



# New Hampshire Health Officers Association

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 27, 2020  
Via Zoom Video Meeting Platform

### I. Call to Order

Matt Cahillane called the meeting to order at 9:07AM via Zoom Meeting Platform NH.

### II. Attendance

Wayne Whitford, Vice President  
Brian Lockard, Treasurer  
Dennise Horrocks, Secretary  
Rene Beaudoin  
Heidi Peek  
Ron Eisenhart  
Denise DeBlois  
Matt Cahillane, Program Manager, HOL  
Sophia Johnson, Health Officer Specialist  
Representative William Marsh, Brookfield Health Officer, Guest Speaker

#### Absent:

Arthur Capello, President  
Dennis Roseberry  
Ron Beard  
James Murray  
Nancy Kilbride, Events Your Way

### III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from July 23, 2020 were approved.

### IV. Treasurer's Report- Brian Lockard

Membership is at 159 members. Not much has changed since last report other than \$0.19 Total checking and Money Market = \$14,668. Treasurer's report accepted.

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

- a) Emergency Order #65: Matt reported that the order was written to address larger events and enforcement. There needs to be a written explanation and protocol to respond, similar to as was done for the memo sent out from DHHS. Another memo will be developed, and the protocol will be a "3 strikes you are out" format. First step is to educate, second step is a written warning (AG's office

can assist with a warning letter) and third step contact the AG's office to discuss the situation before further enforcement and the appeals process. If the process gets this far, the AG's office would assist HO's. The AG's office hotline for Public Health Officials is 271-1225.

Sophia reported:

- The technical assistance consults are currently at 350 for the HOU, 67% are Covid-19 related. Typically, there are 150-200 consults per year.
- Restaurants have been allowed to open at 100% capacity, but still need 6 foot distancing. The Restaurant Association is asking if barriers can be installed (not at bars) between booths or tables to increase capacity. The re-opening task force is considering this.
- Higher education concerns are still an issue. CDC and re-opening task force have guidance, but some towns are having issues with parties, managing new people, screening, mask usage.
- The Dept. of Education indicated the school health inspections will still be required. If there is any pushback from schools, let DOE know.
- Two chapters for the HO manual are being updated, the Role of the HO, and one Covid-19 specific for PPE. These will be sent to the board for review.
- A virtual webinar is being planned for September. It will be 1 hour and will be Health Officer 101.

## **VI. Fall Workshop**

- We have 2 tentative dates for the virtual workshop, Thursday 10/8/20 or 10/15/20. 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.
- The board finalized a session for Enforcement, specifically around Covid-19. Potential speakers would be someone from the Attorney Generals' Office, and Matt Cahillane. The second session would be a combination of short presentations and a panel discussion at the end on Nuisances: septic and health. The speakers would review nuisances they encountered and how they handled them, (likely about 15 minutes each speaker), then a panel discussion where the audience can ask questions in the chat. Brian agreed to reach out to Kevin Kaveny at NH DES subsurface, Dennise H. agreed to reach out to a city HO, Kim McNamara in Portsmouth. We need to confirm one more HO speaker from a town.
- The board agreed to have no fee for this workshop.
- Wayne suggested applying credit to those who had previously paid for the Spring workshop to their 2021 membership dues. The board was in favor of this suggestion.
- The board suggested pre-registering and allowing people to register for the whole meeting or either session. DHHS now has zoom capability for large groups.

## **VII. COVID-19 Response/ Reopening Issues**

- a) State/ Locals: Both experience concerns that when the guidance gets updated, i.e. sector specific, universal guidance, travel quarantine that there is no notification. HO's should go to the Covid-19 guidance webpage and be sure the guidance they are using is the most current.

- b) Schools: The new Covid-19 Representative who will be assisting the schools is Cheryl Nielsen. The District Covid-19 Coordinators will be released soon. School districts want the metrics for transitioning from one teaching modality to another released soon. Rep. Marsh indicating there was a push to get school data on the State dashboard. Sophia shared the log in information for the school nurse weekly conference calls.
- c) Voting Locations: NHMA has posted guidance on their website. Sophia will send the info out to the Board.

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

- a) Seasonal Issues: No EEE/WNV, but 3 cases of Jamestown Canyon Virus.
- b) Emergency Preparedness: The Emergency Services Unit (ESU) is moving to the DPHS. They assist with Mass care sheltering.
- c) Legislative/ NH Public Health Association:
  - Representative Marsh reviewed the status of RSA 128 and 141. On August 12<sup>th</sup> Representative Marsh met with the subgroup (Milton Bratz, Becky Mason, Sophia, Matt) to discuss the draft changes to RSA 128 from 2019. New revisions include training, background checks, rule-making and reporting. One change would include the Board of Health meeting once a year to evaluate the public health status of their Town and send a report to the Commissioner of DHHS. Then the Commissioner would be asked to report out the findings to the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee.
  - Proposed additional changes: Amend RSA 141-C:5: to include “City”, (Town and “City” Health Officers). Amend RSA 141-C:10 to include sharing protected health information with HO’s. RSA 485-A:27, Amend to include notification of closure of a pool or lake to HO’s. These are the bare minimum changes that could be addressed in rule-making. They would be effective 60 days after passage.

## **IX. New business: none**

## **X. Next Meeting**

- a) The next zoom meeting will be Wednesday September 16, 2020 at 9:00AM
- b) The meeting was adjourned at 10:48AM.

Respectfully submitted: Dennise Horrocks, Secretary