Advocacy Update

Heather Carroll, Director of Advocacy for NHAHA, provided an overview of key legislative issues and activities. As 2021 is a budget year, that has been a major focus. Hats off to NHAHA, New Futures and NH Legal Assistance for a coordinated and extensive effort to recruit advocates and engage law makers on issues of importance to seniors and their families. We were pleased to have numerous advocates take part in the listening sessions hosted by the NH Senate and feel that their stories and testimony had a real impact.

Key items included:

- Choice for Independence (CFI) funding restored; we are still seeking a 5% increase.
- We are seeking additional support for adult day services.
- We are seeking \$1.5 million in support for Senior Centers.
- We continue to educate and advocate on behalf of caregivers.

Our ongoing challenge is to ensure that older adults and their families have a seat at the table when it comes to policy making. We have already begun planning for 2022 and invite feedback and ideas. Items likely on our 2022 agenda include telemedicine support, investment in broadband, and transportation issues, to name a few.

Heather invites ideas and feedback at hcarroll@nhla.org.

Networking period

Following the formal presentations, attendees participated in virtual breakout rooms to network and discuss areas of common interest.

2021 Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Thursday, December 9, 2021