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New Hampshire Health Officers Spring 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.

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.

Christine (Fillmore) Johnston, NHMA

Christine returned to NHMA in October, 2025 and provides legal services to NHMA's member municipalities, including legal advice, training programs, and educational publications. She finds it immensely rewarding to work with municipal officials – who are often volunteers – to fulfill their duties and serve their communities. She has worked both in private practice (most recently as a shareholder with Drummond Woodsum) and with NHMA, exclusively representing municipalities for more than two decades in all aspects of municipal law. She is also the current co-author of the four municipal volumes of the NH Practice legal treatise series. Christine received her B.A. from Tufts University and her J.D. from Boston College Law School.

Kate Kirkwood

Kate holds several national and state lead certifications, she is an entrepreneur, is a former college business professor and has been a general business consultant for 30 years. Her work as an expert in lead poisoning began after hearing about a child who died of lead poisoning in her home state of New Hampshire. She formed an educational company called [LEAD-EDU](#) through which she offers training and certifications, for contractors, landlords, real estate agents, investors and parents. She is author of a children's book "[Skylar Learns About Lead Poisoning](#)", as well as "[A Parent's 5 Step Guide To Lead Poisoning](#)", which is the first in a series called "[Lead Paint Clear and Simple](#)". Kate's belief is that the solution to this problem is not complex regulations but rather simple information and caring citizens. Kate is available through video and live presentations to help your audience understand how lead paint can affect them, their home, their work and their children. Her Tedx talk "[Why We Should Worry About Lead Poisoning in a NEW Homes](#)" is available on YouTube. Kate is a mother of four children and lives in New Hampshire.

Lee Webster, NH Funeral Resources & Education

Lee is an internationally recognized writer, educator, and public speaker on funeral reform. She has served in major leadership positions of the Green Burial Council, Conservation Burial Alliance, National Home Funeral Alliance, and National End-of-Life Doula Alliance. She is the founder and current director of NH Funeral Resources & Education, and President of Natural Burial NH and White Mountain Conservation Burial. She is author of several home funeral and green burial books, and instructor in adult ed, colleges and universities, and online classes. Webster is a frequent contributor to articles, including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The New Yorker, and other major media outlets.