



NHAHA Quarterly Meeting

June 12, 2025

9:00am – 11:30am

Meeting Summary

Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping

Presenters: Jennifer Rabalais, Co-Director, UNH Center on Aging and Community Living & Coordinator, NHAHA

Dick Chevrefils, NHAHA Steering Committee Chair

Jennifer welcomed everyone to the NHAHA June Quarterly Meeting and highlighted the strength gained by working together, underlining the goal of the meeting in creating a community that learns together, collaborates and helps strengthen supports for older adults across NH. Dick also acknowledged the challenging times and the power of using one's voice to educate, provide hope, and advocate for others. Dick thanked everyone for their efforts in supporting older adults.

University of New Hampshire Home Technology Projects to Support Alzheimer's/Dementia Care (slides 3-8)

Presenters: Jing Wang, PhD, RN, FAAN, Assistant Professor, UNH Nursing

Mostafa Hussein, PhD, Research Scientist, UNH Computer Science

Dr. Jing Wang and Dr. Mostafa Hussein, alongside others at the University of New Hampshire, are exploring how artificial intelligence-assisted robot technology can improve the lives of people living with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias (ADRD) and their care partners. Within the current six-month pilot study, socially assistive robots provide in-home, personalized care, including medication reminders, alerts for fall detection, and activity assistance such as how-to videos.

An 18-month longitudinal study will also be carried out to examine the progress of ADRD in care recipients, concurrent changes in caregiver needs and how home automation technology can support these needs.

For questions, please contact Sajay Arthanat:

Ph: 603-862-1625

Sajay.Arthanat@unh.edu

Q&A

Q: Is the pilot limited to single-level homes only?

A: No. Though the robot cannot climb stairs, motion sensors are placed throughout the entire home, with exception of the bedroom.

Q: How are the video recordings used or shared?

A: Camera video is kept secure (no internet access), not stored nor shared.

Q: For study participation, what stage of disease progression is being considered?

A: Early to mid-stage is most suitable.

Q: Are the robots meant to be an addition to or a replacement of care? Is there an ability for the robot to call 911?

A: The robot is meant to support the caregiver. Prompts can include a call to 911 or the caregiver in the case of an emergency.

Q: Are robot communications available in non-English languages? What if the care recipient is averse to technology?

A: They can program as many languages as needed. They can also use voice recordings of the care provider, which may improve comfort with the technology.

Q: What is the funding source?

A: Funding is through a five-year R01 grant.

Q: Is any communication given to first responders/law enforcement to prepare them for a home visit?

A: This will be considered as the project continues beyond the pilot.

Q: How does the robot address home hazards (e.g., stove/microwave safety)?

A: The robot can be programmed for individualized care and these types of needs are being considered as part of the pilot study.

Recruitment materials will be provided in follow up to this meeting.

NH Community Transportation Needs Assessment (slides 9-17)

Presenter: Jen Buteau, Impact Consulting

Jen Buteau provided information on the Statewide Community Transportation Needs Assessment (CTNA) currently being carried out. Funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the NH Commission on Aging, the project aims to assess existing resources, transportation needs and existing gaps throughout the state. With the conceptual roots of the CTNA originating in NHAHA's Transportation Workgroup, Jen thanked NHAHA and the Workgroup for their support.

Community outreach will be conducted this summer, including a statewide survey, focus groups and stakeholder interviews. Resulting findings will be analyzed alongside a meta-analysis of preexisting state transportation data. Recommendations for improved coordination and development of a more robust transportation system will be provided in early 2026.

Jen requested support in sharing the transportation survey. The survey is open to everyone, especially older adults, people with disabilities, veterans, caregivers, and those who experience transportation challenges.

The survey can be accessed online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/transport>

Q&A

Q: How much focus is there on infrastructure for public transportation?

A: They continue to discuss how to better resource the NH Department of Transportation to increase the infrastructure of community transportation.

For questions or to suggest organizations/groups to include in focus groups and interviews, contact Jen Buteau at jen@impactconsultingnh.com.

BAAS Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Reduction Pilot (slides 19-47)

Presenter: Maureen Brown, RDN, Nutrition Consultant, Bureau and Adult and Aging Services, DHHS

The Bureau of Adult and Aging Services (BAAS) is currently carrying out a pilot program on food insecurity and malnutrition reduction. The two-year pilot, which is slated to be completed this fall, focuses on expanding and better utilizing existing nutrition screening practices and developing a universal screening and referral process.

Objectives and strategies include:

1. Strengthen food and nutrition security and social supports for older adults through home-delivered and congregate meals and supplemental foods.
2. Increase dissemination of information and awareness of services.
3. Utilize the Food Insecurity Screening Tool and partner with Adult Protective Services, NH Hospital Association and BAAS contracted nutrition programs to expand malnutrition risk and food insecurity screening and referrals.

The Resource and Referral Tool was also created as part of the pilot to improve one-stop shopping of resource referrals by providers. The Food Insecurity Screening Tool and Resource and Referral Tool will be made available on the NH Department of Health and Human Services website.

Q&A

Q: Is there a process to connect to primary care in support of any existing diagnoses secondary to the presence of food insecurity/malnutrition risk?

A: This is in progress of being implemented across hospitals.

Q: Would it be possible to add resources such as [Keep NH Moving](#) to the “Local” section of the Resource and Referral Reference document?

A: Local resources are for providers/organizations to customize as they see fit.

Q: Regarding the use of the Food insecurity Screening Tool data within the study – are you using binary data only?

A: Currently, the study's baseline data is binary (i.e., food insecure/not food insecure). This may be expanded later on.

For questions, contact Maureen Brown at Maureen.Brown@dhhs.nh.gov or 603-731-1425.

NHAHA Updates (slides 48-55)

Presenter: Jennifer Rabalais, Co-Director, UNH Center on Aging and Community Living & Coordinator, NHAHA

- **[NH 2025 Healthy Aging Data Report](#)**: NHAHA has supported the development and dissemination of NH's Healthy Aging Data Report since 2018. An update to the report was released this past May.
- **Caregiving Workgroup**: Continues to focus on understanding the [2022 National Strategies to Support Family Caregivers](#), the landscape of family caregiving in NH and how to increase support for caregivers. NHAHA has created the following in support of family caregivers:
 - A caregiver self-identification flyer.
 - [An informational one-pager](#) that provides an overview of the current landscape of family caregiving in NH.
 - NHAHA Coffee and Caregiving Conversation meetings to convene and align work across organizations that support family caregivers.
- **Direct Care Workforce Workgroup**: Continues to convene the Direct Care Worker (DCW) Network. NHAHA hosted a DCW retreat event in November 2024 and is currently planning for this year's DCW retreat as well.

New Futures NHAHA Advocacy Update (slides 56-65)

Presenter: Judith Jones, Policy Coordinator of Healthy Aging, New Futures

Judith provided an update on the NH Biennial Budget. The Committee of Conference will be convened to reach consensus on a final budget to provide to the Governor by the end of June. Below are also several of the items that the advocacy group is currently tracking:

- SB 124: Community Care Retirement Community (CCRC) Protections
- SB 118: Increase in personal needs allowance for nursing home residents to reflect social security increases on an annual basis rather than the current 5-year adjustment.
- The future progress of a long-term services and supports (LTSS) committee to review the benefits of managed care in NH.
- NH Commission on Aging funding
- HB 60: Removes longstanding tenant protections by allowing landlords to evict tenants without providing a reason when their lease ends.

- **Anti-DEI Provisions:** Would disallow DEI language in all public contracts, limiting the ability of the state to provide effective, tailored services.

Healthy Aging High Priority Bill Updates:

- **SB 122:** Enhances eligibility for Medicaid programs called Medicare Savings Programs or MSPs. This bill was tabled in the Senate.
- **Caregiver Respite and Senior Volunteers:** The Senate retained the additional \$100,000 for the Caregiver Respite program.

To sign up for the Health Aging Policy e-newsletter visit: <https://new-futures.org/sign-up>

NH Alliance for Healthy Aging 2025 Quarterly Meeting Schedule:

Thursday, September 18, 2025 @ 9:00 AM

Thursday, December 11, 2025 @ 9:00 AM

All meetings will be held in-person at Northeast Delta Dental, 2 Delta Drive (Building Two),
Concord, NH