



New Hampshire Health Officers Association

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday September 16, 2020
Via Zoom Video Meeting Platform

I. Call to Order

Wayne Whitford, Vice President called the meeting to order at 9:05AM via Zoom Meeting Platform NH.

II. Attendance

Wayne Whitford, Vice President
Brian Lockard, Treasurer
Dennise Horrocks, Secretary
Rene Beaudoin
Ron Eisenhart
Denise DeBlois
James Murray
Matt Cahillane, Program Manager, HOL
Sophia Johnson, Health Officer Specialist
Nancy Kilbride, Events Your Way

Absent:

Arthur Capello, President
Dennis Roseberry
Ron Beard
Heidi Peek

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from August 27, 2020 were approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report- Brian Lockard/ Nancy Kilbride

Membership is at 165 members. \$757 expenses (3 months fee for Event planner and flowers sent to Board member) Total checking and Money Market = \$13,910.69 Treasurer's report accepted.

V. Discussion of appointee from NHHOA to the State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan Advisory Council

The board discussed the HO that has expressed interest in this appointment. Kim McNamara of Portsmouth would be interested. The board unanimously voted to appoint Kim as NHHOA representative. The board asked that she provide a brief report to the board after each meeting.

VI. Health Officer Liaison Updates/ Health Officer Manual Update- Sophia Johnson, Matt Cahillane

a) Sophia reported:

- The technical assistance consults are currently at 383 for the HOLU as of 8/31/2020. Typically, there are approximately 220 consults per year.
- The Health Officer 1010 webinar is September 24, 2020 from 11:00AM to 12:00PM. There are currently 50 people registered.
- Two chapters for the HO manual have been updated. They are the Role of the HO, and PPE (Covid specific). The board approved the changes, and they will be included in the HO manual.
- Moving forward Matt will be primarily working on climate and weather related issues for the rest of the year. A discussion ensued about additional funding for the additional time spent by the Health Officer Liaison for the past 6-8 months, due to the Pandemic response. NHHOA will send a letter requesting additional time for the Health Officer Specialist to Lisa Morris, Director of Division of Public Health Services at NH DHHS. Dennise H. will draft the letter.

VII. Fall Workshop

- The date was finalized as Thursday 10/8/20. The time will be from 8:30AM-12:00PM, with the annual meeting format at 8:30AM. Then there will be 2, 1 ½ hour sessions, with breaks built in for people to stretch and move around. Nancy will reach out to each speaker and confirm timeframe.
- The board agreed to have no fee for this workshop for members, but nonmembers would be charged a \$20 fee.
- Nancy will send out a save the date immediately, and then follow-up with the registration within a few days. People will be encouraged to send in their questions at that time, or they can ask questions in the chat
- The zoom meeting will be handled through DHHS, and Nancy and Sophia will collaborate on the logistics.
- We will have a test run with the Board and the speakers. It will only take about 30 minutes, and a Doodle poll will be sent to all to decide on a date and time.

VIII. COVID-19 Response/ Reopening Issues

a) State/ Locals:

- Matt reported that there is an increase in cases trending over the past two weeks. Schools are the more significant driver of this as opposed to LTCF. Around the country the levels are neutral or increasing. Likely will see more increases with schools, being indoors and for those individuals who are not wanting to adhere to the rules.
- The Task Force has indicated they are not releasing any new guidance.
- Halloween decisions are being left up to the Towns/Cities. There will be a guidance webinar on 9/30/2020 at noon.
- Ren (Nashua) mentioned issues they are having with people tired of complying, issues with businesses, and anger directed at the Health Department.
- Brian (Salem) His food establishments are inquiring about barriers for booths. This had been brought up to the Task Force, but they want to see how the numbers were before approving.

b) Schools:

- The metrics guidance was finally released. The pressure by the NHHOA helped push it forward.
- Brian (Salem) said there needs to be local community transmission metrics developed, not just county.
- We are seeing numbers for schools reported on the State dashboard, and BIDC has worked well with guiding the schools in decision making. But unfortunately information is shared with administrators, but not local HO's.
- Ren (Nashua) said they have school sports and sport camp issues. Nashua Health Dept. knows where things are happening because of working directly with nurses for contact tracing. Small outbreaks can involve many contacts.

c) Voting Locations: NHMA has posted guidance on their website. Sophia will send the info out to the Board.

IX. Committee Reports

- Seasonal Issues: Brian (Salem) has spoken with Dragon Mosquito who reports mosquito activity is low, and numbers of mosquitoes in traps are down. Wayne (Newbury) indicated there is lots of information and advertising being released reminding people to get their flu shots. Ren (Nashua) mentioned people should get their shot slightly later than normal, late September or after, in order to maximize coverage thru the winter. The potential "Twindemic" (flu & Covid). But we should issue the same messaging and maximize safety. The Southern hemisphere activity has been low likely due to the practices of social distancing and washing hands more often.
- Emergency Preparedness: The Emergency Services Unit is moving into a new bureau at DHHS. The State had a meeting recently about PODs, vaccine planning. The money allotted is less than with H1N1, so figuring out which vaccine takes the lead, who gets the vaccine first, figuring out the different group is going to be huge challenge. Perhaps once the planning ramps up, NHHOA should have a 1 hour webinar on the HO role. HO's are essential, and they should be in the first round of vaccinations.
- Legislative/ NH Public Health Association: Matt discussed EO #65. Sophia had previously sent it to all HO's through the listserv. It helped to clarify the HO role. An example is the recent issue with the flag football being penalized for bringing in teams from other states. The AG's office issued fines for "reckless". We need additional clarification on the EO from the AG's office, and that should come out in the next 1-2 weeks. Matt reviewed the proposed legislation discussed previously with Rep. Marsh.
 - RSA 128 for the HO appointment and training requirements and background checks. It is LSR 37, sponsor is Rep. Marsh.
 - RSA 141-C Communicable Disease: In public health emergency HO would get enforcement authority. HO's shall be considered agents of the department and receive protected information.
 - RSA 485 Pools and Bathing Places: DES determines if a place is not in compliance and issues a closure notice, and a copy will go to the Town/ City HO. As soon as there is an official text of the bill, Matt will forward to the board.

X. **New business:** Sophia discussed how to capitalize on current focus on HO's, and how to talk about our future moving forward. She proposed bringing in a facilitator to discuss professionalizing the organization,

probably a group of ~10 people, for a strategic planning meeting. She would like this on the agenda to discuss this more at the next meeting. Sophia has worked thru this with the NHPHA. Perhaps link to other organizations, such as NHMA or others.

XI. Next Meeting

- a) The next zoom meeting will be Tuesday November 10, 2020 at 9:00AM
- b) The meeting was adjourned at 10:21AM.

Respectfully submitted: Dennise Horrocks, Secretary