2021 Legislative Session Summary

PREVENTION AND ACCESS

Public Health Preventive Efforts and Health Access, Particularly for Underserved Populations

Advocate for community health workers infrastructure funding

WIN for PUBLIC HEALTH – while funds were not put in the budget via SB 104 – grants funds will enable one community health worker in each of the Regional Public Health Networks

Advocate for funding and infrastructure for equitable distributions of vaccines

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- HB 604 sought to expand the NH vaccine association to include adult vaccines and was retained in committee due to concerns of pharmacy professionals.
- HB 221 – sought to make the state vaccine registry an opt in program and was determined to be inexpedient to legislate. This is likely to come back in 2021-2022 and bears watching.

PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Strong Local and State Public Health Infrastructure

Advocate for funding to support foundational public health services at the state and local levels

PARTIAL WIN for PUBLIC HEALTH SB 140 sought an appropriation to the department of HHS for primary prevention services for families. While the funding was taken out of the bill some of it was placed in the final passed budget including funds for family resource centers and family support through regional community collaborations.

Advocate for support to implement the State Health Improvement Plan and assure it addresses the need of marginalized and vulnerable populations

WIN for PUBLIC HEALTH HB 157 sought to repeal the state health assessment and state health improvement plan council. The bill was amended to include broader representation and passed and was signed by the Governor, allowing the council to continue its work.

FOOD SECURITY

Policies and Programs that Increase Access to Healthy, Affordable Foods

Support expansion of SNAP, Granite State Market Match, and farm-to-school initiatives

WIN PUBLIC HEALTH SB 98 sought funding for the SNAP program. The language from SB 98 was added to the budget and was signed by the Governor.

Other Matters of Interest

Several issues arose during the session that were not in our priority list but are of importance. The first began as HB 544 relative to divisive concepts. Language from this bill was adapted and adopted in the budget. It limits teaching on equity and racism and remains a concern to NHPHA. We will also continue to follow the ban on abortion after 24 weeks which provides few exceptions and criminal penalties for those performing abortions. Lastly, we will be watching HB 103 relative to Medicaid dental coverage that was retained in committee and may move forward in 2022.