In 2017, the New Hampshire Public Health Association Board of Directors embarked on a Growth Plan to further our mission through activities and policies that reflected our values as an organization. This past year, the second year of the plan, shows substantial progress toward our goals.

Workforce Development has been a cornerstone of our growth. This effort to reach out to our membership, including students, and new and seasoned professionals created well-attended webinars, a second mentor/mentee class, a second cohort of interns placed through the New England Public Health Training Center, and opportunities to speak to a number of regional organizations.

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Our Strategic Plan charges the NHPHA Board to "create an organizational culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion." This strategic imperative will last over the three years of the plan and beyond. It is our intention to expand our understanding of communities that may be marginalized in our state, and learn how the Board can include their needs and aspirations into our policies and advocacy efforts.

NHPHA Leadership Message: Celebrating NHPHA

Marcella J. Bobinsky, Board President
Joan H. Ascheim, Executive Director

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**NHPHA Strategic Plan 2020-2022**

Cultivate a collective voice to foster healthy communities

**Strategic Imperatives**

- Strengthen the public health workforce
- Implement strategic communications to inspire a public health movement
- Champion public health policy and advocacy
- Expand membership base and engagement
- Implement a sustainable economic plan
- Operate as a high-performing organization
- Create an organizational culture of diversity, equity and inclusion
The NHPHA invested in a new database system and website in 2019, a project that took several months of the NHPHA staff working to learn and manage the system. The new website, created by MemberClicks and edited by NHPHA Program Assistant Jess Barnett, is much cleaner and more streamlined, and we’ve received positive feedback from our members on the changes. In addition, the member management side is easier to use and provides clear data, an aspect that was lacking with the old system. The new system allows us to register attendees for events; send emails to our members through our new listserv, including our monthly e-newsletter; update member profiles as needed; easily update the website as necessary; post blog articles; and send polls (an option we have yet to explore). Becoming a member and renewing one’s membership are now much easier, too, thanks to the new database. Members are also able to update their member profile by visiting nhpha.org and clicking the teal “Member Login” button. We will be exploring other aspects of the system in the coming year, including the Social Community, Committees, and more.
NHPHA is one of 54 state and regional public health associations that serve as affiliates to the American Public Health Association (APHA). The NHPHA and its members benefit from this affiliation through a number of activities that take place throughout the year, including continuing education and advocacy related opportunities.


NHPHA co-sponsored a reception with the Vermont Public Health Association, which provided an opportunity for New England public health professionals to gather and network informally. Joan also was able to catch up with former director of the NH Division of Public Health Services, José Montero, and New England Public Health Training Center Director Karla Todd at an Association of State and Territorial Health Officials reception.

### NHPHA Financials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Balance Sheet: Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets</strong></td>
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On October 2, 2019, NHPHA, Dartmouth-Hitchcock, and the Vermont Public Health Association joined forces to host Team Up, Take Action: A Conference on Partnering to Improve Community Health, with the theme Building Bridges between Communities and Healthcare. The conference drew nearly 200 participants to the lovely Hanover Inn for networking and an exciting day of professional development.

We welcomed José T. Montero, MD, MHCDS, and his humor back to New Hampshire as the keynote speaker. Dr. Montero shared strategies for partnerships and leadership to address population health. Participants had opportunities to attend skills building workshops in the morning relative to community-based participatory research, change management, health equity and community health planning. Following lunch, Dr. Montero moderated a lively discussion on health equity and population health. Afternoon workshops focused on LGBTQ+ and quality care, health equity partnerships, food access, and adverse childhood experiences.

The day highlighted the innovative public health work being carried out by dedicated and talented public health and health care professionals in both Vermont and New Hampshire communities.

NHPHA 2019 Achievements

- Refreshed our strategic plan with a focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Maintained a focused advocacy presence at the State House and communicated through our Health in All Policy newsletter
- Co-hosted our third successful health equity conference in collaboration with Dartmouth-Hitchcock and the Vermont Public Health Association
- Held our third annual lobbying and advocacy primer for nonprofits in partnership with New Futures
- Graduated our first cohort and enrolled our second cohort of the NHPHA Public Health Mentor Program
- Provided stipends to three interns for diverse health equity projects
- Launched a new website and member database (visit nhpha.org)
- Continued to expand our funding base
FRIEND OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

Michael Apfelberg

NHPHA is presenting Michael Apfelberg, president of Greater Nashua United Way, with its annual Friend of Public Health Award. Mike Apfelberg has truly represented himself and his organization as a friend of public health. Mike participates on the City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC), the Integrated Delivery Network (IDN), the Nashua Area Interfaith Council, the Mayor’s Opioid Task Force (MOTF), My Brother’s Keeper’s Initiative and many other committees and boards in the area. Mike is worthy of this recognition because since becoming the president of the United Way he has been extremely instrumental in promoting public health in NH. Mike was “bit” by the public health bug while engaged in several public health initiatives including the opioid response, addressing homelessness and issues related to social determinants of health, health equity and early childhood trauma. As a member of the PHAC and external partner during the DPHCS’s Emerging Leaders In Public Health Initiative (ELPH), Mike attended the NACCHO Annual Meeting. His participation as a partner of public health during this meeting was to discuss the work Nashua was doing as Chief Public Health Strategist to create a trauma informed community and region by addressing ACEs. Mike as the president of United Way has provided funding support to the DPHCS Greater Nashua Public Health Region’s Annual Meetings, CHA and CHIP efforts and has included public health as a partner in his Annual Homelessness Event. It was really impressive to see how he included an opening exercise in the event to help participants understand the impact of adverse experiences and trauma in early childhood, acknowledging this tremendous public health issue. Mike was the first to write an op-ed in the local newspaper on the impact of adverse childhood experiences focusing on the public health outcomes of substance use disorders, depression, suicide and chronic diseases. Mike advocates for public health support at the local and state levels and is a truly dedicated friend of public health.

ROGER FOSSUM LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Suz Friedrich, MBA, PMP

NHPHA is proud to present Suz Friedrich, MBA, PMP, with this year’s Fossum Lifetime Achievement Award. Suz worked for 35 years to strengthen health care and public health systems through training, technical assistance, evaluation and quality improvement with a focus on underserved populations in New Hampshire, nationally and internationally. Suz was the first Director of the New Hampshire Community Health Institute founded as a public-private partnership of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services and JSI Research & Training Institute. Starting in 1995 with two JSI staff and co-located staff of the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, the CHI grew under her leadership to over 40 staff members today. In collaboration with the New Hampshire Public Health Association, Suz was the team lead for the Turning Point Initiative, a multi-year strategic planning process funded by the Robert Wood Johnson and W.K. Kellogg Foundations to develop sustainable and innovative strategies to improve public health capacity in the state of New Hampshire. In 2000, she drafted the Public Health Improvement Plan for the State of New Hampshire which served as the basis for public health improvement efforts in the state for the next decade. Suz also served four years on the NHPHA board including a term as president in 1998.

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NH COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE AWARD

NH Food Bank

NHPHA is presenting the NH Food Bank with its 2020 NH Community Service Award. The NH Food Bank has been instrumental in improving food security throughout the state of NH. Whereas many states have multiple food banks, NH has just one although it does the job of many. NH Food Bank has been a longtime partner and now grantee of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation which nominated them for the award. The foundation has been inspired by their work, particularly as it pertains to what they are doing to help food insecure families in Coos County. Together with the North Country Health Consortium/Littleton Regional Hospital, the foundation provided a $60,000 grant to host a series of mobile food pantries to be held during the winter. Executive Director Eileen Liponis strategically ensured that part of the funding would go to source the fresh food, deliver and distribute with volunteers that could be supplied by the hospitals. Each mobile pantry was held at the end of the third week of a month as that is typically when SNAP recipients have exhausted their monthly distribution. In addition, the source of some of the food was from the North Country Farmers Co-op as purchasing product in advance of the growing season creates a positive relationship with local farmers. This is a win not only for the recipients of the fresh food, but clearly for the North Country farmers whose food was purchased. Food Bank-affiliated North Country pantries also received new refrigerators, which allows the pantries to potentially double or triple the amount of fresh produce and other non-shelf stable food they offer. This kind of thoughtful work is not happening at other food banks in the region or country for that matter. The grant also helped fund the North Country summer meals program as that is a time when most kids go hungry, and a look at the statewide statistics will illustrate that food security is the worst in the North Country vs the rest of the state. Finally, Eileen and her staff have been on-going, critical advocates for all SNAP related legislation in the state. They understand that delivering food to people is not sufficient in helping the population, but that advocacy to change the system is going to bring lasting solutions.

RISING STAR AWARD

Angela Consentino

NHPHA is proud to present its 2020 Rising Star Award to Angela Consentino, epidemiologist at City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services (DPHCS). Angela has been an absolute phenom since her hiring at the City of Nashua in the position of epidemiologist in 2017. She has helped moved DPHCS forward in developing a culture of quality improvement and performance management to meet accreditation standards. Angela has submitted and been accepted to present on data–driven processes at several national conferences including the All In Data Conference in October of 2019 and the upcoming NNPHI Data Meeting in March of 2020. Angela is an emerging leader in public health practice and easily embraces functioning in the role of Chief Public Health Strategist as a part of the DPHCS team. She works well with the DPHCS internal team and external partners leading us forward in data-driven work. Her significant contributions include analyzing data collected during our initiation of Safe Stations to evaluate the effectiveness of this program once it was launched. She was able to demonstrate the impact of this intervention as a response to the opioid crisis in the greater Nashua area.

Angela participated in the Emerging Leaders in Public Health initiative over 14 weeks as one of the internal leadership team members of DPHCS. She developed the evaluation tool used to help the co-leads measure change in knowledge, growth and learning of the team during our engagement in this leadership development process. From this experience she was able to submit an abstract that focused on the essential use of data to engage partners in strategic data-driven efforts to address adverse childhood experiences and creating a trauma informed community.

Angela’s most impressive demonstration of her skills as an epidemiologist, with the love of statistical analysis to communicate and disseminate data, has been with the development of the DPHCS LiveStories Pages. She spent countless hours with this tool and has uploaded our CHA and CHIP data to allow for a user-friendly interface with data in our region. Angela is truly a rising star in the field of public health that is more than deserving of this recognition.
If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. An African Proverb sums up our support and gratitude for our oral health partners and hits at the heart of a successful 2019.

This was an important oral health year for NH residents that are covered by either the Medicaid or Medicaid Expansion programs. Our Legislature, through the vision of Representative Jennifer Bernet and her colleagues, passed legislation creating a NH Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit. With strong efforts from oral health stakeholders, policy makers, providers, educators, and consumers, HB692 passed with strong bi-partisan support through both the House and Senate. It was signed into law by Governor Chris Sununu on July 19, 2019. Special thanks to Senators Jeb Bradley and John Reagan who defined the consumer, community, and state value of an in-state integrated medical-dental benefit.

NHOHC played a lead through educational and advocacy efforts. Our 2 Adult Educational Summits and our Annual Oral Health Fall Forum, served to convene stakeholders statewide with the opportunity to explore models across the nation as presented by Patrick Finnerty, former Virginia Medicaid Director and a Senior Advisor to the DentaQuest Partnership, and Mary Foley, Executive Director of the Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP Services Dental Association.

A coalition’s strength is found in coordination with its partners. This year we had the opportunity to work closely with the NH DHHS Public Health/Oral Health program on 3 important programs including a 3-part series on the integration of medical, dental, behavioral/mental health, and addiction; support and advocacy for the integration of SBIRT - Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment into dental settings in conjunction with the John Snow Institute; and planning and co-presentation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Community Fluoridation Awards for local water works that achieved optimal fluoridation for their water quality. These partnerships are an opportunity to leverage NHOHC staff and resources to support the advancement of oral health statewide and across the lifespan.

Our 2019 Annual Fall Forum, Improving Oral Health Outcomes through Community-Based Strategies, was moved to a larger venue in Manchester. Dr. Paul Glassman from the University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, was keynote on the use of Tele-Health Connected, Community-based Teams. He was followed by a Local Oral Health Innovations Panel featuring providers from Easter Seals in Manchester, Monadnock Health Teeth, and the AmeriHealth Caritas Medicaid Managed Care Organization.

The program was well-attended by providers, program managers, policy makers, educators, and advocacy programs. The NH Dental Society provided continuing education credits.

Closing 2019, we are looking forward to 2020 as the DHHS Work Team, via HB4, works to collaboratively define and implement an adult Medicaid Dental Benefit that puts the mouth back into the body.
In September Andrea Guzman joined NHPHA as the new Workforce Development Coordinator. She has continued to foster and develop many NHPHA events and initiatives such as the Public Health Mentor Program, the Rising Stars program, the student internship program, and webinars hosted by the NHPHA.

The Rising Stars student component of the Annual Meeting in early April was a great success. Sixteen graduate and undergraduate public health students from six New Hampshire universities presented the results of their research projects. Graduate student Vanessa Grunkemeyer from the University of New Hampshire and undergraduate student Sage Lincoln from Colby-Sawyer College received awards for their posters in their respective categories.

The Rising Stars Pre-Session at the Annual Meeting was a career panel of public health professionals who work in a variety of capacities all over the state. We hosted Victoria Adewumi, MA, Public Health Specialist I/Community Liaison at the Manchester Health Department; Ashley Conley, MS, CPH, CHES, Director of the Infection Prevention Department at Catholic Medical Center; Katrina Hansen, MPH, Chief of Infectious Disease Surveillance Section for Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services, DHHS; Melissa Schoemmell, MPH, Program Coordinator at Community Health Institute/JSI; and LCDR Torane Hull (TW), RN, MSN, MPA, CPH, CDC Public Health Adviser for the United States Public Health Service, NH Immunization Section at Bureau of Infectious Disease Control for New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services, DHHS. The panel was well received by the students who participated, particularly the round-robin discussion at the end.

The Rising Stars Advisory Committee, composed of professionals from our eight academic partners continued to serve in an advisory capacity to NHPHA. This collaboration guides NHPHA so that we can continue to keep the perspective of students in mind as they prepare to enter the public health workforce. The committee has helped to shape our Public Health Mentor Program, internship program, student poster session, and educational offerings for students.

NHPHA continues to serve as a Community-Based Training Partner of the New England Public Health Training Center (NEPHTC) at Boston University. This partnership funds many of our workforce development offerings and internship stipends for student placements in organizations throughout the state. Five students were placed in 2019 in projects that focused on social determinants of health, harm reduction strategies for injection drug users, tickborne illnesses, mental health, and public health communications.

The pilot NHPHA Public Health Mentoring Program 2018-2019 concluded with a celebration and reflections event which provided mentors and mentees with a certificate of completion and appreciation. The Public Health Mentor Program pairs undergraduate students, graduate students, and early-career professionals with experienced public health professionals. We heard from participants that the program was very rewarding for both mentors and mentees and, in some cases, life-changing. Feedback from the participants helped to shape the program going forward. The second cohort of the Public Health Mentor Program launched in early October 2019 and ends in May 2020. In January for the Mentor Program Check-In, NHPHA was able to partner with Sadhana W. Hall, Deputy Director at Dartmouth College, for a workshop on best practices in compassion, leadership, and productivity in the workplace with a specific focus on intergenerational work.

The NHPHA hosted our first systems thinking training, which was titled “Tackling the Social Determinants of Health Using a Systems Thinking Approach.” This special practicum enabled regional public health networks and other public health partners to focus on social determinants while learning about systems thinking from expert trainer Julia Ross. NHPHA was proud to sponsor this event alongside the NEPHTC and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Each team focused on a social determinant, for which they were able to apply what they had learned about systems thinking. The teams discussed topics such as why people are poorly connected to community resources, why we fail to engage young people on topics related to public health, and why transportation remains a barrier for the substance use disorder community.

Professional development of the public health workforce remains one of the key strategic priorities for NHPHA, and we will continue to provide offerings to meet the needs of our members.
On September 7, 2019, NHPHA co-hosted the 6th Annual NH Get Your Rear in Gear Trail 5K and Memory Walk to raise money and awareness for colon cancer screening and detection. Colon cancer is the #2 cause of cancer death in the United States; however, it is also one of the most treatable when caught early.

Co-hosted by Gould Hill Farm, the event had more than 220 registered walkers and runners, supported by a volunteer team. The event raised over $30,000.

Since 2014, NHPHA and other race supporters have helped the event raise almost $150,000, granting back funds to local community health centers such as HealthFirst Family Care Center, Families First Portsmouth, Manchester Community Health Center, and Harbor Health Care & Wellness Center in Nashua. Grant funds have purchased colonoscopies, screening kits and processing costs, other test prep and transportation costs, and staff time to follow up on tests and support patients navigating necessary follow-up care. During Colon Cancer Awareness month in March 2019, grant funds supported an awareness campaign running on local live and streaming television channels. The 2020 event is slated for Saturday, September 12, at Gould Hill Farm in Contoocook.

Get Your Rear in Gear 2019

Katie Robert

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2019 Organizational Members

American Lung Association of the Northeast
Ammonoosuc Community Health Services
Breathe New Hampshire
Cheshire Medical Center
Colby-Sawyer College
Community Health Institute/JSI
Dartmouth-Hitchcock
The Dartmouth Institute
Endowment for Health
Foundation for Healthy Communities
Franklin Pierce University
Granite United Way
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation
Keene State College
Makin’ It Happen
New Futures
NH Businesses for Social Responsibility
NH Children’s Trust, Inc.
NH Division of Public Health Services
NH Pediatric Society
North Country Health Consortium
Northeast Delta Dental
Rivier University
Safe Kids New Hampshire
Southern New Hampshire University
UNH Health Management & Policy
UNH Institute for Health Policy & Practice
UNH Institute on Disability
In 2019, Annika Stanley-Smith, Director of Substance Misuse for the Granite United Way, stepped up to serve as chair of the NHPHA Public Policy Committee. Under her leadership the committee selected priority policy issues to follow during the 2019 legislative session and updated policy statements for the association. NHPHA saw a number of bills identified as key succeed during the 2019 legislative session in our three priority areas of Equity and Health Outcomes, Healthy Environment, and Substance Misuse.

Our Equity and Health Outcomes priority addresses the importance of all people in New Hampshire having a fair and just opportunity to be healthier. One gain for this priority this session was the signing of SB 290. This bill sought to increase access to the New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care program by decreasing the work requirements that were preventing caretakers, individuals experiencing homelessness, and people with ADA-defined disabilities from participating.

Another win this session was the failure of HB 304, which would have repealed the requirement of health care facilities to assure services to all persons regardless of their source of payment. The House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs voted that this bill was inexpedient to legislate effectively killing it. The Governor signed two bills into law that we believe will address health equity throughout the state. HB 681 established a State Commission on Aging to address the needs of our older residents. HB 692 will provide critical oral health and dental services to adult Medicaid recipients.

Our next priority area, Healthy Environments, addresses environmental risk factors in the air, water, soil, and our food system caused by pollution, chemical exposures, occupational and built environment hazards, natural disasters, and climate change that contribute to diseases and injuries, including the top two leading causes of death in New Hampshire, cancer and heart disease. In this session HB 511 was signed into law. This bill added electronic tobacco delivery devices (vape devices) to the law prohibiting youth purchases, possession, or use. The state has seen a significant increase in youth tobacco use and this bill along with the statewide increase from 18 to 19 years old in order to purchase tobacco are steps in the right direction to reduce youth use.

Our last 2019 priority area is Substance Misuse Prevention, Treatment and Recovery. NHPHA believes the high rate of substance use disorders, a chronic remitting and relapsing medical disease that is preventable and treatable as one of the top public health crises facing the State of New Hampshire. A key victory was the passing of SB 87 which removed the restrictions of federal funds on syringe services programs. Prior to this bill these critical harm reduction programs were required to be fully self-funded. In the 2020-2021 budget, support grew for Medicaid provider reimbursement rates. In the budget there was a 3.1% increase in rates each year for the next two years and an additional $8 million for mental health and substance use treatment providers.

We are very proud of the contributions of the NHPHA Public Policy Committee during the 2019 legislative session. Our committee members volunteered a great deal of time to these efforts, and we are grateful for their dedication.

NHPHA remains committed to supporting effective public health policies to improve the health of the people of New Hampshire!