NHPHA Leadership Message: Celebrating NHPHA

Lisa Bujno, Board President

If 2020 proved anything, it was that the health of the public impacts the health of the economy. When the population faces a significant health threat, as it has with the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy suffers and unaddressed health disparities rise to the forefront. In New Hampshire and the United States this year, these truths were often stunning. But this is not news to public health professionals as these issues are foundational to our work. For NHPHA, 2020 was a year to step forward to meet our mission as a member-driven organization championing public health policy and practice, enriching the workforce, and inspiring leaders to improve the public’s health.

In the face of the pandemic NHPHA supported public health efforts, especially the worsening issues of disparity and food insecurity. NHPHA stepped up to assist with the COVID Equity Task Force, a collective representing multiple sectors and communities, as they addressed issues of equity arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and provided guidance and advocacy on behalf of communities of concern. Over the summer, NHPHA developed a four-point plan to clarify the focus of our advocacy efforts. In the fall, NHPHA began supporting the Food Access Coalition, working to ensure food security for all. Most recently, NHPHA has agreed to lead the development of a statewide Immunization Coalition.

NHPHA has also weathered internal changes this year. Our Executive Director, Joan Ascheim, retired at the end of 2020 and several Board members have volunteered countless hours in search of her replacement. Our Program Assistant, Jess Barnett, left us in February to pursue opportunities with her own business. Several Board members have had to step back from their NHPHA work due to competing priorities during the pandemic.

Amid it all NHPHA is emerging stronger than ever. Workforce activities have continued without missing a beat, thanks to our Workforce Coordinator, Andrea Guzman. Our TUTA conference in November, in partnership with Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health and the Vermont Public Health Association, was very successful, thanks to Herculean efforts on the part of our staff. Our new Program Assistant, Autumn Raschick-Goodwin, is hitting the ground running and our new Executive Director, April Mottram, and Immunization Coalition Coordinator, Tara Graham, came on board in March!

As always, you, New Hampshire’s public health champions, stand poised to address issues that threaten the health of our citizens – whether a global pandemic, ongoing disparities and inequities, or the impacts of uncontrolled chronic diseases. In the end, it comes down to you – our members – to fulfill the promise of public health. It is your voice that highlights needed changes in public health policy. It is your expertise that makes public health programs effective. It is your work that grows our impact. It is your participation that makes NHPHA a stronger organization. At NHPHA our vision stands firm – to be the leading, trusted public health voice that empowers our members and engages our partners and decision makers to achieve a healthier NH. We look forward to achieving that vision with you.

Lisa Bujno,
MSN, APRN
Board President
2020 was truly a year of Zoom! Pictured above (left to right): Top row: Lisa Bujno, NHPHA President; Jess Barnett, former Program Assistant; Marilee Nihan; Bryan Patriquin; and Denise Pouliot; Middle row: Jayme H. Simões; Sharon Beaty, NHPHA Treasurer; Nancy Frank; Catherine Bardier; Jennifer Alford-Teaster; Bottom row: Andrea Guzman, NHPHA Workforce Development Coordinator; Gail Tudor, NHPHA President-Elect; Ashley Wilder; Sai Cherala; and Tory Jennison. Not pictured: Lisabritt Solsky; Jonathan Stewart, NHPHA Vice President; and Lisa Vasquez.

NHPHA 2020 Achievements

- Refreshed our strategic plan with a focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Maintained a focused advocacy presence at the State House
- Launched the COVID-19 Equity Task Force in conjunction with the DHHS Office of Health Equity and NH Division of Public Health Services and sent letters regarding issues of importance surrounding COVID-19 and equity
- Co-hosted our fifth successful health equity conference in collaboration with Dartmouth-Hitchcock and the Vermont Public Health Association
- Gave out our annual meeting awards and published a special annual meeting edition of our e-newsletter in lieu of holding our annual meeting
- Held our third annual lobbying and advocacy primer for nonprofits in partnership with New Futures
- Enrolled our third cohort of the Mentor Program
- Provided stipends to several interns for diverse health equity projects
- Hosted a public health career webinar for students and early-career professionals
- Hosted the “Focus on Food Insecurity in the Granite State” webinar
- Launched the Shop @ NHPHA webpage and sent out NHPHA-branded “Because Science Because Equity” hats, t-shirts, masks, and stickers to our members
- Continued to expand our funding base

Funders

NHPHA and the Oral Health Coalition want to thank our funders for their generosity and support!

- DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement
- New England Public Health Training Center
- NH Charitable Foundation
- NH Children’s Health Foundation (formerly HNH Foundation)
- NH Dental Society Foundation
- NH Endowment for Health
- Northeast Delta Dental
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 several activities that take place throughout the year, including continuing education, advocacy-related opportunities, and resources.

Like most organizations, APHA held its first virtual annual meeting and expo in 2020. The virtual meeting received a huge response, with 9,400 attendees and more than 1,000 hours of sessions. The virtual format allowed many who would not normally travel to APHA to attend. As a result, future annual meetings will likely be hybrid models. Additionally, a large number of simultaneous sessions are offered at the annual meeting, and the virtual format provided an opportunity for meeting participants to be able to access conference sessions on demand through August 2021. There are also opportunities for those who did not register to access scientific sessions and presentations from APHA 2020.

As the NHPHA affiliate representative, NHPHA Board Member Nancy Frank serves on the APHA Governing Council and contributes to governance activities, review and approval of various policy statements, and assessment of the financial status of the organization. Additionally, NHPHA joins the other New England states (CT, ME, MA, RI, VT) in a regional Council of Affiliates, which provides opportunities to share issues and best practices and learn from our neighboring states.

### NHPHA Financials

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### BALANCE SHEET: ASSETS, LIABILITIES, & NET ASSETS

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Thanks to our generous sponsors, the TUTA 2020 planning and programming teams, the NHPHA staff, and the Event Eye staff, our fifth annual Team Up, Take Action conference, titled “The Impact of COVID-19 on NH and VT: Forging New Partnerships to Improve Health Equity,” was a great success, drawing more than 200 participants. The conference, which was presented by NHPHA, the Vermont Public Health Association, and Dartmouth-Hitchcock, was virtual in 2020. Each day included a keynote, a panel, and the choice of two breakout sessions that participants could attend. Day 1, on the theme of health equity during COVID-19, featured keynote Sandro Galea, MD, MPH, DrPH, Dean and Robert A. Knox Professor at Boston University School of Public Health. The day 1 panel was titled “Health Haves and Have Nots in a Time of COVID-19” and presented by various panelists. Day 1’s breakout sessions were titled “Equity in COVID-19 Prevention” and “Equity in Data: Does Data Collection Perpetuate Disparities?”

Day 2 focused on the economic impacts of COVID-19 in New Hampshire and Vermont and was headlined by keynote Jessica Santos, PhD, Director of Community Engaged Research at the Institute on Assets and Social Policy at Brandeis University. Dr. Santos spoke on the theme of “The Link between Health, Wealth, and Equity: The Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on the People of NH and VT” and also moderated the day 2 panel, which was on the same theme. The Day 2 breakout sessions were titled “Creating Virtual Learning Communities to Support Workplace Health during COVID-19: The Dartmouth-Hitchcock Project ECHO Experience” and “Creative Community Responses to Employee Childcare Challenges.”

The final day of TUTA focused on food and housing insecurity during COVID-19 and featured Kerri McGowan Lowrey, JD, MPH, Deputy Director and Director for Grants & Research for the Network for Public Health Law, Eastern Region, at University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. Kerri spoke on “Food and Housing Insecurity in the Wake of COVID-19: Old Problems, New Opportunities?” and moderated the day 3 panel, titled “States Stepping Up to Address Housing and Food Insecurity: NH and VT Approaches during the Pandemic.” Day 3’s breakout sessions were titled “Closer to Home: Local Initiatives to Keep Families in Safe and Secure Housing as the Pandemic Progresses,” and “Keeping Food on the Table: Community Collaborations to Meet COVID-19 Food Insecurity Challenges.”

Evaluations of the TUTA conference were very positive, with most people agreeing or strongly agreeing that presentation of the material was effective and the session objectives were achieved. Participants stated that the keynote speaker sessions were “excellent” and “well-organized and topical” and that the conference was a “good overview of the [COVID-19] impact in VT and NH.” One participant said of the 2020 TUTA conference, “All of the information was great. Using specific examples of people and what [they were] dealing with was helpful.” Participants were able to obtain CEU credit from attending the conference. Slides from the TUTA 2020 conference are now available on the Publications page of our website. Conference recordings are available on our YouTube channel. More information about the speakers and panelists is available on our site. Thanks to everyone who made 2020 TUTA possible!
ROGER FOSSUM LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Neil Twitchell, BS

Neil Twitchell has worked for the NH Division of Public Health Services since 1988. As one of the first staff in the state’s HIV Program he is particularly remembered for training hundreds of people in HIV test counseling and developing prevention programs. He went on to manage the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and the Injury Prevention Program before serving as Bureau Chief for Environmental and Occupational Health.

Since 2006 he has been the Administrator of the Community Health Development Section, whose mission is to strengthen local, regional and statewide public health infrastructure, most notably by supporting the development of the 13 Regional Public Health Networks. He also manages the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant for the Division and has been a member of numerous advisory boards and coalitions. Neil was also a member of the NHPHA board of directors and chaired the Program Planning Committee and most notably helped to organize the annual Team Up, Take Action Conference in collaboration with the Vermont Public Health Association and Dartmouth Hitchcock Health.

FRIEND OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

Makin’ It Happen, under the direction of Mary Forsythe Taber, CPS

As the Executive Director for Makin’ It Happen, Mary oversees operations along with providing oversight and management of grants, contracts, projects and staff. As the Chief Visionary, she is always seeking out opportunities to grow their team, expand their thinking and imagine what could be possible, as they bring their mission, vision and value statement to life!

Makin’ It Happen’s core mission is to build resiliency in youth, families and communities. They believe strongly that: Behavioral and Physical Health are Essential, Prevention Works!, Treatment is Effective and People Recover.

Mary is currently a Vice-Chair for the NH Suicide Prevention Council, a Youth Advisor for the Governor’s Youth Advisory Council, (GYAC) a member of the NH Children’s Behavioral Health Policy Advisory Board and an active member of the NH Prevention Certification Board. She recently hit the ten-year mark with Makin’ It Happen - an incredible ten years of learning, growing, expanding and rethinking prevention and how to help build healthy thriving communities.
Award Winners

**NH COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE AWARD**

*David Kreuger, CDI, CLIP-R*

David has been a New Englander since graduating from college with a bachelor’s degree in engineering more than twenty years ago. He has been working as a deaf interpreter/language specialist for the last fifteen years with strong connections with the local deaf community in the state. David achieved his national generalist interpreter certification in 2013, and followed by a specialty certification in the legal area in 2015. Since 2005, he has been actively involved with the interpreting profession on the local and national level, serving as Deaf Caucus Region Representative and Affiliate Chapter President, Treasurer, and Committee Chair. When he is not working, David is an avid skier and outdoor enthusiast, sharing those activities with his wife and three sons.

**PRESIDENT’S AWARD**

*Jess Barnett, BA*

Jess Barnett is a freelance copy editor and abstract artist living in Concord, NH. Prior to taking her copy editing business full-time, she served for two years as program assistant at NHPHA. She also serves as interim treasurer for the Capital Area Recovery Center Organization in Concord, NH, and is a member of the New Hampshire Treatment Task Force of the Governor’s Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs. She graduated from Boston University in 2001 with a degree in Journalism.

**RAAGA DEVINENI EQUITY AND JUSTICE AWARD**

*Kirsten Durzy, MPH*

Kirsten Durzy, MPH serves at the evaluator for the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Bureau of Infectious Disease Control. In this role, she provides guidance and consultation to public health programs in the creation and implementation of plans to assist programs in understanding their impact, assess their need and inform their development. Kirsten has worked in community health and education settings in multiple states, within higher education, tribal communities, nonprofits and the public sector. She has provided expertise in strategy, governance, community engagement and facilitation in various public-private collaborations and coalitions across New Hampshire, most specifically in the areas of evaluation, health equity, adolescent health, HIV and building equitable and just organizations. Kirsten is passionate about equitable evaluation and research methods and has done extensive work in the areas of narrative first-person storytelling.

In response to the COVID pandemic, Kirsten has served as the Equity Subject Matter Expert for the NH COVID-19 response and Incident Management Team as well as the Branch Director for the Vaccine Equity Branch – where Kirsten and her team work together with outside partners to move vaccine to communities in NH and address issues of vaccine hesitancy. Kirsten also co-leads the NH COVID Equity Task Force and serves on the NH Governor’s COVID Equity Response Team and represents NH on the Region 1 HHS/FEMA State Equity Committee. Kirsten was proud to have been selected as a 2019 NASTAD Minority Leadership Fellow. Kirsten received her Master in Public Health from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Bachelors degree from Mount Holyoke College.
RAAGA DEVINENI EQUITY AND JUSTICE AWARD

Trinidad Tellez, MD

Dr. Trinidad Tellez is a family physician, health disparities researcher, educator, and public health / health policy professional with over 20 years’ experience working in both the private and public sectors at the local, state and regional levels. Dr. Tellez has focused longstanding efforts on helping organizations improve their capacity to serve everyone equally well with the highest quality care, programs and services to address health disparities, improve access and quality, and advance health and equity for all. She is a champion of authentic community engagement, collaborative partnership building, and equitable participatory processes as important mechanisms for facilitating and leading community-driven approaches to co-creating equity.

Dr. Tellez served as Director of the NH Office of Health Equity for over 10 years. She began her tenure working in partnership to create the NH Health and Equity Partnership and align efforts through the Plan to Address Health Disparities and Promote Health Equity in New Hampshire. In May 2020, she led the 5-person Governor’s COVID-19 Equity Response Team to address the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, producing the Initial Report and Recommendations in July 2020, a multi-tiered strategic roadmap for how NH’s people, organizations, and government entities move together as a state to address longstanding systemic inequities that impact the ability of everyone to live a safe, happy and healthy life.

Dr. Tellez received her medical degree from Dartmouth Medical School, trained at the UCSF-affiliated Natividad Family Medicine Residency in Salinas, California, and then completed a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Fellowship in health services research and health policy at the University of California Los Angeles. She teaches in the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice’s Hybrid MPH program, participates in the NHPHA Public Health Mentoring Program, and co-facilitates the NHPHA-convened COVID Equity Task Force.

FRIEND OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

Alyson Cobb, MPH

Alyson Cobb is a Consultant with the Community Health Institute/JSI. Since joining CHI in 2009, she has had the opportunity to work with a variety of partners and clients across New Hampshire at the state, regional, and local levels on a wide range of public health initiatives and efforts.

Alyson’s primary focus has been public health and health care emergency preparedness. As a natural extension of this work, Alyson joined New Hampshire’s COVID-19 response efforts in March 2020 and is currently serving as a Contact Tracing Branch Co-Director.

Alyson holds a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from Bucknell University and a Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology from Boston University. She resides in Manchester with her husband, Nick, and their hyperactive cat, Rorschach.
Salinda Dong Chagnon, graduated with her Master of Science in Public Health Degree from Southern New Hampshire University and graduated with her Bachelor’s Degree in Biology from Colby-Sawyer College. She began her career with the Division of Public Health Services as a Foodborne Disease Epidemiologist intern in 2017 and was hired soon after as the Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance Coordinator within the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control. Salinda had taken the role of COVID-19 Epidemiologist within the Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch of the state’s Public Health COVID-19 Operations Center. For the past year, Salinda has performed critical surveillance and data analysis tasks essential for prompt case investigation, identification of COVID-19 clusters and emerging disease trends. Lastly, she also works as a Surveillance Coordinator for Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C).

Our Strategic Imperatives:
Strengthen the workforce through professional development
Develop and implement strategic communications to inspire a public health movement
Champion public health policy and advocacy

Our Organizational Imperatives:
Expand our membership base and engagement
Implement a sustainable economic plan
Operate as a high performing organization
Create an organizational culture of diversity, equity and inclusion
Our thanks to all of you who helped us have a busy and productive year throughout 2020. Like so many of our colleagues, we left our office on March 16 and did not return for months. Despite the shift to virtual connections, we completed one of our busiest years as we learned to meet the world in new ways.

Top priorities included continued education and advocacy on the importance of adding an expanded Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit within NH. The Coalition moved forward with training on the need and value of returning the mouth to the body to improve overall health and address the high cost of delayed and deferred dental care. This included the convening of our Annual Legislative Breakfast as one of our last in-person events. Additionally, with the broad sector oral health community, we served under HB4 on the DHHS Adult Dental Work Team charged to collaboratively develop a comprehensive adult benefit.

In partnership with NH DHHS, Public Health/Oral Health, and the John Snow Institute, we hosted 9 CDC Water Quality Award Luncheons in recognition of NH water operators that met high quality standards for optimization of water quality in their local communities; and provided support and training opportunities for NH dental providers to learn about the integration of substance misuse assessment and referral into the dental setting through the SBIRT system. This included a virtual presentation by Dr. Glen Hanson, from the University of Utah sharing his research on the significant impact on substance abuse recovery associated with the provision of dental services to those in need.

We forecast 2021 as another pioneering year as we strive to understand and counteract the impact of the closure of dental offices, children’s school programs, and community centers that have created pent-up dental and oral health needs, while reducing equitable oral health access in community settings.

Given the cultural and practical adaptations to the COVID environment we are in the process of completing the NH Oral Health Plan for 2021 and beyond and updating our Baseline Survey of Community-based Non-Traditional Oral Health Programs. You can follow this work at: www.nhoralhealth.org.
As the Workforce Development Coordinator, Andrea Guzman continued to foster and develop the New Hampshire Public Health Association’s Workforce Development programs, which include the Public Health Mentor Program, the Rising Stars program, an internship program, and professional development webinars.

In January 2020, NHPHA partnered with Sadhana Hall W. Hall, Deputy Director at Dartmouth College, to bring a workshop to the Public Health Mentor Program on best practices in compassion, leadership, and productivity in the workplace with a special focus on intergenerational work. This workshop included discussions with program participants about positive experiences they had with their mentor or mentee thus far and a networking activity.

NHPHA hosted two spring webinars: Focus on Food Insecurity in the Granite State and a Career Panel Webinar. Our food insecurity webinar was attended by over 100 individuals and organizations across the state of New Hampshire and featured partnerships with the University of New Hampshire’s Carsey School of Public Policy; Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Food Systems; the Public Health Department of Keene State College; the Nutrition Services Section of the Division of Public Health at the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; Gather; and New Futures. Our Career Panel Webinar, which was focused on students and early-career professionals, we were proud to host Dr. David Laflamme, PhD, MPH, Research Assistant Professor at the University of New Hampshire and Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist for New Hampshire; Gwen Williams, MPH, Health & Licensing Officer for the City of Concord; Catherine Bardier, Vice President of Wellness and Population Health at New London Hospital and current NHPHA Board member; and Meghan Farrell, Vice President of Community Engagement at New Futures. Through the webinar, students were able to learn about different career paths and trajectories within the field of public health.

With the support of the Rising Stars Advisory Committee, the Rising Stars Student Poster Session at the Annual Meeting moved virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee is composed of professionals from our eight academic partners and has continued to advise NHPHA in the student perspective. The posters of 20 graduate and undergraduate public health students from five New Hampshire Universities were shared on the NHPHA website for the New Hampshire public health community to see. Graduate student Samantha Bartol from the University of New Hampshire and undergraduate students Olivia Randlett from Colby-Sawyer College and Victoria Vargas and Steven Finnell from Franklin Pierce University received awards for their posters in their respective categories.

The second cohort of the Public Health Mentor Program concluded in May 2020 with virtual reflections and certificates of completion and appreciation. This program pairs undergraduate students, graduate students, and early-career professionals with experienced public health professionals. Many pairs left feeling they made valuable lifetime connections through the program. In October, the third cohort of the Public Health Mentor Program began. This cohort is the largest so far, with 20 pairs. The program kicked off with a workshop from public health mentoring expert Dr. Magda D. Peck. Dr. Peck helped lay the foundation of best practices in communication and support for a proactive mentor team.

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 programming and internship stipends for student placements in organizations throughout the state. Five students were placed in 2020 on projects throughout the state. These projects were focused on promoting public health by addressing food insecurity, lead poisoning prevention, and community health data analysis.

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.
COVID-19 Equity Task Force

Andrea Guzman

The New Hampshire COVID-19 Equity Task Force is a collective of over 60 individuals and organizations across NH representing multiple sectors and communities that have come together to address issues of equity arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and response. Task Force members include individual community members and leaders, local community based organizations, non-profit and advocacy organizations, as well as state and municipal government staff.

The COVID-19 Equity Task Force was originally convened in March of 2020 to respond to the COVID pandemic. The Task Force has met since March 27, 2020 with close to 60 individuals consistently participating, and new participants joining regularly. Originally meeting weekly, the group transitioned to meeting semi-monthly in July 2020. The Task Force is organized around seven work groups addressing the areas of concern that were initially identified from the recognition of shared community needs, including:

- concerns related to immigrants,
- digital divide and education,
- food insecurity,
- housing insecurity and homelessness,
- justice involved/incarceration/detention,
- mental health and substance use, and
- older adults and people with disabilities.

Work group members collaboratively develop action steps to address needs and disparities that have been magnified by the pandemic. Work is intended to be developed as a collective and to formulate policy and/or system change responses in each area, including addressing long-term needs and implications. Continued and future work includes expansion of recommendations amplified by other people and organizations such as letters to the editor, opinion pieces, and other endorsements.

The task force intentionally centers the value of equity. Participants are led with equity promoting participatory processes to address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus outbreak on communities that are already experiencing marginalization.
The New Hampshire Food Access Coalition (NHFAC) is a group of interested individuals and organizations that support policies that make nutritious food accessible to all in the Granite State while also bolstering local economies and supporting local agriculture. Our membership represents more than 90 individuals and dozens of organizations across multiple sectors of the food system and every county in the state: public health professionals, the NH Food Bank and pantries, researchers, state and municipal agencies, non-profits, school nutrition directors, hospitals, academia, and more.

Members have been convening monthly, starting in July 2020, to share information about projects and initiatives across NH, hold trainings about food access messaging and advocacy, and to plan actions on food access policy and legislation. A major goal of the coalition is to facilitate collaboration across interested organizations and individuals on these initiatives.

The early months of the coalition formation were spent recruiting members, identifying priorities, and building connections among coalition partners. The coalition identified five policy priorities which its membership could stand behind:

- Increase participation in federal nutrition assistance programs.
- Leverage hundreds of thousands of federal nutrition dollars currently left on the table, and out of the pockets of NH farmers and business owners, by supporting state nutrition incentive programs.
- Fund initiatives that increase access to locally produced food while supporting NH farm, fish, and food businesses.
- Support culturally appropriate communication and outreach efforts in multiple languages to increase awareness of eligibility for nutrition assistance programs and ease the enrollment and certification processes for our diverse populations.
- Fully participate in all waivers for federal nutrition programs during the COVID crisis.

The coalition put these priorities into a letter that was sent to all state legislators, the governor’s office, and executive councilors in early January 2021. Coalition representatives have since met with the governor’s office and the NH Democratic caucus leadership to introduce the coalition and talk about these urgent policy priorities. Accompanied with the letter was an infographic designed by the coalition outlining the state of food insecurity in NH.

Additionally, at the start of 2021 the coalition identified legislation related to food access and its root causes (e.g., healthcare access, ability to earn a living wage, affordable housing) to prioritize and define advocacy actions the membership would take. We track legislation, send out action alerts, facilitate member testimony, and help members connect with their legislators on key legislation.

One piece of key legislation members of the coalition have testified in support of and met with members of legislation over is Senate Bill 98, relative to the SNAP incentive program, which makes a biennial $150,000 appropriation to administer and fund the SNAP incentive program. This program allows a dollar for dollar match on fresh fruits and at local farmer’s markets and locally owned grocers. With coalition support, this bill has been passed in the senate and is awaiting public committee hearings in the house of representatives.

Members of the coalition have valued connecting with others, having a collective voice and power, learning opportunities, and sharing information between organizations and other efforts in the state. They have expressed that they come to the meetings for these reasons and to further their goals of advocacy, increasing capacity, collaborating with others, and educating. As we look into the future of the coalition, our members desire to have definitive strategies and goals, find ways that they can take action, facilitate and coordinate programs that address food insecurity, continue learning, and work to educate legislators and the community at large about hunger in the Granite State.
Following a membership discussion at one of my first NHPHA Board meetings, Lisa Bujno asked that I co-chair the Membership Committee with her. Many of the plans the committee had for 2020 involved in person events which obviously had to be canceled, postponed or reconceived.

The Membership Committee has focused on two main areas for growing the member base. The first is high touch outreach to lapsed members. Often the organizational contact has moved on so the renewal notice is not acted upon. Additionally, Board members scanned the list of lapsed organizational members and volunteered to personally reach out to a contact within those organizations. I can say from firsthand experience, 2 of the 3 organizations I reached out to were very responsive and ready to recommit to NHPHA immediately.

The second area of focus for the Membership Committee is cultivating interest among likeminded individuals and organizations who might not necessarily think of themselves as in the public health fold. Feedback has revealed that some believe that to be a part of NHPHA one must already be IN the public health ecosystem. To create greater sustainability, NHPHA must cultivate members among those outside the traditional friends of public health since that is a relatively finite group unlikely to sustain the organizations long term. Our goal is to demonstrate the value proposition of the NHPHA to those outside the public health orbit, diversify our membership and through greater participation, create sustainability.

These efforts have been buoyed by the support of Nick Zaharas who has been doing some membership and marketing work for NHPHA. Nick spearheaded a campaign focused on hospitals. He also created a reminder postcard for lapsed members which we hope will yield some return.

The other big initiative of the Membership Committee has been the sale of NHPHA gear. Membership Committee member Brittany Foley created a great "logo" for the gear which was then printed on tee shirts, masks and stickers and embroidered on Carhart hats. The first run of gear sold out in about 5 weeks! Investment in gear not only shows support for NHPHA but it also creates living, breathing marketing that spreads the word about NHPHA and its work. The Committee used its budget for part of the initial investment and sale proceeds covered the costs above the committee investment. If you missed the chance to get some NHPHA gear, fret not. More gear will likely be available soon!

Rocking their NHPHA gear!
Pictured from left to right: Ashley Ithal, Lisabritt Solsky, and Jess Barnett

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 Organizational Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breathe NH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colby-Sawyer College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Health Institute/JSI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dartmouth-Hitchcock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment for Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation for Healthy Communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gather</td>
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<td>Granite United Way</td>
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<td>Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institute for Health Policy and Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keene State College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Makin’ It Happen</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Futures</td>
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<tr>
<td>NH Division of Public Health Services</td>
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<td>NH Pediatric Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Country Health Consortium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partnership for Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rivier University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe Kids New Hampshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern New Hampshire University</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Dartmouth Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNH Master of Public Health program</td>
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It seems cliché to state that 2020 was an unusual year, but it was certainly was from a policy perspective during the New Hampshire legislative session. The Policy Committee identified a number of legislative priorities that fell within its’ three major focus areas: Equity and Health Outcomes; Healthy Environments: Natural, Built and Social and Substance Misuse: Improving Prevention, Treatment and Recovery. The committee and staff testified on bills related to food insecurity, lead poisoning prevention, vaccines, state health assessment and planning, emissions and firearms. Once the pandemic accelerated, hearings were canceled and in the end many bills were tabled.

NHPHA actively participated in the State Health Assessment and Improvement Planning Council established through HB 1639, an omnibus bill. This active council represents a diverse group of organizations and individuals with experience and knowledge to assure that the state health assessment and planning process genuinely addresses the social determinants of health to assure that all people in New Hampshire have the opportunity to achieve optimal health.

SB 590 sought to establish emissions reductions goals for the state with a strong emphasis on the public health effects of climate change. This bill was also laid on the table but NHPHA participated in the 2020 Ad Hoc Emissions Commission to develop recommendations for future goals for emissions reductions in the state.

During the summer of 2020, the NHPHA Policy Committee and Board initiated a policy strategic planning process with consultation from b-fresh llc. Following the gathering of feedback from NHPHA members and other partners through interviews and surveys, committee and board members developed focused policy priorities for next two to three years. Those policy priorities are:

- Prevention and Access
- Public Health Infrastructure
- Financial Security
- Food Security

Priority bills for each legislative session aligning with these policy priorities will be posted to our website on our advocacy page.