After the election at the end of 2016, with concern about a new policy environment, and sense of urgency, the NHPHA Board of Directors voted to invest in an interim executive director to lead a period of growth for our organization. Now was the time to grow our impact as a member-driven organization championing public health policy and practice, enriching the workforce, and inspiring leaders to improve the public’s health.

As April drew to a close, NHPHA hired Joan Ascheim. Joan brought to the position her passion, past experience with NHPHA, and her leadership experience from years of work for the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services. She joined Beth D’Ovidio, our new program assistant who also came with a background in public health and expertise in communications.

Since April, NHPHA has inventoried its organizational assets and identified opportunities for expansion and sustainable development; NHPHA committees worked diligently to develop and monitor performance metrics. We met with partners and created new relationships improving our ability to act. This includes a new relationship with the New England Public Health Training Center that along with support from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation will allow us to do more for the emerging and existing public health workforce. As a result of all these efforts the Board has adopted a three-year growth plan.

We hope, after reading through this report, you’ll agree it has been a year of progress and promise. We hope you’ll recognize how much better able we are to accomplish our vision to be the leading, trusted public health voice that empowers our members and engages our partners and decision-makers to achieve a healthier New Hampshire.

NHPHA is a member-driven organization. Our members drive our message and action. To grow our impact will require all of us. Join a committee, pledge support during our annual appeal, share with a colleague our newsletters, recruit a friend as a new member, and know that yes, we are better together. We are optimistic that NHPHA can meet the challenges to provide an avenue for public health professionals to be resilient and lead with our values, strengthening the vitality of our communities.

**OUR STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES:**
- Serve as the collective voice for public health advocacy
- Strengthen the public health workforce
- Build a public health movement

**OUR ORGANIZATIONAL IMPERATIVES:**
- Establish a sustainable economic model
- Operate as an effective organization

PRESIDENT’S AWARD
Marie Mulroy

Please help me in showing gratitude to this year’s President’s Award recipient, Marie Mulroy. Marie has a steadfast history of serving our organization. She served as NHPHA’s President in 2013-2014.

Upon the end of her term, she continued to contribute at a leadership level. She currently serves as NHPHA’s Vice President and chairs our Human Resource Committee. Her service has been invaluable during this year of transitions. From recruiting me to follow in Katie Robert’s huge footsteps as President, to replacing our Program Assistant, to the hiring of our Interim Executive Director; she has been a mentor to me guiding with her humor, brilliant mind, and enthusiasm. She contributes meaningfully to our policy advocacy efforts. Her work this year included connecting NHPHA with the Lead Coalition and New Futures to pass legislation to reduce the risk of lead poisoning and to ensure the continuation of Medicaid Expansion. These are just a few of the ways she has in the past year provided exceptional service to NHPHA. I offer my sincerest appreciation for her leadership and for seeking ways to add her special value.

- Rebecca Sky, NHPHA Board President

Funders

- NH Charitable Foundation
- NH Endowment for Health
- Northeast Delta Dental
- Dentaquest Foundation
- New England Public Health Training Center
NHPHA is an affiliate of the American Public Health Association, but what does this mean for NHPHA? It means we are connected to all the other state and regional public health associations as well as the national professional association. Within APHA there are several groups of communities which try to meet the diverse needs of APHA’s members and affiliates.

Affiliates: Affiliates are generally state-level public health associations which provide grassroots energy and action to public health professionals across the country. Each affiliate is an independent non-profit organization with a Memorandum of Understanding with APHA. In 2017 NHPHA signed an updated MOU outlining the benefits and responsibilities of our affiliation. Among the benefits is representation on the Governing Council of APHA which meets twice annually. Jeanie Holt is currently our interim Affiliate Representative to the Governing Council.

Sections: APHA has 31 sections representing the broad field of public health topics. A list of sections is on the APHA website: https://www.apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections. Sections provide opportunities for members to be involved with others in their field of public health practice.

SPIGs, Caucuses, and Forums: These are some other communities within APHA, each has special roles and unique characteristics within the APHA community. You can read about these on the APHA website: http://www.apha.org/apha-communities.

People often ask about joint membership opportunities. Currently you must join APHA separate from your NHPHA membership. Joining APHA connects you to federal/national public health news and the dues NHPHA pays to APHA are reduced for every NHPHA member who is also an APHA member! Join both today!

### Summary of NHPHA Financials

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<th>2017</th>
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NHPHA proudly co-sponsored the annual “Team Up, Take Action” fall forum on November 15, 2017 at the Hanover Inn in Hanover, NH. The theme was “Partnering for Health Equity” and the power of partnerships was demonstrated by our work with our co-sponsors, Dartmouth Hitchcock and the Vermont Public Health Association. This event was the first time these three entities collaborated to address a critical public health issue that transcends professional and geographic boundaries, this led to a “sold-out” venue and a wide range of presentations from multiple disciplines and approaches. We are committed to continuing this collaboration again in 2018 to maximize the value of this event for our members.

Two keynote speakers were featured; Dr. Jim Weinstein, spoke to how health care organizations can get better health outcomes when they also actively address the social determinants of health and health equity issues that impact their patients. Dr. Camara Jones, the other keynote speaker and past president of APHA exhorted the audience to deepen our understanding of the ongoing barriers to equity stemming from our shared history of discrimination and called for both personal and professional action.

A goal of the organizers was to identify ways that attendees could continue to connect after the conference by signing up for email groups to facilitate ongoing discussion. Attendees were also asked to complete a personal action plan to address health equity in their work. NHPHA is now re-connecting with attendees to solicit presenters for an upcoming webinar that will highlight their equity-related work since the conference. This kind of “year-long” learning will continue to be a priority for NHPHA as we enhance our training initiatives.
FRIEND OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD
Tom Irwin and Sen. Dan Feltes

For their tireless efforts over the course of two legislative sessions promoting and mobilizing partners in support of SB247 - the lead poisoning prevention bill signed by Governor Sununu. This critical piece of public health legislation mandates universal testing for lead exposure for young children. Tom Irwin of the Conservation Law Foundation led the coalition of advocates, including the NH Pediatric Society, NH Legal Assistance, and NHPHA - to name a few, while Sen. Feltes co-sponsored and championed the bill across multiple legislative sessions, and a multitude of standing committee, sub-committee, and study committee hearings, work sessions, and floor votes.

WMUR has created awareness in NH by airing special coverage of the substance use disorder crisis. This coverage has brought attention to this public health epidemic that has promoted political action to address the issue at the state and national level.

NH COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE AWARD
WMUR

WMUR has created awareness in NH by airing special coverage of the substance use disorder crisis. This coverage has brought attention to this public health epidemic that has promoted political action to address the issue at the state and national level.

RISING STAR AWARD
Sara Rainer

During her time at the Institute on Disability at UNH Sara Rainer has consistently taken on larger managerial and leadership positions and easily risen to the challenge. Sara currently serves as the Project Manager for the CDC Disability in Public Health project and is also currently pursuing her MPH at UNH. While working full time and going to school, Sara has also pursued independent research projects that have taken her to the American Public Health Association annual meeting for presentation. Sara also serves on the NHPHA Policy Committee. Sara has consistently proven herself as a valuable ally, advocate, and friend of public health. She meets and exceeds the expectations placed upon her, she is a public health force to be reckoned with!

ROGER FOSSUM LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Linda Saunders Paquette

Linda Saunders Paquette served as the President & CEO of New Futures from 2010 to 2017. In this role, Linda advanced New Futures’ mission by creating new possibilities for collaboration between public and nonprofit entities on common policy and legislative priorities. Under Linda’s leadership, New Futures’ successfully spearheaded efforts to develop a coordinated response to New Hampshire’s opiate epidemic, moving forward numerous evidence-based policies improving the health and wellness of thousands of Granite Staters. These included increased funding for evidence-based prevention programs, support for addiction treatment services, and advocating for the full integration of behavioral health and primary care services.

Linda received her Juris Doctor degree from Franklin Pierce Law Center in 1978. After receiving her degree, Linda directed the Elderly Legal Services Program of the NH Bar Association; was the Managing Attorney of the Belknap/Merrimack County Public Defender Program; taught Evidence and Trial Advocacy at Franklin Pierce Law Center; and, served as a special justice for Concord District Court. From there, Linda held numerous positions with DHHS including with the Administrative Appeals Unit; the Division for Children, Youth and Families; the Division of Behavioral Health and the Office of Improvement, Integrity and Information.

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In 2017 the Coalition continued building on our vision of “optimal oral health for the people of New Hampshire”. Outreach into the community and provider networks this year included continuing support to the NH “From the First Tooth” project that implements the use of fluoride varnish into medical settings. We did this by collaborating with NH medical insurers to train staff and medical providers on the importance and availability of community-based oral health services and programs.

Furthering the community outreach theme, our 2017 NH Oral Health Fall Forum was held in collaboration with the New England Rural Health Round Table’s Fall Conference. The program, “Transitions in Healthcare”, included an oral health track and focused on the unique challenges of providing comprehensive health care in rural settings.

Oral health visibility is increasing in NH’s public and policy settings. The Coalition is active in policy development from research to education to implementation. Areas of special interest to the legislators include access, cost of delayed care, relationship to the opioid crisis and employability and the development of newer, less invasive/lower cost technology and work force models. Our spring Policy Summit, “Exploring Oral Health Pathways for Adult Oral Health” targeted local legislators, policy-makers, and program managers.

Stakeholder network development is a primary method of oral health advancement. Development activities include creating common and aligned messaging with the new Frameworks Institute Oral Health Toolkit; increasing engagement on additional public health initiatives; and exploring policy on sugary beverages.

2017 Organizational Members

American Lung Association of the Northeast
Bi-State Primary Care Association
Cheshire Medical Center
Colby-Sawyer College
Community Health Institute/JSI
Endowment for Health
Foundation for Healthy Communities
Franklin Pierce University
Granite United Way
Healthy Homes
Mid-State Health Center
Institute for Health Policy and Practice
New Futures
NH Businesses for Social Responsibility
NH Children’s Trust, Inc.
NH Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
North Country Health Consortium
Safe Kids NH
Southern NH University
Strafford County Public Health Network
TLC Family Resource Center
UNH - Health Management and Policy
UNH Institute on Disability
NH Occupational Health Surveillance Program
2017 was the biggest year by far for growth in NHPHA’s Rising Stars Program. NHPHA was thrilled to host its Annual Meeting and have more than 90 students attend. Twenty-seven students participated in the student poster session, judged by six professionals from the field. From the poster session, NHPHA awarded two student research awards: Graduate Level: Sophia Japhet (University of New Hampshire) for her poster describing her Capstone work on the City of Manchester’s Emergency Heat Response Plan; Undergraduate Level: Emma Hartwick (Dartmouth College) for her poster titled “Because It Changes You”: Why Young Adults Use Alcohol and How They Perceive Misuse Prevention Messages.”

In May, NHPHA also had the honor of participating in the University of New Hampshire’s MPH hooding ceremony. Immediately following each student’s hooding, Board President Katie Robert pinned the five graduates, inducting them into NHPHA as professional members.

During the November Team Up, Take Action event, 26 students had the opportunity during a student session to speak directly with Dr. Camara Jones, MD, MPH, PhD. Dr. Jones spoke with students about public health topics, including health equity and leadership.

Lastly, in December, NHPHA was awarded a NH Charitable Foundation grant to hire a workforce development coordinator and formally expand the Rising Stars program. The grant will support the coordination of an advisory committee, implementation of several continuing education opportunities, and exploration of tools to support opportunities for New Hampshire employers and students to connect, including a common internship agreement, and jobs and internship database.
On September 30, NHPHA co-presented the 4th Annual NH Get Your Rear in Gear 5K and Memory Walk event raising money and awareness for colon cancer screening and detection. Colon cancer is the #2 cause of cancer death in the United States, although one of the most treatable when caught early.

Hosted by Gould Hill Farm in Contoocook and co-presented with 107.7 The Pulse and Norris Cotton Cancer Center, the event had almost 250 walkers and runners, supported by a wonderful volunteer team of more than 20 people.

Since 2014, NHPHA and other race supporters have helped the event raise $46,000, supporting grants to local community health centers such as HealthFirst Family Care Center, FamiliesFirst Portsmouth, Manchester Community Health Center, and Harbor Health Care & Wellness Center in Nashua. Grant funds have paid for colonoscopies, screening kits, processing costs, other test prep, transportation costs, and staff time to follow up on tests and support patients navigating necessary follow-up care.

The 2018 event is slated for Saturday, September 8 at Gould Hill Farm.

Public Health Nurses Section

The New Hampshire Public Health Nurses (NH PHN) Section of NH Public Health Association continues to focus on elevating the practice and presence of public health nurses to ensure the health and wellness of the citizens and communities of New Hampshire.

The nurses of the NH PHN Section were successful in developing presentations and engaged in activities to promote, preserve and protect the health of residents in NH. They have given presentations at the national American Public Health Association Conference on systematic approaches to addressing the opioid crisis in NH, to planning an awards ceremony to acknowledge excellence in nursing practice. NH public health nurses were represented at the national Association of Public Health Nurses conference held in San Diego California and hosted conferences to inform healthcare providers and other partners on important issues such as immunization updates, the impact of substance use disorder on high risk behaviors and infectious disease interventions. The public health nurses were recognized for their public and private partnerships in the community increasing access to adult vaccines regardless of insurance status. Public Health Nurses demonstrated leadership on policy issues related to Medicaid expansion and advocating for nursing practice in DC.

Public Health Nurses Section Mission

- Advocate for the role nurses play as liaisons between primary care, acute care, long-term care, and the greater community.
- Focus on Prevention of public health problems.
- Develop and coordinate public health best-practices to align with all health systems.
In 2017, JJ Smith and Donna Asbury co-chaired the NHPHA Public Policy Committee. With an abundance of bills potentially impacting public health, the group gave priority to bills based on their alignment with the following topic areas: behavioral health, social justice, climate change and clean air, access to quality health care, health equity and social justice, alcohol and other drugs, child health and safety, and public health infrastructure.

NHPHA focused much of its advocacy energy on bills related to childhood lead poisoning, marketing healthy beverages in schools, and eligibility requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP). NHPHA was a member of the coalition of partners working to pass SB 247, which would have lowered blood levels that trigger lead poisoning investigations, required lead testing for children under the age of two, and set up a fund to help landlords remediate lead detected in their properties. Through this work, NHPHA strengthened its connections with the Conservation Law Foundation and New Hampshire Legal Assistance. NHPHA supported the Healthy Active Kids Coalition to mobilize members in support of SB 103, a bill that would have regulated beverage marketing to children in schools, promoting healthier choices. We also partnered with HEAL NH on SB 7 related to SNAP. Our annual legislative luncheon provided another opportunity for NHPHA to support its partners by having these groups speak during the lunch to talk about the potential health impact of those focused pieces of legislation.

Outside of these focused bills, NHPHA signed on to support or oppose many other pieces of legislation important to our partners, and related to our priority topic areas.

Continuing efforts from 2016, NHPHA spoke to the importance of health related non-academic surveys administered by public schools in reference to SB43. NHPHA actively engaged alongside clean energy partners around multiple bills in energy committees of both House and Senate, highlighting the importance of both combating the health effects of climate change and of the direct reduction in the harms of air pollution from curtailing the burning of fossil fuels. We also joined others on bills aimed at including electronic nicotine delivery systems in New Hampshire’s prevention efforts.

In addition to the legislative advocacy work happening at the State House, the NHPHA Public Policy Committee focused significant energy on updating policy statements, and drafting several new statements – all which can be found on www.nhpha.org. These updated and new policy statements include topics such as disability and health equity, emergency preparedness response and recovery, gun violence prevention, infectious disease, tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure, and food systems. By accessing NHPHA’s network of subject matter expert members and volunteers, the committee continues to provide evidence-based, objective policy statements for use by legislators, researchers, and public health practitioners.

Toward the end of 2017, the NHPHA Public Policy Committee welcomed Rachel Maxwell from Granite United Way as the new chair. JJ Smith will continue as the volunteer NHPHA Advocacy Lead. NHPHA has continued to thrive thanks to the work and expertise of our volunteers. We look forward to building upon the relationships built this year and continuing momentum into the 2018 legislative session.

On January 21, 2017, close to 5,000 people gathered on the State House lawn in Concord to take part in the Women’s Day of Action and Unity rally, in solidarity with the Women’s March on Washington. The rally was hosted by Planned Parenthood Northern New England, and supported by more than 20 NH non-profit groups centered around common social determinants of health-related issues. Board President Katie Robert was invited to speak on the impact of climate change on health equity. Prior to the rally, 20 NHPHA members and supporters joined for a brief social event so that they could participate in the rally as a collective voice under the NHPHA banner.
PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE
Neil Twitchell, Chair
The Program Planning Committee (PPC) continued to lead planning for our two sentinel annual events: the Annual Meeting and the “Team Up, Take Action” Fall Forum. These events are integral to our strategic work to engage the public health workforce and contribute to their professional development. The PPC works with NHPHA staff and several other committees to ensure these events provide value to members and other guests in support of the Association’s mission and vision. Partners affirm there is no other organization in the state that brings together public health practitioners for the purpose of networking and collaborative learning around emerging public health issues.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Ashley Peters and Sarah Gerekos, Co-Chairs
The NHPHA Membership Committee focuses on engaging current members in all activities of the organization and recruitment of new members in order to grow the organization’s membership, ensuring that all areas of public health in New Hampshire are represented within NHPHA. This committee administers the Annual NHPHA Member Survey in an effort to understand what’s important to NHPHA members across all areas of the organization and to make improvements where necessary. In addition, this committee plans the Annual NHPHA Member Open House and convenes other membership networking events throughout the year in an effort to both engage with current members and recruit new members.

In 2018, in line with the organization’s strategic imperative of Strengthening the Public Health Workforce through Membership Engagement and Professional Development, the NHPHA Membership Committee will focus its efforts on membership engagement as well as increasing value to the membership in attempts to retrain current members and recruit new members.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
Melissa Schoemmell and Christin D’Ovidio, Co-Chairs
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.
An affiliated association of

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
For science. For action. For health.

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