

Amended MINUTES
New Hampshire State Commission on Aging
Monday, October 21, 2019
10:00 a.m.-noon
Legislative Office Building 205, Concord, NH

Present: Rep. Polly Campion, Chair; Ken Berlin, Vice Chair; Roberta Berner, Clerk; Rep. James MacKay; Sen. Ruth Ward; Richard Lavers, DES; Wendi Aultman, DHHS; Janet Weeks, DOL; Patrick Herlihy, DOT; Susan Buxton, Long-Term Care Ombudsman; Mike Todd, DOS; Brandon Garod, DOJ; Jim Menihane, NH Housing Finance Authority; Appointed by the Governor: Rep. Harry Viens, Kathy Baldridge, Pamela Jolivette, Susan Emerson, Carol Stamatakis, Susan Ruka, Susan Abrami, Kristi St. Laurent, Suzanne Demers, and Susan Nolan; Daniel Marcek (by phone). Guests: Jo Moncher, DHHS Division of Long-Term Care, Marianne Rechy and Christine Marie, Department of Administrative Services Human Resources; 10 members of the public.

Absent: Mark Frank, John Kennedy.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Polly Campion welcomed the Commission and guests and asked that Commission members introduce themselves and briefly update the group about relevant activities.

Among updates were the following:

- Rep. Campion said that Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center will be announcing the opening of a new Geriatric Emergency Department.
- Rep. MacKay announced a continuing education program on mental health and corrections on Wednesday, 10/23 in Representatives' Hall.
- Wendi Aultman noted that AARP-NH Executive Director Todd Fahey and UNH Center for Aging and Community Living Director Laura Davie had led a program on their work on age-friendly communities for Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services (BEAS) staff. She also mentioned recent visits to two adult day programs in different regions of the state.
- Richard Lavers announced a DES job fair targeting experienced workers (age 55+) taking place on November 7 in Manchester and distributed a flyer publicizing the job fair.
- Patrick Herlihy said that grant applications are due to the DOT by the end of October for 5310 capital projects. The Federal Transit Administration 5310 program supports transportation projects for older adults and those with disabilities.
- Rep. Viens noted that he is working to get senior dining programs up and running in his district.
- Ken Berlin attended the Silver Linings Expo at the end of September to represent the Commission. He estimated 400-500 attended the Expo. Since the September meeting, Ken visited a day care program in the Mt. Washington Valley.

- Kathy Baldrige said that she has heard of multiple housing concerns, including eviction of older adults by landlords who wanted to rent their units for more money.
- Susan Ruka mentioned Carroll County's home share initiative and distributed a flyer regarding age-friendly community initiatives in the region.
- Carol Stamatakis discussed the work of her agency, Senior Solutions (an area agency on aging in southeastern VT), to develop meaningful opportunities for volunteers.

II. State Plan on Aging: Presentation by Wendi Aultman and Jo Moncher

Wendi Aultman and Jo Moncher distributed hand-outs including a PowerPoint presentation of highlights from and an executive summary of the State Plan on Aging. Wendi focused on the Plan's goals, objectives, and strategies, asking that the Commission provide input and encourage continued dialogue. As background, she explained that the requirement for a state plan is driven by the federal Older Americans Act (OAA) and is a requirement of the Administration for Community Living (ACL). State plans are mandated to be developed for up to a four-year period; New Hampshire's is a four-year plan, approved by the ACL in August 2019.

Jo discussed the process of gathering input for the Plan through a survey (with 2,927 respondents), 15 listening sessions held across the state, and the direct involvement of more than 30 community leaders who met regularly to help guide the process. Jo said that it will be important to go out regularly to continue to hold listening sessions to gauge progress toward achieving Plan goals and to understand current concerns regarding aging in New Hampshire.

Wendi talked briefly about the state demographics and the reality that OAA funding has not kept pace with the growth of the older population in New Hampshire. She said that the process ensured that the Plan was not simply focused on OAA-funded programs, although it was required that the Plan included a sign-off on OAA assurances—including the emphasis on serving the state's most vulnerable older adults. Wendi said that it is increasingly important for BEAS to understand the diversity of the population and build cultural competency in alignment with the changing population.

Jo pointed out some of the survey results, including accessed community resources (libraries were #1, followed by religious organizations). One-third of respondents live alone. Primary barriers to access of aging services included lack of awareness of existing services and lack of transportation.

Wendi reiterated the importance of continuing public outreach to the thousands of New Hampshire citizens who helped with the process of crafting the plan. She asked that the Commission be a partner in advancing the work.

Among questions and comments from Commission members were the following:

- Kristi St. Laurent: The State Committee on Aging had a major role in working with the Division of Long-Term Care on the Plan. Will the Commission have similar involvement in four years? Wendi answered that she hoped the Commission would focus on working on making progress toward the recommendations in the Plan.
- Ken Berlin: Could a subcommittee be charged to oversee progress toward recommendations and to work with DHHS to be sure that the Plan is on track? The subcommittee also could follow up with the 15 communities that hosted public meetings last year. It would then report back regularly to the full Commission. Rep. Campion asked that this recommendation be put aside until the Executive Director is hired and the logistics of setting up an office are completed. She added that monitoring progress toward Plan goals would have synergy with the annual report that the Commission is required to file. The Commission would expect to create a number of subcommittees as the full membership becomes familiar with the current landscape and needs of older adults.
- Carol Stamatakis: How are the goals monitored within DHHS? What are the obligations? Wendi answered that BEAS has regular informal check-ins with ACL, but no formal reports are required until the next planning process is underway in four years. Internally, the Division of Long-Term Care and BEAS review the Plan regularly to ensure that we are doing what we said we would do.
- Patrick Herlihy: Could we have a similar presentation on the state Mental Health Plan? Rep. Campion indicated that she would discuss the appropriate presenters with Rep. MacKay and plan to schedule this presentation in the next two months. Jo mentioned that the Coalition on Substance Abuse, Mental Health and Aging has agreed to be a support to the Commission.

III. Work of Commission Subcommittees

A. Hiring Subcommittee (Ken Berlin, Chair; Patrick Herlihy, Pam Jolivette, Rep. Jim MacKay, Rep. Polly Campion)

The draft job description for Executive Director, State Commission on Aging, was circulated. The subcommittee is working closely with Marianne Rechy and Christine Marie from the Department of Administrative Services-Human Resources, who are providing guidance and assisting through the hiring and on-boarding process. The classified position is labor grade 31 with an annual salary ranging from approximately \$64,000 to \$88,000. All state personnel rules apply to the position, including the requirement that applicants submit an employment application. Pam Jolivette will be the subcommittee's liaison with DAS, with Rep. Campion as back-up liaison.

Rep. Viens asked if the job description should include candidates' experience in creating a new organization. After discussion, it was agreed that this would not be added to the job description but would be included in interview questions. Interview questions will be consistent from interview to interview,

but the interviews themselves will have some flexibility. Rep. Campion asked that DAS cast a broad net for applicants, given the scope of the position. Carol Stamatakis asked that the job posting be circulated to the members of the Commission. The internal and external posting will occur simultaneously.

After the discussion, Sen. Ruth Ward made a motion to approve acceptance of the draft job description. Wendi Aultman seconded the motion. The Commission approved the motion unanimously.

The subcommittee will review applications, conduct interviews, and bring the recommended candidate forward to the Commission for confirmation. Wendi Aultman has agreed to handle supervisory tasks (e.g., signing timesheets). The Commission will be the appointing authority.

B. Space and Logistics Subcommittee (Rep. Polly Campion, DAS Commissioner Charlie Arlinghaus)

Rep. Campion reported that Commissioner Arlinghaus has committed to locating space for the office and developing a budget for the office.

IV. Initial Annual Report due November 1, 2019: Review

The draft of the 2019 Annual Report of the Commission was circulated. The brief report included Commission Membership, Commission Charge, Commission Process and Procedures including summaries of the first two meetings on September 16 and October 21, findings and recommendations, and suggested proposed legislation (to be determined).

Sen. Ruth Ward made a motion to approve the draft of the 2019 Annual Report of the Commission, as presented. Kathy Baldrige seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Public Comment

Rep. Campion asked guest Dawn McKinney from NH Legal Assistance to report to the Commission at a subsequent meeting about the work of the NH Alliance for Healthy Aging.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Next meeting: Monday, November 18, 2019, 10:00 a.m.-noon, LOB 205.

SPOA Presentation:

New Hampshire State Plan on Aging



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New Hampshire State Plan on Aging

Signed by:
Governor Chris Sununu
DHHS Commissioner Jeff Meyers
State Committee on Aging Chair Ken Berlin

Submitted to Administration for Community Living on June 27, 2019
(Due 7/1/19)



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NH State Plan on Aging

The goal of the New Hampshire State Plan on Aging Planning Committee is to develop a four-year plan that helps to guide our state's efforts in understanding, serving, supporting and celebrating older adults across our state.



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NH State Plan on Aging – Membership & Outreach

- Alzheimer's Association of NH
- Bureau of Developmental Services, DHHS
- Brain Injury Association of NH
- Bureau of Elderly & Adult Services, DHHS
- Bureau of Housing Supports, DHHS
- Communications (Vetflix, Inc.)
- County Nursing Home Administrator's Affiliate
- Division of Long Term Supports and Services, DHHS
- Division of Public Health, DHHS
- Easterseals NH
- Emergency Services Unit, NH DHHS
- Endowment for Health
- Engaging NH/Elder Rights Coalition
- Granite State Independent Living
- Greater Manchester Area Committee on Aging
- Hospital Representation
- Housing Finance Authority
- The Moore Center
- The Village Network of Life Coping
- Managed Care Organizations (Well Sense)
- Veterans, Service Members & their Families
- NAMI New Hampshire
- NH Alliance for Healthy Aging
- NH AARP
- NH Association of Senior Centers
- NH Department of Transportation
- NH Health Care Association
- NH Legal Assistance
- NH Senior Games/Sullivan Area Committee on Aging
- Nutrition and Transportation
- Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman, DHHS
- ServiceLink Network
- State Committee on Aging
- Regional Planning Commissions

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The NH State Plan on Aging

Being Developed by:

**NH Department of Health and Human Services,
Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services**

With Guidance from:

NH State Plan on Aging Planning Committee

Signed by:

**Governor, State of New Hampshire
Commissioner, NH Department of Health and Human Services
Chair, NH Legislative State Committee on Aging**

Approved by:

Federal Administration for Community Living

With input from:

Aging Population Across New Hampshire

**New Hampshire State Plan on Aging
10 Month Planning Process**

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- Aug 2018 – BEAS engaged over 30 diverse leaders from aging community to serve on SPOA Planning Committee
- Sept 2018 - BEAS, SPOA Committee and NH Legislative State Committee on Aging began working together on development of the SPOA
- Oct 2018 – Developed a 29-Question Older Adult Survey
- Oct to Jan 2019 - Promoted and Distributed Survey
- Oct to Jan 2019 - Coordinated 15 Listening Sessions
- Jan 2019 – Outreach Campaign Concluded - Over 3,500 Participants
- Feb to March 2019 – Completed Summary and Analysis of 2,927 Surveys
- Feb to March 2019 – Compiled & Summarized Info from 15 Listening Sessions
- March to April 2019 – Began Collecting Info and Writing Sections of SPOA
- April to May 2019 – Submitted 3 different SPOA drafts to ACL
- April to May 2019 – Shared different drafts with SPOA Committee & Guests
- May 2019 – Received Public Comments (close to 100 individuals)
- June 2019 – Final BEAS & ACL Review – Secured Approval Signatures
- June 27, 2019 – Draft of SPOA is Sent to Administration for Community Living

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New Hampshire State Plan on Aging Older Adult Survey Reaching 2,927 Individuals!!



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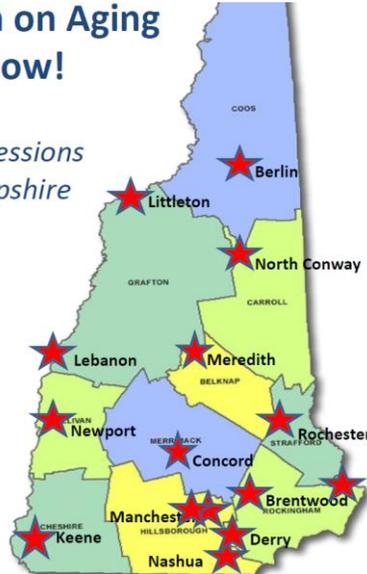
The State Plan on Aging Road Show!

*Fifteen Listening Sessions
Across New Hampshire*

Hosted by:

- Senior Centers
- Community Centers
- Nursing Homes
- Service Provider
- Hospitals
- Libraries

579 Individuals Attended!



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New Hampshire State Plan on Aging Outcomes (Page 1)

1. Older people and their family members looking for long-term supports and services will be able to access help, guidance, support and choice.
2. Older people, caregivers and families will have access to person-centered care and planning regardless of where they access the service system.
3. Family caregivers of older people will be informed, and have the supports they need.
4. Older people will have reduced risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation, and live in safety and dignity.

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New Hampshire State Plan on Aging Outcomes (Page 2)

5. Older people will have greater resources and supports to reduce the risk of loneliness and isolation.
6. Older people will be educated and informed regarding Medicare and its options, helping to reduce fraud, errors and abuse.
7. Older people, caregivers and families will be better educated and informed regarding emergency preparedness and planning.
8. Services and supports for older people, caregivers and families will be inclusive of all diverse populations, and will serve all populations with respect and dignity.

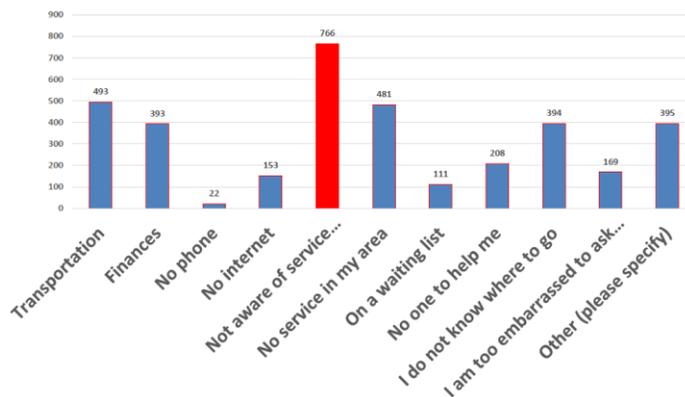
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New Hampshire State Plan on Aging Overarching Goals

1. Support older people to stay active and healthy;
2. Promote person centered thinking and practices;
3. Ensure the rights, safety, independence and dignity of older people and prevent their abuse, neglect and exploitation; and
4. Advance age-friendly communities.

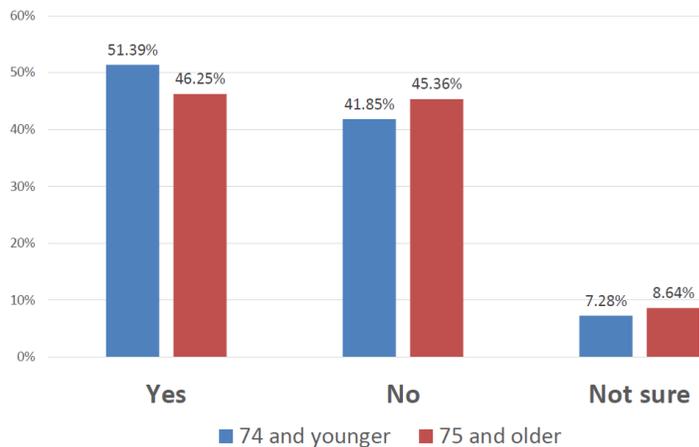
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If you were not able to access one or more of the needed services (listed in the survey), why not?
Check off all that apply.



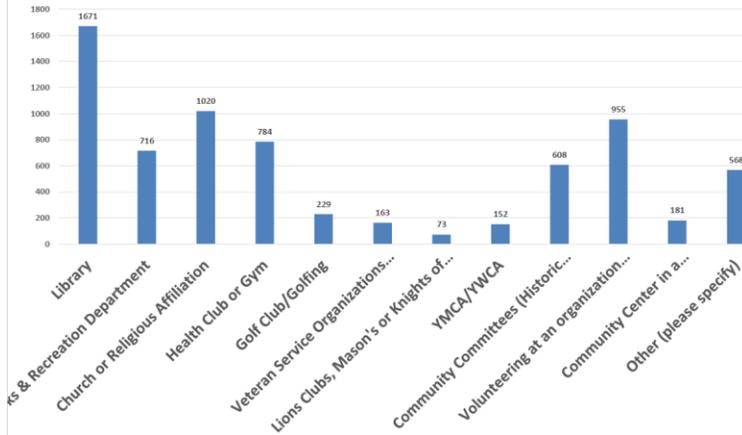
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Are you aware of ServiceLink?



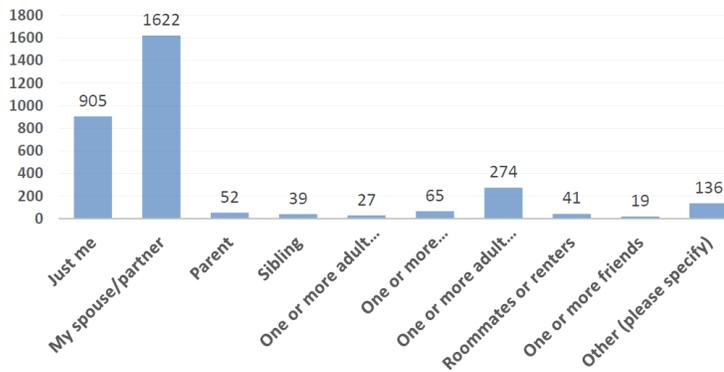
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**What community activities do you participate in?
Check off all that apply.**



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**Besides yourself, who else lives in your household?
Check off all that apply.**



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**What would make healthy aging in NH better or easier for you?
Open Ended Question: 2,183 Individuals Responded**

1. Public transportation; free public transportation for older adults, access to transit options for medical appointments, grocery trips/errands; 822 (30.3%)
2. Affordable & available senior housing; retirement homes and senior living communities, need for more and better elderly housing options; 314 (11.6%)
3. Affordable & available senior housing; retirement homes and senior living communities, need for more and better elderly housing options; 282 (10.4%)
4. Medical care; struggles with medical coverage, medical insurance, need for financial assistance for medical care, specialized care difficult to come by, need for better medical providers within proximity; 277 (10.2%)
5. In-home care and assisted living; need for available and affordable services for those who wish to stay in their home as they age; 182 (6.7%)

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NH State Plan on Aging *Significant Addition*

SPOA Executive Summary

“Per Older Americans Act, BEAS prioritizes these services to those individuals with greatest economic and social needs, and to NH’s most vulnerable adults.”

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NH State Plan on Aging *Significant Addition*

SPOA Executive Summary

“It is also important to note that the funding received from ACL has not kept pace with the significant older adult population shifts taking place in NH. The lack of needed funding is creating significant challenges and barriers for BEAS, service providers and community organizations in providing needed services and supports for older adults in NH.”

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NH State Plan on Aging *Significant Addition*

SPOA Executive Summary

“Notably, our state ranks 49th out of 50 states in the percentage of Medicaid dollars invested in home and community-based support (per the 2018 AARP report, Across the States: Profiles of Long-Term Services and Supports). While NH has one of the fastest growing number of older adults in the country, we are nearly last in offering a balanced system of care.”

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NH State Plan on Aging
Five Transportation Strategies – Page 26!

- *Explore and review current transportation funding, programs, and infrastructure within BEAS, DHHS, NH DOT, service providers, State, regional and local agencies.*
- *Collaborate with the State Committee on Aging, SPOA Committee, NH Alliance for Healthy Aging, NH State Library, NH Association of Senior Centers, churches, ServiceLink, Regional Coordination Councils, YMCAs and other adult-related organizations to strengthen transportation access, options and supports.*
- *Enhance outreach, education and transportation service delivery by supporting mobility management strategies within Regional Coordination Councils throughout the state; mobility management strategies are detailed in the 2016 NH Statewide Coordination of Community Transportation Services Plan provided in SPOA Appendix, #9, (d).*
- *Formalize a partnership between DHHS, NH DOT and NH 211 to ensure that 211's database of providers is updated and capable of more easily assisting users, callers or website users seeking transportation services.*
- *Recommend to DHHS that a BEAS staff person represent DHHS and BEAS on the State Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (per RSA 239-B), working towards a successful coordination of transportation services.*

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NH State Plan on Aging Discussion

Mental Health: Objective 4.4; Strategies , Page 27:

“Partner with the State Committee on Aging and the Coalition on Substance Abuse, Mental Health and Aging on exploring opportunities to better align the State Plan on Aging and the 10-Year Mental Health Plan, with a goal of strengthening services and supports to older adults.”

“Partner with the NH DHHS Bureau of Mental Health Services on submitting an application to the National Council on Aging to receive approval of the REAP program as an evidence based program that would be eligible for funding under Title IIID.”

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NH State Plan on Aging

The State Plan is a Community & State Resource!

Over 130 pages of resources, tools, program overviews, surveys, annual budgets, goals, objectives & other planning information.

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NH State Plan on Aging *Transformation, Alignment & Change!*

- *The NH Legislature approved a Commission on Aging (COA);*
- *COA will include the State Committee on Aging (SCOA);*
- *The COA builds on the 30-year history of SCOA, while expanding its outreach beyond DHHS.*
- *The creation of COA represents an unprecedented opportunity to inform and elevate what has already been accomplished;*
- *The Commission includes older adult representation from NH's ten counties, representation from DHHS and other State agencies, and would report directly to the Governor's Office;*
- *The alignment of the new SPOA and the new COA provides opportunities to strengthen services and supports to older adults – beyond BEAS and DHHS.*

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State Plan on Aging

**See attached Goals, Objectives and
Performance Measures**

Let's have a conversation!

Last page.