



## **NHAHA Quarterly Meeting**

September 14, 2022: 9:30am – 11:30am

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **Volunteer Driver Program Initiative Presentation**

***Presenter: Sylvia Von Aulock, Executive Director of the Southern NH Planning Commission, (slides 6-21)***

The presentation included an overview of NHAHA's Volunteer Driver Initiative that seeks to recruit volunteer drivers across the state for older adults. A survey conducted by Southern NH Planning Commission showed that a lack of drivers is one of the biggest challenges volunteer driver programs face. Propelled by the NHAHA Transportation Strategic Priority Area and with funding from the Administration for Community Living, the volunteer driver campaign was launched in July. The campaign is using a range of strategies to enhance driver recruitment including development of a website that leads volunteers to their local volunteer driver program, TV and radio ads, news releases, and social media promotion. To date NHAHA's web page on the program has received over 7,000 views, far and away the most popular page on the website. There is also significant engagement on the Driver FAQ section and state-wide map which shows where the volunteer programs are across the state. The ad campaign is expected to run through the end of September, however there may be additional funding to continue the campaign beyond then. Future steps include further expanding outreach efforts and working with agencies to expand services. Learn more at: <https://nhaha.info/volunteer-driver-initiative/>

#### **NHAHA Direct Care Workforce Update**

***Presenter: Laura Davie, Co-Director of University of New Hampshire Center on Aging and Community Living, (slides 22-23)***

Laura discussed that the Direct Care Workforce Strategic Priority Area's main goal is to raise awareness and improve quality of direct care workforce positions in New Hampshire. This is achieved through two strategies, first, improving direct care worker job quality to increase numbers to meet demand, and second, provide education and awareness of the need for direct care workers. The group is now focusing on ensuring that the voice of the direct care worker is brought to the table is seeking to develop a Direct Care Worker Council. Led and driven by Direct Care Workers, the initiative would serve to raise up critical issues including providing a professional network, solving issue facing the profession, informing policy and advocacy, advise on training and mentoring, and serving to elevate the value and respect of the profession. An event for direct care workers will be held in early October to begin to establish this council. Please contact Laura for more details at: [Laura.Davie@unh.edu](mailto:Laura.Davie@unh.edu).

## **NHAHA Advocacy Strategic Priority Update**

***Presenter: Martha McLeod, Vice President of Community Engagement for NHAHA (slide 24)***

On the legislative front, the fall will be a busy one with elections forthcoming and the state budget process among other key activities. The NHAHA Advocacy team has been sharing the recently released study from the NH Fiscal Policy Institute which has provided key insights into NH's investments in long term care and support as well as recommendations for possible new areas of funding. Find that report [here](#). The information from this report will be used to inform the upcoming legislative session. Specifically, the NHAHA Advocacy team is putting together a system of care bill that will involve changes related to presumptive eligibility, accurate costs estimate, establishing a care advisory subcommittee, reimbursement to caring family members, and modifying the eligibility standard. Throughout the fall, the advocacy team will continue to meet with key stakeholders to collect stories and gather input from community members. Other key issues for 2023 include further support for direct care workers, funding for ServiceLink programs, and support for Choices for Independence (CFI).

The advocacy team meets the first Monday of each month (community welcome) and puts out a weekly e-blast. For details on both, please contact Martha at [mmcleod@new-futures.org](mailto:mmcleod@new-futures.org).

## **NHAHA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Update**

***Presenter: Talmira Hill, T.L. Hill Group (slides 25-64)***

Talmira provided an update as to the many DEI initiatives ongoing across NHAHA. Part of this effort is to ensure that a "DEI lens" is applied to all of NHAHA's work. The work began in 2019 and was informed by a survey conducted in 2020 which sought to establish a baseline of the NHAHA workgroups and committees to apply an equity lens to ongoing strategies. To best think about how to incorporate DEI strategies into the work of the strategic priority areas, key themes (i.e., activity, connection, and celebration) from Dr. Anna Adachi-Mejia's work from Photovoice were used as examples. Talmira provided an overview of some of the strategies that the workgroups are engaged in such as creating flyers that are translated in multiple languages.

Talmira also discussed the structure of the DEI Committee including its three subcommittees: LGBTQ+ older adults, Older Adults Aging with a Disability, and BIPOC Older Adults. The LGBTQ+ subcommittee has been focused on hosting screenings of *Gen Silent*. Dr. Kristen Porter has been leading this work and conducted a [research study](#) on the effectiveness of the film in anticipated attitude, behavior, and knowledge changes. Kristen also [assessed](#) four New Hampshire agencies in their readiness to serve LGBTQ+ older adults. Lastly, two virtual training sessions were hosted by Lisa Krinsky from the Fenway Institute, LGBTQIA+ Aging Project for New Hampshire agencies to provide education on how to become more LGBTQ+ aging friendly. Work within the Aging with a Disability subgroup has predominantly focused on connecting with a national initiative to bridge aging and disability networks and services as a resource for NHAHA on accessibility. The BIPOC subcommittee has led to the development of strategies in Hillsborough County that seek to improve access to care among adults, across generations, and diverse cultural identifies and their families. This work will seek to create

community hubs that share information with diverse communities about NHAHA's healthy aging resources and information.

Lastly, to promote further awareness and build connection, NHAHA will be rolling out a five-part DEI Educational Webinar Series this fall. The first program - ***Navigating Unconscious Bias will be held on*** Thursday, September 29, 2022 from 9:00 - 10:30 AM, register here: [NHAHA DEI Series Session 1: Navigating Unconscious Bias](#). NHAHA is seeking to further expand its network by proactively reaching out to community advocates, key leaders, and others to further advance this vital work.

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday, December 8th, 2022 @9:30 AM