



NHAHA Quarterly Meeting
December 8, 2022: 9:30am – 11:30am
Meeting Summary

Welcome and Housekeeping

Presenter: Rene Pepin, NHAHA Steering Committee Chair delivered opening remarks

Jennifer Rabalais,

UNH Center on Aging and Community Living, NHAHA Coordinator

Jennifer welcomed everyone to the NHAHA Quarterly meeting and reviewed the day's agenda. As the year ends, there is lots to celebrate!

HealthForceNH Presentation

Presenter: Margaret Franckhauser, Director of Aging Services at JSI

The presentation included an overview of [HealthForceNH](#), which is a collaborative of healthcare providers, practitioners, educators, state government, and business leaders to create a substantial, equitable and skilled healthcare workforce. Healthcare is the fastest growing employment sector and is projected to add almost 10,000 jobs to the New Hampshire economy by 2030. The pandemic emphasized many issues within the healthcare workforce. Last spring, the collaborative released a report entitled [Giving Care: A Strategic Plan to Expand and Support NH's Healthcare Workforce](#). The report, supported by the Endowment for Health's Forward Fund includes information from stakeholders across New Hampshire on strategies and recommendations to recruit and retain more healthcare workers. Specifically, the report identifies four workgroups – Pipeline, Recruitment and Retention, Data, and Governance which help to align action items and priorities. These workgroups identified several high priorities including Improving health care workforce; Better understanding and coordinating existing workforce initiatives; Enhancing recruitment and retention efforts; and Supporting educational opportunities.

Margaret discussed media coverage of the report and the opportunity to have a HealthForceNH representative speak at organizational meetings. Further, since launch of report, other organizations have reached to create new connections. NHAHA participants were invited to review the report and website, provide feedback/input on that information, and connect with Margaret on anything missing or additional comments.

State Plan on Aging

Presenter: Wendi Aultman, BEAS Bureau Chief

The Department of Health and Human Services is currently engaged in the State Plan on Aging which is updated every 4 years. The State Plan on Aging seeks to advance the state's efforts in understanding, serving, supporting, and celebrating older people in New Hampshire. To receive Older Americans Act (OAA) funding, New Hampshire must submit a State Plan on Aging to federal partners (Administration for Community Living) every four years that identifies

specific goals related to OAA programs. Therefore, the State Plan on Aging serves as a blueprint for New Hampshire's OAA network to help build more equitable, age-friendly communities through programs, partnerships, services, outreach efforts, and advocacy.

To best understand the needs of older granite stater listening sessions will be held both virtually and around the state. Final dates and times will be announced in the coming month. Additionally, a survey has been developed and will be distributed to gather more input. Feedback from the listening sessions and survey will be used to inform the State Plan. All the results will be analyzed and synthesized in March and a draft plan will be presented by the end of May. In June, the plan will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature with the final version due to the Administration for Community Living by June 30, 2023. The current plan can be viewed [here](#). Wendi emphasized the importance of providing feedback through attending a listening session, engaging in the survey, and spreading the word with colleagues and others about the State Plan.

NHAHA Legislative Update

Presenter: Martha McLeod, Vice President of Community Engagement-New Futures

Martha provided an update on NHAHA's advocacy activities over the past several weeks as well as a look into what the priorities are for 2023. High on the list is a Systems of Care bill which, if passed, would be critical to older adults and their families in NH. Senator Gannon is the prime sponsor of the bill. As it has a fiscal note, it would also involve budget implications. In support of the bill, NHAHA will create sub-committees including policy, grass roots, and communications. We will continue to provide updates going forward.

Closing comments, Jennifer Rabalais

Jennifer discussed that 2023 marked great progress for NHAHA in the areas of Direct Care Workforce Support, DEI, and Volunteer Driver Programs. She announced that the next NHAHA Quarterly Meeting on March 8 will be held in person but will also include a virtual option.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 8th, 2023, 9:30 AM