



# 2025 HEALTH OFFICER CONFERENCE

**8:15 – 8:45 AM** | Registration & Continental Breakfast with Vendors

**8:45 - 9:00 AM** | Welcome – NH Health Officer Association  
*Wayne Whitford, President, NH Health Officers Association*  
*Brian Lockard, Vice President, NH Health Officers Association*

**9:00-9:50AM** | Regional Public Health Networks and the Local Health Officer  
This session will provide an overview of the Regional Public Health Networks (RPHNs) in New Hampshire. Participants will learn about opportunities for engagement and collaboration with the RPHNs. The presentation will highlight key resources available through the networks, including staffing support for public health incidents and emergencies, training and exercise opportunities, and access to equipment and supply inventories. Additional topics will include a discussion on ways to collaborate and the mutual benefits of coordinated preparedness and response efforts. *Colleen Monks, South Central Public Health Network*  
*Sophia Johnson, NH DHHS*

**9:50 - 10:10 AM** | Coffee with Vendors

**10:10 - 10:30 AM** | DHHS Health Officer Liaison Update  
The results are in! Sophia will discuss results of the 2025 Health Officer Demographic and Needs Assessment Survey. Additionally, she will review upcoming trainings and appointment process changes.  
*Sophia Johnson, NH DHHS*

**10:30-11:30PM** | 2025 NHDES Subsurface Bureau Update  
A brief overview on the function of septic systems, the NHDES septic permitting process, diagnosing failed septic system information and recently passed legislation.  
*David Aiton, NH DES*

**11:30 – 12:15 PM** | NHED and Health Officials Working Together on School Approvals  
This session will first provide a general overview of the duties of the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHED) – Bureau of School Facilities. Specific information will also be presented relative to the NHED initial school approval and renewal processes as they relate to the involvement of the local Health Official. A review of the sections of the NHED School Health Inspection Form required to be filled out by the local Health Official will be completed. Lastly, time will be available for local Health Officials to ask questions about both the NHED school approval process and the details of the NHED School Health Inspection Form.  
*Tim Carney, NH Dept of Education*

**12:15 - 1:15 PM** | Lunch & Visit Vendors

**1:15 – 3:00 PM** | Right to Know Record Requests  
This presentation will cover the basics of record retention and production under RSA 91-A. It will focus on how to properly respond to a records request made under the Right to Know Law, what documents constitute governmental records, how to evaluate records for common exemptions, how to protect privacy when providing public access to records, and how violations of RSA 91-A are addressed. This presentation will also cover NHMA's guidance on HB 230 and the changes to health officer authority.  
*Jonathan Cowal, NH Municipal Association*

## New Hampshire Health Officers Fall Conference ~ Continued

### Speaker Bios:

#### **Dave Aiton, Compliance and Outreach, NHDES Subsurface Systems Bureau**

Dave is the Compliance & Outreach Supervisor for the Subsurface Bureau of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). Prior to his roles as a regional inspector and outreach specialist with NHDES, he worked for over 18 years in the civil engineering field for survey and engineering firms in New Hampshire's lakes region.

#### **Tim Carney, Bureau Administrator, NH Department of Education**

Tim Carney is the Administrator of the Bureau of School Facilities (BSF) at the New Hampshire Department of Education. Tim has over 35 years of civil and environmental engineering experience in both the private and public sector. As the Bureau Administrator he oversees the approval and 5-year renewals for both public and nonpublic schools, provides facility related support to school facility managers, responds to school emergencies as appropriate, and assists other State and local agencies in areas of school facilities and safety.

#### **Jonathan Cowal, Legal Services Counsel, NH Municipal Association**

Jonathan provides both legislative and legal services to NHMA's member municipalities. Before joining NHMA, Jonathan served as a prosecutor in both Rockingham and Hillsborough County in the special victim's unit. Jonathan received his bachelor's degree from Bridgewater State University and his law degree from New England School of Law in Boston. Jonathan worked briefly as an associate attorney at the law firm of Falbo, Solari and Goldberg in Winthrop, Massachusetts before becoming an Assistant District Attorney for Essex County in 2015.

#### **Sophia Johnson, Health Officer Liaison Unit, NH DPHS**

Sophia 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. 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. She also serves as Health Officer for her hometown of Chichester.

#### **Colleen Monks, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Director, South Central Regional Public Health Network**

Colleen has worked in this role for over nine years and has been an emergency response volunteer in her community for twenty years. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Bridgewater State University. In her public health role, Colleen was very involved with COVID vaccination efforts in the South Central Region and attributes the success of the response to the engagement of the South Central MRC volunteers, as well as state and regional partners. Colleen participates on multiple state emergency planning committees and enjoys training volunteers and members of the community on emergency preparedness and response activities.

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