

**Health Officer Association Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 15, 2012**  
**Local Government Center**

Attendance: Judy Jervis, Cec Curran, Dennise Horrocks, Bill Oleksak, Chuck Stata, Wayne Whitford, Brian Lockard and Louise Merchant Hannan

Absent: Don Bent

Guest Speaker: None

Meeting commenced at 9am

Minutes: January 10, 2012, tabled until next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Brian reported that he had no balance sheet for this past month. Brian received invoices for the Municipal Directory. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, Brian received an A-R accounts receivable sheet from the LGC.

Correspondence to the Board: There was no correspondence for this meeting. There are items that will be covered under other subject headings on this agenda.

Board Business:

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

Legislative Update – NHPHA Policy Committee meets again on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in Concord at 4 Park Street. The Policy Committee wants to know if someone is interested in attending the meeting to represent the NHHOA? They were looking for a health officer to partner with the NHPHA on health officer related legislation so that the NHPHA could better understand health officer related legislation so that they could potentially support it in the future.

Current health officer legislation is HB 1349 and HB514. Members of the NHHOA have been involved and testified on these two bills during the legislative process.

The NHHOA is exploring the possibility of forming a legislative subcommittee of the NHHOA. All were in favor that there should be a member of the current board that should be part of this subcommittee.

There was discussion that health officers conduct enforcement activities in a variety of different areas and that there are different agencies that follow legislation that would impact them. There was additional discussion that the board should explore how to get

on different legislative lists for different agencies and professional organizations that they would have a stake in.

There was discussion on the status of HB514 with a representative from the LGC and the board was told that the best place to fight for the interest of the health officers is in the Senate or with the Governor's Office.

The NHHOA asked Mike to research if the health officers were considered to be agents of the state? To date, there is no answer yet.

Cec – According to the American Journal of Public Health, health officers are considered to be agents of the state.

Judy will contact both the LGC and Jim Martin from DES to be added to both of their legislative lists. Also, looking at the websites of the organizations that health officers partner with, may have a legislative section as part of their website.

Steve Cunningham offered to keep the board informed of legislation that could impact them and the board will accept his offer.

An item to consider at another meeting – Should a subcommittee be established for a paid staff member?

The DES Private Well Testing legislation (HB-1685) – DES is asking if any board members are going to testify on this bill.

The board will ask at the spring meeting if there are any health officers interested in serving on a legislative subcommittee.

Environmental Tracking – Cec still has heard no word as to any meeting date.

Emergency Preparedness Committee – Chuck states that there is a call for papers and there has been a Save-the-Date that has been sent for June 26, 2012,

Regionalization Task Force – Judy receives the minutes to the meetings and sends them out to the board for comment. The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2012. If there is any feedback, please send your feedback along to Judy.

Arboviral Task Force – Dennise reports that the state has hired a new Vector Borne Disease Surveillance Coordinator, Erin Metcalf. There will be no reimbursement to the communities this year. The risk category is changing from critical to very high. No mosquito testing until July 1, 2012. This committee will not meet again unless there is a crisis.

Nuisance Task Force – No update at this time.

Note: Judy received a CD version of the Health Officers' Manual as well as all of the AHHR Coordinators. The NHHOA is considering having 100 CD's copied, will ask the LGC if they would be able to burn the CD's. Dennise will research pricing for this task.

Other Committees – All

New Business:

I. Spring Conference:

Morning sessions for the spring conference include the Food Protection Section from DHHS, NH COSH for Healthy Schools and Healthy Homes for the "One-Touch" initiative. These sessions will go for 30 to 45 minutes each. Wayne mentioned that the afternoon sessions should be more structured and fairly controlled. The afternoon sessions in total would be 2 and a half hours with a break in between. There would be an opportunity to have questions after the sessions. The afternoon sessions we would like to have Michael Williams from the LGC to discuss how a bill becomes a law and what can happen if HB514 passes. Michael Dumond from DHHS to discuss if health officers are considered to be agents of the state and how will HB 514, if passed, would affect health officers. Phil Alexakos, from MHD to provide examples of practical situations from the local level. Mike Dumond has placed the date of the conference on his calendar and Mike Williams is available. Erin is sending our request along to the legal department of the LGC to have Mike Williams present on May 24. We may also require having an additional attorney to provide a presentation on other legislative issues that health officers would have an interest in. The exhibitor tables that will be present at the conference will be 211, Atlantic Pest Solutions and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The board also agreed to raise the cost of the conference registration fee for members from 30.00 dollars to 35.00 dollars and for non-members from 45.00 dollars to 50.00 dollars.

The luncheon selection for this conference will include the executive lunch sandwich platter with a salad. The continental breakfast will stay the same. The board will order a half of a head count more for cookies extra for dessert.

Louise will make a note on the registration form that the form can be duplicated and passed out to the deputy health officers and other health professionals.

Louise will also make a note on the evaluation to request the email address of health officers and state that the association is trying to increase communication efforts to the membership and strengthen our membership.

The Health Officer Association will also be providing a copy of the LGC publication from 2008 Municipal Law Series, "Effective Use of Code Enforcement Tools" for a handout for the cost of 5.00 dollars (usually 10.00 dollars). The publication or the

certificates of completion will not be given out until the end of the day and health officers will be required to hand in their evaluations sheets.

II. Goals for 2012 for NHHOA

- a. Becoming more proactive in legislation that could impact health officers as an association – looking to form a legislative subcommittee.
- b. Conducting a NHHOA by-law review.
- c. Improving NHHOA communications to our members by improving our email database.
- d. Reviewing the NHHOA mission in terms of legislation

Other Issues and Concerns of the Board:

Louise asked the board members for potential dates that would be good for planning an OSHA certification conference. Judy will follow up with Louise if there are any conflicts in June.

Next Meeting Date and Topics:

March 14, 15, 20 or 22

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Louise Merchant Hannan  
Staff  
New Hampshire Health Officers' Association