

## NH Health Officers Association Spring Conference

### Speaker Biographies:

**Michele Busi** is the Beach Inspection Program Coordinator at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). She manages both the freshwater and coastal beaches fecal bacteria monitoring programs and assists the Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Bloom Program with sampling, microscopic analysis, and bloom communication. Michele has a B.S. in Environmental Science and Marine Biology from the University of New England.

**Joanne Cotton** works in the Health Officer Liaison Unit within the NH Division of Public Health Services as the part-time, Health Officer Specialist where she processes health officer appointments, assists in developing training and providing technical assistance. She also assists NH Department of Environmental Services with their Get the Lead Out program and child care compliance. Joanne currently serves as the Deputy Health Officer in Fremont, NH. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Michigan State University and a Master of Science in Public Health from the University of Miami.

**Brodie Deshaies** joined NHMA as a Legislative Advocate in December 2024, providing advocacy services to our cities and towns before the state legislature and other state policymakers. Before joining the NHMA staff, he worked as the Communications & Policy Manager for NH Hunger Solutions. Brodie's previous work experiences include being a political consultant and project manager, coordinating political campaigns, and serving as a NH State Representative. He graduated from Saint Anselm College with a BA in History and English and a minor in Philosophy. Brodie also serves as a Member at Large on the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board, and he owns two black cats named Marlow and Mason (named after NH towns starting with the letter "M"). He previously had a black cat named Meredith.

**Sophia Johnson** has focused her public health career on environmental hazards and local community engagement. She currently leads the Health Officer Liaison Unit within the NH Division of Public Health Services. In this role, she fulfills the mission to improve local public health workforce capacity. She provides training and technical assistance to local health officers across the State on problems ranging from hoarding conditions to septic failures to pest infestations. Recognizing the need for more comprehensive environmental training, Sophia

pursued state policy change and built a training programs to expand health officers' knowledge and skills in environmental health. Sophia previously worked full time as an Environmental Health Specialist with the Manchester Health Department, performing food service inspections, executing an arboviral surveillance program, and conducting other sanitary inspections. She received her Master of Public Health from the University of New Hampshire and is a licensed Registered Environmental Health Specialist through the National Environmental Health Association.

**Tiffanie Meekins** is the State's Vector-Borne Disease Biologist at the public health laboratory, focusing on diagnostics and laboratory development. She has advanced rabies testing and is now leading tick-borne disease testing and fieldwork projects. Previously, Tiffanie worked in wildlife management, researching the illegal wildlife trade in West Africa and gaining hands-on experience in human-wildlife conflict mitigation. Her work in Africa included public education, habitat assessment, and management, reinforcing her commitment to the One Health approach, integrating human, animal, and environmental health.

**Marco Notarangelo** is a vector ecologist, epidemiologist, and public health educator dedicated to helping New Hampshire residents and visitors understand and prevent vector-borne diseases. He has worked with arthropods, including mosquitoes and ticks, for over a decade and holds a Master's degree in biology. He is currently the Vectorborne Disease Surveillance Coordinator for NH DHHS, helping direct surveillance efforts for vector-borne diseases in humans and animals, including arthropods.

**Andrew Pomeroy** is the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services' Asbestos Waste Specialist. As the Asbestos Waste Specialist, Andrew conducts regulatory compliance site inspections for active asbestos abatement sites, provides outreach to asbestos industry stakeholders, and conducts complaint investigations. Andrew earned a Civil Engineering degree from Norwich University (Northfield, VT), and became certified, during various stages of his career, as an asbestos inspector and monitor in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and North Carolina. In his past life as a private consultant, Andrew conducted oversight on some of the most large-scale and complex asbestos and hazardous materials abatement projects in New England. In his current life of public service, Andrew works closely with the department's Public Information Office to provide outreach presentations and videos for Customers to ensure regulatory awareness and compliance.