Improving health, preventing disease, and reducing costs for all.
NHPHA could not achieve its goals without the generous support from the following:

**Funders**
- American Public Health Association
- Dentaquest
- HNH Foundation
- NH Charitable Foundation
- NH Endowment for Health

**Public Health Advocates**
- Cheshire Medical Center
- Community Health Institute/JSI
- Southern New Hampshire University

**Public Health Partners**
- Community Health Options
- Endowment for Health
- Institute for Health Policy and Practice
- Northeast Delta Dental
- UNH - Health Management and Policy Program

**Public Health Friends**
- American Lung Association of the Northeast
- Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc
- Bi-State Primary Care Association
- Colby Sawyer College
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Leadership Preventive Medicine Residency
- Foundation for Healthy Communities
- Franklin Pierce University
- Granite United Way
- Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation
- Healthy Homes
- Keene State College
- Makin’ It Happen
- Mid-State Health Center
- New Futures
- NH Businesses for Social Responsibility
- NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
- NH Children’s Trust
- NH Occupational Health Surveillance Program
- NH Optometric Association
- North Country Health Consortium
- Partnership for Public Health
- UNH Institute on Disability

Thank You!
In 2016 the New Hampshire Public Health Association (NHPHA) Board of Directors completed its extensive review of the organization’s position in the New Hampshire nonprofit landscape and how best to invest in our future. This review was built upon planning work with Full Circle Consulting in 2015. Through this process it was clear that NHPHA remains the voice of public health in New Hampshire and must stay vigilant in promoting evidence-informed public health policy. We also confirmed that considering the wide spectrum of public health organizations and academic institutions with which we're connected, NHPHA must play a role in contributing to the regrowth of a rapidly shrinking public health workforce. In order to allow capacity to do this work, we can no longer rely upon volunteers alone.

Over the years, NHPHA's success has been cultivated by the sweat equity of hundreds of volunteers and Board members. In 2016 alone, 45 volunteers contributed over 3,000 hours of their time, energy, and expertise. Reflecting on that fact, and looking ahead to a sustainable path for growth, the Board finalized its decision on how to move forward. In December 2016, after more than a year of research, facilitated discussions, and careful deliberation, the NHPHA Board of Directors voted to invest in an interim executive director for a one-year term. Beginning in 2017, this interim executive director will develop a 3-year growth plan focusing on policy and workforce development activities, and secure financial support for a permanent executive director to implement that growth plan.

As we forge ahead with this exciting endeavor, the Board bids adieu to a colleague who has been one of NHPHA’s most influential voices since she joined the Board in 2009. This year, Laura Davie, the University of New Hampshire’s Project Director of the Center on Aging and Community Living, concludes her service to NHPHA. Not only has Laura contributed her time and thoughtful perspective to the many committees and initiatives of which she’s participated, she has also provided counsel and support to each Board President with whom she’s served. In the five years I've had the honor of working with Laura in our NHPHA capacities, she has been a most reliable colleague, a mentor, and most importantly (and luckily for me) – a friend. Please join me in thanking Laura for her dedication and service to NHPHA.

In October 2017, after two and a half years, I will complete my term as NHPHA President. At that time, Rebecca Sky, Project Director with the Foundation for Healthy Communities, will take her place leading NHPHA through our next phase. Welcome Rebecca, NHPHA will most certainly thrive in your capable hands. I look forward to supporting your leadership in my new role as Past President.

It has been my honor to serve NHPHA, working with and learning from some of New Hampshire’s most respected public health leaders. Thank you for this opportunity.

Be well,

Katie

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**President’s Award**

This year’s President’s Awardee is J.J. Smith –NHPHA’s Public Policy Committee co-chair. A former physician with a Master’s degree in Public Health, J.J. has elevated NHPHA’s presence at the legislature with her regular testimony at committee hearings, her participation in committees on NHPHA’s behalf, and as author of the weekly Health in All Policies e-newsletter. J.J. has spent countless hours in Concord monitoring legislative hearings, leading the development of a majority of NHPHA’s written and oral statements, and coordinating many of the advocacy efforts between NHPHA’s Public Policy Committee and partner organizations. With advocacy being a key component of the value NHPHA provides its members and partners, our organization owes a debt of gratitude to J.J. for her commitment to social justice and promoting the public’s health through sound policy.
Health in All Policies

Under the leadership of Jeanie Holt and J.J. Smith, the Public Policy Committee had an active 2016. Choosing seven public health priorities and appointing a “topic lead” to follow and report on each of these seven areas, NHPHA was more effective this year in monitoring and contributing to efforts related to key legislation. Highlights from our seven topic areas include:

1. **Access to quality medical care:** NHPHA joined with a broad based coalition to ensure the passage of HB1696 the bill which funded the New Hampshire Health Protection Program beyond 2018.

2. **Alcohol and other drugs:** NHPHA worked to help pass SB532, a bill which improves the process of obtaining emergency insurance coverage for drug treatment.

3. **Climate change and health:** NHPHA worked with many groups to defeat several bills which would have turned the clock back on clean air work. We helped get SB311, a bill challenging the Department of Environmental Service’s radon testing requirements, referred to Interim Study.

4. **Child health and safety:** NHPHA successfully worked to pass SB322, a bill which allows school nurses to have their own prescriptions for emergency medication, available to treat asthma episodes in schools when a child does not have their inhaler.

5. **Mental health:** Overlapping with Child health and safety, NHPHA worked on SB534 to implement a children’s behavioral health care system.

6. **Public health infrastructure:** We worked hard on SB320, a bill that would have effectively ended gathering scientifically meaningful surveys in schools (other than the Youth Risk Behavior Survey). Though the bill passed, Governor Hassan vetoed, citing NHPHA among others in her veto message.

7. **Social justice and health:** Two minimum wage bills HB1480 and SB416 would have improved wages for those working at the bottom of the economy but both were defeated.

In addition to the advocacy work at the Legislature, the Public Policy Committee has been active in work on NHPHA’s policy statements. We made major revisions to our committee policies and procedures to improve the scientific grounding of our policy statements and clarify their uses. A brand new Climate Change and Health policy and completely re-written Child Health & Safety policy went to the Board and won early approval. In addition, the Committee drafted a new statement on Disability and Health Equity, began to update our Tobacco position statement, and also began to update our statement on Sexual and Reproductive Health. Finally, we have started to draft a brand new Food Security/Food Systems policy statement.

While the NHPHA Public Policy Committee’s advocacy work remains largely focused on local and state politics, our minds are never far from that at the federal level. We remain apprised of important updates provided by the American Public Health Association and regularly sign on to national letters of support or commitment for key pieces of legislation, such as the Affordable Care Act, the Prevention and Public Health Fund, and other funding mechanisms to support public health programs, research, and infrastructure.

“Thanks to volunteers, NHPHA’s visibility in the public policy arena grew in 2016 and we look forward to another busy and productive year in 2017.
Jeanie Holt,
Co-Chair, Policy Committee
Roger Fossum Lifetime Achievement

Helen Taft

Helen Taft is the Executive Director of Families First Health and Support Center in Portsmouth, NH. Under her leadership, Families First is breaking down barriers to accessing quality medical and oral health care, therefore advancing the quality of life for those underserved in the seacoast area. Helen believes in treating the “whole person”, by providing a medical and dental home to their patient population where 96% are low income. Through wise strategic planning, skilled networking ability, and a lot of hard work, Helen has successfully forged partnerships with area hospitals and developed links to social service agencies, shelters, mental health centers, and many other community partners.

Friend of Public Health

Dr. Jeff Fetter

Jeff Fetter is the Chief Medical Officer at the New Hampshire Department of Corrections. In this role, he is responsible for the health and wellness of approximately 2,400 inmates in the four state prisons. He cares for this disparate population with kindness, and upholds the highest professional and ethical standards. Dr. Fetter achieves the dual goal of minimizing public health emergencies within the facilities and assisting patients in reaching optimal wellness. As the medical leader, he sets the tone and standard for everyone who provides care to follow. The overall impact of his commitment to this community is immeasurable.

NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

The NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NH CADSV) is constantly fighting to prevent instances of domestic and sexual violence and support victims and families in situations of violence. NH CADSV works with state government to create and defend effective laws and policies to assure a safe and just community for all. While domestic and sexual violence are not often primary topics of focus for public health practitioners, it is important to recognize the serious toll they take on our communities, healthcare system, and justice system. NH CADSV’s team is tireless, purposeful, strategic, and effective in their work toward the betterment of health outcomes for all NH residents.

New Hampshire Community Health Service

American Medical Response

American Medical Response (AMR) has been at the forefront of the New Hampshire opioid crisis and has increased awareness of this vital public health emergency. AMR has advocated for policies that allow first responders, health care professionals, and family members to be trained in the administration of naloxone (Narcan). In Nashua and Manchester AMR is involved with the Safe Stations model which provides those seeking help for a substance use disorder a judgement free safe access point to treatment services. AMR also provides vital data that informs these two city’s Public Health Departments on overdoses and Narcan administrations.

Rising Star

Sophia Japhet

Since joining the NHPHA Board in 2015, Sophia Japhet has played a key role in several growth development opportunities undertaken by the organization. Bringing her experience as a grant writer, and her thoughtful, measured perspective to NHPHA’s work, Sophia has proven herself a dedicated member of the Board, and passionate about our mission. With two award nominations this year, Sophia has clearly proven herself as an invaluable asset to both NHPHA, and to the greater public health profession.
Team Up, Take Action: Improving Population Health Together

As a speaker, one of my goals is to energize the audience about the work they do to advance the health of the population. When I participated in the Team Up Take Action event, it was I who was energized by the audience's enthusiasm, the ideas they shared, and the commitment they displayed."

-Tom Quade, APHA President

Team Up, Take Action: Improving Population Health Together (TUTA) was presented by NHPHA and Dartmouth-Hitchcock this past November. The event featured keynote presentations from both Dr. Denise Koo (former CDC Policy Advisor) and Tom Quade (current APHA President). The day offered attendees ten breakout sessions including student centered offerings. Sessions brought together health care delivery and public health practitioners to collaborate toward improving population health in New Hampshire.

Our 150 attendees were able to make valuable networking connections, increase their skills and knowledge, and work to evolve population health efforts by building on existing tools and evidence through keynotes, plenaries, and workgroups.

The day was a wonderful opportunity to build relationships across sectors and cultivate a renewed energy for our day's theme: celebrating the partnerships between public health and traditional health care.

2016 Board of Directors

Katie Robert          | Bobbie Bagley  | Terry Johnson | Abbott Willard
Owen David            | Becky Brown    | Aaron Krycki  | Chelsie Hubcsak-Muldowney
Melissa Schoemmell    | Laura Davie    | Abby Shockley |
Sophia Japhet         | Amy Jeroy      | Rebecca Sky   |
Mary Ann Aldrich      | Jeanie Holt    | Neil Twitchell|

Tom Quade, APHA President presents at TUTA.
Plan4Health

NHPHA is a Plan4Health Nashua partner. The partnership’s efforts are focused on informing city officials, staff, and the community about the benefits of complete streets and outlining practical ways all bicyclists and pedestrians can be considered during the community planning process.

Board member Terry Johnson presented the Plan4Health Nashua project during a national webinar sponsored by the American Planning Association and American Public Health Association. Terry also presented a Plan4Health Nashua poster at the Active Living Research Conference. The poster described the unique methodology employed by the Plan4Health Nashua partnership to collect data on all of the roads in the city in order to quantify bikability and walkability, map potential origins and destinations, and identify stressful or broken connections. The results were used to help determine where complete street improvements would have a positive impact on the most people in need.

Nutrition Incentives Program

NHPHA partnered with the New Hampshire Food Bank to implement a communications capacity and skills-building training series for New Hampshire Nutrition Incentives Network leaders. Led by the New Hampshire Food Bank, the New Hampshire Nutrition Incentives Network is a collaboration of farmers markets working to increase affordable access to locally grown food. NHPHA secured an American Beverage Association grant for the purpose of strengthening the ability of farmers markets to effectively promote their programs. These programs, such as Granite State Market Match, are critical to addressing food insecurity in New Hampshire.

American Public Health Association

NHPHA has been affiliated with APHA since NH public health leaders founded the Association. We have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which underwent revisions in 2016; the new MOU will be signed early in 2017. NHPHA continues to reap benefits from our affiliation including technical assistance, NH-specific materials, federal-level advocacy, and a voice in the governance of APHA. We participate in APHA-sponsored events including National Public Health Week, the Public Health Action Campaign (PHAct), and the APHA Annual Meeting.

Early in 2016, Shasta Jorgensen became NH’s Affiliate Representative to the Governing Council (ARGC), taking over the position from Jeanie Holt. Shasta participates regularly in regional phone meetings with the ARGCs of other New England states and in the biannual meetings of the Governing Council. Jeanie Holt served as Chair-Elect and now Chair of the APHA Council of Affiliates whose members include ARGCs from ten regions across the country. In 2017, Shasta and Jeanie will continue their work to keep NHPHA’s relationship with APHA strong and productive.
New Hampshire Oral Health Coalition

Submitted by Gail T. Brown | Director | NH Oral Health Coalition

2016 has been a busy year for oral health advancement at the state and national levels. The New Hampshire Oral Health Coalition worked to both expand and strengthen the oral health stakeholder network, by further engaging dental and medical providers, insurers, legislators, and health and equity partners. In April, Coalition Director, Gail T. Brown, was a co-presenter at the National Oral Health Conference in Cincinnati, OH on the “Development of a Network Infrastructure to Achieve Systems Change in Oral Health.”

As the in-state lead organization guiding and implementing the New Hampshire Oral Health Plan, the Oral Health Coalition (OHC), coordinated a seven-stop road trip that provided local stakeholders the opportunity to learn about the updated 2015 New Hampshire Oral Health Plan, the New Hampshire Oral Health Baseline Survey I, and developing oral health stakeholder network. In exchange, local stakeholders reported on their own unique programs and services, thereby linking their work to the goals and strategies of the plan. Stakeholders identified collaborative pathways to improve oral health access for all New Hampshire residents.

Programs discovered during the road trip included oral health integration into public health network planning, emergency department diversion options, oral health services implemented into medical settings, mobile dentistry, and innovative contracting options. That information was used by the Coalition to build out the New Hampshire Oral Health Plan and to help prepare a template for a 3 to 5 year activity plan for full implementation of the Plan.

In addition to the Statewide Road Trip, the Coalition completed the NH Oral Health Baseline Survey I analysis, report and geographic information system (GIS) map; they are posted on www.nhoralhealth.org. The Survey identified the community-based, nontraditional oral health programs that provide access throughout the state for those who have a limited geographic or financial ability to access traditional dental services. The Survey also identified the predominant program and workforce models of community-based services for children, adults, and seniors. This information will be used in 2017 to help inform the oral health work of dental and medical providers and programs.

The Coalition is planning a statewide informational series to help stakeholders effectively apply strategies based on the data gathered. A presentation on the Survey process and implementation, was done at the 2016 New England Rural Health Round Table Annual Event in Southbridge, MA.

The 2017 oral health forecast includes additional presentations on the Baseline Data Survey, resources and models of service, ongoing implementation of Oral Health Plan activities, and in-state learning and summits on oral health access for lower income adults.

On behalf of the citizens [of New Hampshire], I commend the New Hampshire Oral Health Coalition for 15 years of dedicated service and contributions [...] to promoting optimal oral health for the people of New Hampshire.

Governor Chris Sununu
Citation of Gratitude for OHC

Members of the Oral Health Coalition.
Membership Committee
Co-Chairs: Sarah Moeckel, Ashley Peters, and Sarah Gerekos

In 2016, the Membership Committee worked to engage current members and expand membership to new organizational members, such as, Southern New Hampshire University, New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Colby-Sawyer College, Granite United Way, and Franklin Pierce University. In addition to broadening the current membership, the committee continued to expand and incorporate the NH Public Health Nurses section into NHPHA. By strengthening the NH Public Health Nurse workforce within NHPHA, members will be able to better engage with stronger purpose, execute more focused collaboration, and more efficiently affect positive health outcomes for our members and their programs. The Committee also welcomed a new Co-Chair, Sarah Gerekos.

The Rising Stars student section had a busy year highlighted by the visit of APHA President Tom Quade, the first APHA President to be nominated by the Student Assembly. Students across the state’s public health programs are coming together to further the integration of public health, health care, and the community. We look forward to what 2017 holds!

Communications Committee
Co-Chairs: Christin D’Ovidio and Melissa Schoemmell

The Communications Committee works to ensure that NHPHA remains visible and relevant in New Hampshire. This committee produces the NHPHA monthly newsletter, distributed to over 1,000 mailboxes each month. This committee also promotes all NHPHA events, programs, and initiatives as well as those of NHPHA’s individual and organizational members. This past winter, the Communications Committee led the 2016 Annual Giving Campaign. Funds raised during this campaign will help provide student registration scholarships at our upcoming 2017 member events.

Program Planning Committee
Co-Chairs: Abbott Willard and Neil Twitchell

In 2016, the Program Planning Committee helped to organize and host two events: the NHPHA Annual Meeting in April and the “Team Up, Take Action” (TUTA) event in November. Both events were successful and well attended.

The Annual Meeting showcased graduate and undergraduate public health work of New Hampshire students. Former New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner, Nick Toumpas, was honored with the Roger Fossum Lifetime Achievement Award and delivered the keynote remarks.

“Team Up, Take Action: Improving Population Health Together”, was a one-day conference style event designed to bring together health care delivery and public health practitioners.

Additional information about past NHPHA events can be found on the NHPHA websites under the “Events” tab. The success of NHPHA events is thanks to the hard work of the Program Planning Committee’s volunteer members.
Public Health Nurses Section

The New Hampshire Public Health Nurses (NH PHN) Section of NHPHA officially started in 2016!

The NH PHN Section had a busy year organizing to create By-laws and procedures, and develop an organizing structure. Additionally, the NH PHN section have created a mission and vision for the group that drives their activities for 2017. Their vision is focused on elevating the practice and presence of public health nurses to ensure the health and wellness of the citizens and communities of New Hampshire.

Their mission is three-fold:

1. **Advocate for the role nurses play as liaisons between primary care, acute care, long-term care, and the greater community.**
2. **Focus on public health prevention**
3. **Develop and coordinate public health best-practices to align with all health systems**

The Public Health Nurses are hoping to increase their presence in 2017 through attendance at the New Hampshire Immunization Conference, the NHPHA Annual Meeting and Second Annual New England Public Health Conference in Kennebunkport, ME this summer. The Public Health Nurses have also designated a representative at the NH Nurses Association. The NH PHN is currently working on planning an educational session for public health nurses in June and are discussing other ways to engage healthcare partners.

Section membership is free with your regular NHPHA annual membership. If you’re interested in joining the section, or learning more, please email info@nhpha.org.

The Public Health Nursing Section

Research and Evaluation Section

The Research and Evaluation group (REG) section is a forum for New Hampshire researchers and evaluators from a broad diversity of fields to share knowledge, learn together, and continue the development of NH’s collective body of knowledge. Three key roles of the group intended to create opportunities for its members include:

1. **Sharing and receiving feedback on statewide and/or regional research projects**
2. **Learning and expanding skills and knowledgebase**
3. **Providing an environment for collaboration**

In 2016 the REG member section continued to evolve as part of NHPHA. A section member survey highlighted several topics of interest including program evaluation, creating and implementing surveys, application of basic statistics, and learning software techniques for SPSS and Excel. The input from the survey is guiding the development of learning based events in 2017 targeted to section members, and available to all NHPHA members.

**Active section participation and section leadership is needed!**

In 2017, we hope to have a section chair-person to vote on the NHPHA board and grow Research and Evaluation as a part of NHPHA. Membership is open to all individuals, including students, who are interested in learning more about research and evaluation work in New Hampshire.

Section membership is free with your regular NHPHA annual membership. If you’re interested in joining the section, or learning more, please email info@nhpha.org.
On September 24, NHPHA sponsored the third annual NH Get Your Rear in Gear trail run and Memory Walk to raise awareness of the importance of colon cancer screenings. Hosted by Gould Hill Farm in Hopkinton, participants enjoyed a route that wound through two separate apple orchards and a pumpkin patch. Partnering with the Colon Cancer Coalition and 93.3 The Wolf, this year’s event raised over $13,000 in sponsorships and donations. During 2016, race proceeds funded grants made to HealthFirst Family Care Center of Franklin and Laconia, and Families First Seacoast in Portsmouth. With the funds, these agencies purchased more than 650 take-home colorectal cancer screening tests for their low-income patients who may not have otherwise been screened.

The Spirit of New Hampshire Awards honor exceptional contributions to volunteerism throughout the state of New Hampshire. Each fall, a statewide celebration is held to these awards. In November 2016 NHPHA received a Volunteer NH Volunteer Service Award.

Volunteer Service Awards recognize individuals and groups who provide volunteer services that strengthen communities and improve the lives of the citizens of New Hampshire. These awards honor outstanding volunteers – or groups of volunteers – who reflect the strong ethic of service and volunteerism in our state.

NHPHA volunteers are deserving of this award in their work to strengthen the health and wellness of NH communities, advocate for health equity, prevent disease and reduce costs for all. NHPHA is thankful for all our volunteers and proud to know that they have been awarded the recognition they deserve.

Get Your Rear In Gear

On September 24, NHPHA sponsored the third annual NH Get Your Rear in Gear trail run and Memory Walk to raise awareness of the importance of colon cancer screenings. Hosted by Gould Hill Farm in Hopkinton, participants enjoyed a route that wound through two separate apple orchards and a pumpkin patch. Partnering with the Colon Cancer Coalition and 93.3 The Wolf, this year’s event raised over $13,000 in sponsorships and donations.

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The 2017 Get Your Rear in Gear is slated for September 30, and is co-presented with the Norris Cotton Cancer Center, 107.7 The Pulse, and Gould Hill Farm. We hope to see you there!

Runners gather at the 2016 Get Your Rear in Gear.