

2012 NHPHA Board of Directors

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Annual Report 2012

Introduction

2012 has been a GREAT year for NHPHA. Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated volunteers, Board of Directors, members, and staff, we have been able to continue speaking as the voice of public health in NH. We have made significant progress on our strategic intents and we are in a strong position for 2013. Just a **few** highlights!

Strategic Intent 1: Serve members and the public health workforce in NH

Our 2012 Annual Meeting featured more student posters than we have ever had—21. Additionally, for the first time, we had an undergraduate poster and posters from the Dartmouth MPH program in addition to posters from UNH MPH program. The poster session serves important functions for students and for the NHPHA. Throughout their professional careers, people in public health create and display posters at various scientific meetings. This is an important vehicle for the dissemination of information. Displaying at our Annual Meeting gives students a forum to begin developing this skill. For those already in the public health workforce, the poster session at the Annual Meeting provides information and inspiration for our on-going work. For 2013, we plan to expand the poster session to other NH colleges and universities. We hope to pick the top two posters and provide assistance to these students in submitting an abstract to display at the Annual APHA Conference to be held in Boston in 2013. Let me know if you would like to help with this endeavor.

One major goal within Strategic Intent 1 is to provide quality educational programs for our members and the public health workforce. **Ashley Conley** joined the NHPHA Board at the 2012 Annual Meeting and immediately agreed to chair the Program Planning Committee. Under her leadership and with a great committee, NHPHA held a well-attended Fall Forum and is

planning a super Annual Meeting. Here is Ashley's story of becoming passionate about public health and involved in the NHPHA:

As biology major, Ashley Conley took a trip to Honduras in 2005 and came home with a passion for public health. Since that trip, Ashley has earned a Master of Science in Infectious Diseases and Microbiology from the University of Pittsburgh. Today she is Epidemiologist at the City of Nashua, Division of Public Health, and Community Services.

Aside from her daily duties, Ashley goes beyond in helping and supporting the New Hampshire Public Health Association (NHPHA). She is on the Board of Directors and Co-Chair of the Program Planning Committee.

The Association works from a strategic intentions work plan developed with tasks for each committee to complete in a year.

For Ashley Conley, the program committee has two goals:

Provide two or more educational programs each year on public health issues; and, provide services that keep members informed and engaged. Each year, the program committee plans an annual Fall Forum and seeks keynote speakers with interesting careers and experiences in public health. The

second educational program is the Annual Meeting; a great deal of planning goes into the NHPHA Annual Meeting as an extension to the public to join, or at least, be familiar with public health. The NHPHA is a united front regarding police decisions in public health for New Hampshire residents.



Why support the NHPHA? Membership is important, said Ashley. Being a member allows health professionals in New Hampshire to network, share ideas, and ultimately strengthens the infrastructure of the state. Many New Hampshire health professionals are in areas far from Nashua, and often, in remote areas of the state. These opportunities to network through the association are "priceless" in pulling professionals together. However, not only professionals, she added, NHPHA is a starting ground for many students interested in various aspects of public health. Ashley notes that supporting students is encouraging them to be passionate about public health, knowing they are the leaders of tomorrow.

For more information about the work that Ashley Conley and her team does to better public health, look at the City of Nashua, Division of Public Health, and Community Services website.

Strategic Intent 2: Serve as a voice for public health in NH This year, we again recognized legislators who voted in line with the NHPHA's position on important public health bills as "Public Health Champions." Our Champions represent both political parties, all areas of the state, and serve on most of the House and Senate committees. The Champions program is funded by the

HNHfoundation. Their support will continue in 2013 as we work to reach more legislators and to provide more services to our Champions to assist them in being a voice for public health.

This has been a critical year for the Affordable Care Act. The NHPHA has been involved in many activities to inform people and policy makers of the important public health and prevention provisions of this Act. We have met with a staff member of each of our Federal Representatives and Senators. We have signed on to letters from national organizations and have written our own including 10 postcards that were written by members at our annual Open House earlier in December.

And we expanded our presence in social media. Our goal with social media is to reach and interest people who know very little about public health. As of the end of December we had 137 followers on Facebook, and reached 420 individuals. We posted several times a week on a wide variety of public health topics. We hope people are learning from our posts. Our new LinkedIn page had 19 members and continues to grow.

The NHPHA advocates for good public health policy. Our Policy Committee reviews and revised NHPHA policy statements to keep us up-to-date with the science of public health. The Committee tracks legislation and provides testimony based on our position statements when that is appropriate. And the Policy Committee has provided the energy and leadership to build our Public Health Champions program. Elaine Frank has been an active leader in all of the Policy Committee work over the past two years. Coming from an injury prevention background, she has been our member expert in our advocacy supporting the need for a prescription drug monitoring program:

When you think of poison, does Mr. Yuk come to mind? Nowadays, poison control has come to horizons we could not dream about 30 years ago. Elaine Frank, a retired Director of Injury Prevention at Dartmouth, knows it personally as she campaigns with NHPHA, and as many other health stakeholders as she can, in shaping policy and prevention in a prescription drug monitoring program.



Deaths from poisoning, including prescription drug misuse surpasses deaths from car accidents. "People must understand misuse of prescription medication is poison," she said.

A prescription drug-monitoring program is necessary due in part to the growing trend of prescription drug abuse. People may not make the connection between poison control and prescription abuse, she said, but misuse of opioids is poison.

New Hampshire is the 49th state to pass legislation for a prescription-monitoring program. How effective the plan is depends on how policy is shaped, Elaine said, what kind of regulations and rules will be in place is yet to be determined. It's a "very small" number of New Hampshire health providers that overprescribe, and place drugs in the hands of misusers.

Monitoring of prescribers and patients for misuse of opioids and other drugs is not a solution in and of itself. As monitoring takes form and becomes effective, drug addicts will seek other types of drugs. The Poison Control Center will be acting as a surveillance unit, watching for the next big thing. While Poison Control and Prevention folks are the front line, there are big implications for public health too. "Public health must be at the table and part of the discussion," said Elaine.

The tasks are costly, for sure. There are about two years of funding available through government and Health & Human Services budgets. Other sources of funding must come forth.

Regarding ROI, return on investment, Elaine knows that every dollar spent on poison control and prevention saves just over \$13 on overall health care costs. We all have one thing in common, she said; we know that preventing a poisoning is a good thing.

Strategic Intent 3: Develop the infrastructure to support Strategic Intents 1 and 2 and to ensure continued progress

Behind the scenes in 2012, we have been busy creating the structures and tools to ensure continuity in our work. We have an active strategic work plan which we use to report work and progress every month at the Board meeting. We have also begun to standardize all of our policies and procedures, putting them on a regular review-revise schedule and providing new committee and Board members with the tools to "do the work." We said, "good bye" to our Program Assistant Beth Boucher, wishing her well in her new full time position with the Center for Program Design and Evaluation at Dartmouth. And we said, "welcome" to Meghan Steele, our new Program Assistant (see her profile below). The Program Assistant position is partially funded by the Endowment for Health. Their generous grant provides the administrative support that frees our volunteers to do outreach and advocacy work.

Meet Meghan Steele:

For the board of directors and the many volunteers at NHPHA, Meghan Steele is the hub of activity as program assistant. Meghan joined NHPHA last October. She is finishing her Master's in Public Health at the University of New Hampshire in Manchester, graduating in May 2014.

Meghan's interest in public health sparked with an epidemiology class. She could see the value and relationship to epidemiology and her studies in microbiology. Epidemiology is the study of disease across populations; in addition to that, Meghan's interests are policy and health administration.

As program assistant for NHPHA, Meghan manages all committees. These include communications, program planning, membership, technology, and policy. She is the source of support for these groups and does outreach to students and schools with health programs. NHPHA is a source of advocacy



for the state. Membership in NHPHA strengthens the advocacy power in educating and informing even at the legislative levels. Meghan tracks legislative bills and maintains the Association database on a daily basis.

Meghan feels strongly about the importance of public health. "It's great for students to be involved," she said, being a member of NHPHA is a networking boon for those out in the work force as well as the up and coming professionals.

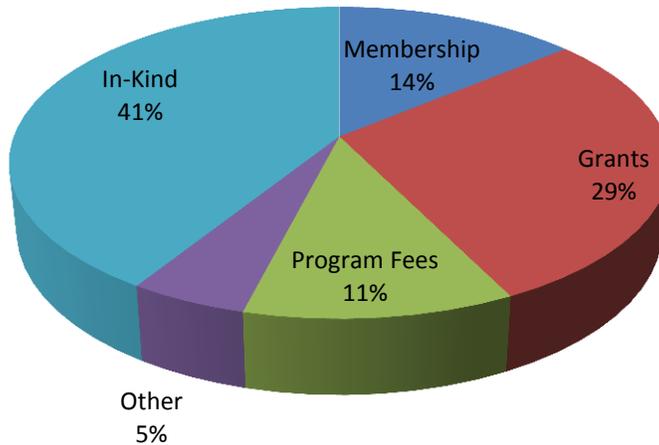
Regarding the benefits of membership, Meghan said the Association's listserv is a great thing for members. The listserv is for job opportunities, networking, and is great for becoming more involved in advocacy.

Meghan is dedicated to increase awareness of public health, as well as promoting healthy changes in behaviors through her work with NHPHA. Her energies and skills set the pace for all good things at NHPHA.

Thank you! Obviously, the NHPHA cannot accomplish anything without the dedicated volunteers who do most of the work. While their work is invaluable, we have tried to keep track of the MANY hours and put some monetary value to them. Have a look at the financial summary and you will see that we estimate the value of our volunteer hours at more than \$43,000. I, personally, thank each and every one who has helped advance the Association and public health in NH. Below we have highlighted two of these volunteers, new Board member Ashley Conley, and long-time leader and volunteer Elaine Frank.

Thanks also to those who provide financial resources: the Endowment for Health, the HNH*foundation*, Dr. Frederick Shaw, members, donors, and event sponsors.

Dues and Contributions by Type



2012 NHPHA Financials

Income

Membership	\$14,718
Grants	\$30,249
Program Fees	\$11,965
Other	\$5,237
<u>Total</u>	\$62,169

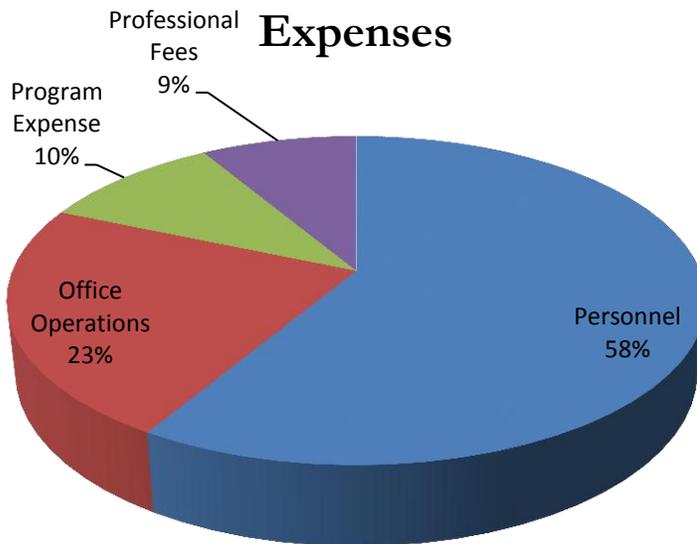
In-Kind Donations
\$43,282

board and committee members volunteer time, mileage and donations

Expenses

Personnel	\$20,587
Office Operations	\$10,297
Program Expense	\$11,328
Insurance and Professional Fees	\$3,000
<u>Total</u>	\$45,212
Net Income	\$16,957

Expenses



2012 Organizational Members and Funders

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services	The Network for Public Health Law,
American Lung Association	University of Maryland School of Law
Bi-State Primary Care Association	New England Delta Dental
Breathe NH	NH AHEC
Cheshire Medical Center	NH Businesses for Social Responsibility
City of Nashua, Division of Public Health and Community Service	NH Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health
Community Health Institute/ JSI	NH Healthy Kids
Concord Regional Visiting Nurses Association	NH Institute for Health Policy and Practice
Endowment for Health	NH Local Government Center
Foundation for Healthy Communities	NH Optometric Association
Greater Derry Community Health Services	NH Safe Kids
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation	NH Voices for Health
HNHfoundation	Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation
Keene State College	North Country Health Consortium
Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health	The Scott Lawson Companies
Makin' It Happen	UNH College of Health and Human Services
	UNH MPH Program

