



NHAHA Quarterly Meeting

March 9, 2022; 9:30am – 11:30am

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Housekeeping

Presenter: Jennifer Rabalais, UNH Center on Aging and Community Living, NHAHA Coordinator (slides 5 – 6).

Jennifer welcomed everyone to the NHAHA Quarterly meeting. Jennifer discussed that a highlights and accomplishments document is created annually that celebrates the work of the previous year. Jennifer showed the 2021 document and highlighted that there are over 360 people involved in NHAHA that represent over 220 organizations across the state. Jennifer stated that this document will be available on the website and sent out via email. Jennifer also reminded participants that the NHAHA annual survey is going to remain open until March 11 and to please provide feedback on their experience as a NHAHA participant.

NH Fair Housing Program Presentation

Presenters: Lindsay Lincoln and Maria Eveleth, NH Legal Assistance (slides 7 – 30).

The presentation included an overview of the Fair Housing Act (FHA) which prohibits discrimination by providers of housing such as landlords and real estate companies, and other institutions such as banks, municipalities, and lending institutions based on a person's protected class (i.e., race, color, religion, etc.). FHA covers dwellings such as rental homes, single-family homes, nursing homes, and transitional housing programs, among others. Lindsay discussed that there are practices that are illegal if they are being directed towards members of protected classes (e.g., refusal to sell/rent, steering).

There is a state law that protects people from age discrimination in housing, however, there are provisions for housing for older adults (i.e., 55+ housing). If these properties meet the criteria, they can lawfully exclude individuals. Maria discussed disabilities and reasonable accommodations and modifications under FHA. Lindsay indicated that requests must be reasonable (i.e., not undue financial/administrative burden on landlords and cannot deviate from the nature of the housing program). Maria also discussed the issue of assistance animals which is defined by FHA as an accommodation request. Conditions and restrictions applied to pets are not applied to assistance animals and most assistance animals have an individualized assessment. NHLA also runs a testing program that is a simulation of a housing transaction to compare information given to home seekers to see if discrimination is occurring. NHLA recruits and trains individuals to pose as renters and sends them out to conduct simulations with various housing providers. If anyone is interested in becoming a tester contact NHLA.

Gen Silent Survey Project: New Hampshire

Presenter: Alison Rataj, Zen Executive, NHAHA Researcher (slides 32 - 39).

Alison discussed that work has recently been completed related to screenings and evaluation of the film *Gen Silent*. The [research study](#) aimed to cultivate ways for agencies who serve older adults to provide effective training tools to increase LGBT friendly aging services. Using the film *Gen Silent*, which is a critically acclaimed documentary that follows the lives of six LGBT older adults living in Boston, the project evaluated the change in knowledge, attitudes, and anticipated behaviors of providers after watching the film through a pre/post survey design. Results showed that *Gen Silent* is a statistically significant tool in expanding knowledge and provoking empathy among service providers in NH.

The NHAHA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion LGBT Aging subcommittee is coordinating screenings of the film across New Hampshire, if your organization is interested in hosting a screening contact Kristen Porter at drkristenporter@gmail.com.

NHAHA Advocacy Strategic Priority Update

Presenter: Heather Carroll, Director of Advocacy for NHAHA, NH Legal Assistance, (slide 40)

Heather shared the latest from the statehouse, the team is actively following a number of proposals and interacting with multiple committees. The house of representatives is back meeting in person (reps hall). Thanks to efforts by NHAHA and others, people can still submit testimony online.

Key bills being tracked include expansion of Medicaid dental benefits, multiple vaccination bills, financial exploitation of seniors, workforce issues, telehealth, and food assistance efforts for older adults.

As we move into the 2022 election season, AHA will host candidate forums. Sad news that long-time legislative champion Rene Cushing has passed away. His passion and determination will be greatly missed.

Please view recording link here: https://media.unh.edu/media/video1637603405/1_ha1e9uqo

NH Alliance for Healthy Aging 2022 Meeting Schedule:

Thursday, June 9th, 2022

Wednesday, September 14th, 2022

Thursday, December 8th, 2022