

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**New Hampshire State Commission on Aging**  
**Monday, July 19, 2021 10:00 a.m.-noon**  
**Room 100 Walker Building, 21 S. Fruit St., Concord**

**Present in person:** Polly Campion, Chair; Carol Stamatakis, Vice Chair; Roberta Berner, Clerk; Rep. James MacKay; Wendi Aultman, DHHS; Patrick Herlihy, DOT; Susan Buxton, Long-Term Care Ombudsman; Lynn Lippitt, NH Housing Finance Authority; Appointed by the Governor: Suzanne Demers

Rebecca Sky, Executive Director.

**Present via teleconference:** Sunny Mulligan Shea, DOJ; Janet Weeks, DOL; Elizabeth Bielecki, DOS; Appointed by the Governor: Susan Ruka, Daniel Marcek, Kristi St. Laurent, Ken Gordon

**Absent:** Sen. Ruth Ward; Rep. Charles McMahan; Richard Lavers, NHES; Susan Denopoulos Abrami, Harry Viens, John Kennedy, Susan Emerson, Rev. Susan Nolan, Kathy Baldrige

**Presenters:** Katy Easterly Martey, Executive Director, Community Development Finance Authority & Martha McLeod, New Futures and NH Alliance for Healthy Aging

**Guests:** 18 members of the public (Cheryl Steinberg, Jon Eriquazzo, John Wilson, Heather Carroll, Beth Todgham, Bev Cotton, Kathleen Vasconcelos, Larry Flint, Wendy Hawkes, Michelle McConaghy, Christina Dyer, RSVP-Coos County, Cheryl O'Malley, Marianne Jackson, Karen Oliver George, Jennifer Rabalais, Joan Marcoux, Mary Roberge, Arnold Newman, ).

**I. Welcome, Attendance, Approval of May Minutes**

Chair Polly Campion provided an overview of the agenda and welcomed the Commission members and guests to the first in-person meeting of the Commission since February 2020. Today's meeting was held concurrently via teleconference.

Clerk Roberta Berner took attendance, noting which Commission members were attending in person or remotely.

Because a quorum of Commission members was not present in person, the approval of the May & June minutes was postponed until the next Commission meeting.

**II. Council on Housing Stability Report- Presenter Katy Easterly Martey, Executive Director, Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) (PowerPoint presentation included at end of meeting minutes)**

Kathy Easterly Martey briefly described the 41-member Governor's Council on Housing Stability, which began meeting in February with the goal of developing an action plan to create housing stability for all citizens of the state.

The Council addressed long-time concerns of lack of affordable housing in the state and a mismatch between housing availability and job locations. Ms. Easterly Martey said that more than half of the state's residents are "cost burdened" by housing expenses, which are steadily increasing.

The housing and homelessness issues were exacerbated during the pandemic with a documented 21 percent increase in homelessness from 2019 to 2020. Seventy percent of the recently homeless were entering homelessness for the first time—an exceptionally high level, even compared to neighboring states in New England. Ms. Easterly Martey said that prevention is key to addressing the problem.

Prevention could include landlord support as well as increased supportive services for people to navigate the system.

With less than one percent of the state's available housing affordable for those earning less than \$20,000 per year, the Council has established a goal of creating 13,500 new affordable housing units in New Hampshire over the next three years. Ms. Easterly Martey said that this number barely meets existing needs and does not accommodate growth of need in the state. The Council's additional "big picture" goals include ending veterans' homelessness by 2020, especially through coordination with the Veterans Affairs Department and its voucher program, and reducing first-time homelessness by 30 percent or 1,000 households by 2024.

The vision behind the housing plan is that housing ends homeless and creates stability for individuals and communities, greater access to affordable housing will strengthen the economy and support businesses, housing stability is one of the social determinants of health and is essential for individuals and families to thrive.

In order to achieve goals outlined in the plan, regulatory barriers to affordable housing must be removed, publicly-financed affordable housing must be increased, and targeted financial incentives should be deployed to promote private-market housing production. Ms. Easterly Martey said that the state needs a comprehensive strategy to address issues around affordable housing. She commended the state Legislature for approving \$25 million for the housing trust fund, but said New Hampshire's funding for affordable housing is significantly less in comparison to neighboring states'. American Rescue Plan funds provide a good one-time opportunity to generate new housing and invest in programs to support low-income and homeless households.

In response to questions and comments from attendees, Ms. Easterly Martey said:

- Universal design is the preferred approach for all new housing. Even if housing is built for a specific population, that population's needs are likely to change over time. Housing should be placed where people can walk around the community and benefit from services in proximity. All new housing should be built with energy considerations in mind as well.
- Individuals aged 65 and over are in the minority of homeless people in the state. More common is to see older adults housed, but not housed safely or ideally.
- CDFA and the NH Housing Finance Authority will be sponsoring a competition next year to incentivize people to come together and develop proposals based on new ideas (e.g., using formerly commercial space for housing, large older homes for multiple-family homes with streetscapes preserved).
- It would be helpful to come up with long-term tenancy strategies, including the provision of information to landlords regarding the benefit to them of accepting Section 8 vouchers. Right now in New Hampshire, a number of families with vouchers cannot find housing.
- There is concern about the likelihood of increased evictions when the pandemic's eviction moratorium ends.
- The Council is assessing housing development in both urban and rural areas, however the availability of water and sewer infrastructure can be a concern. The scale of development will differ in urban and rural communities.
- Rep. MacKay offered to help set up a legislative caucus on housing, discussing his long-time concern with housing those with mental health and substance abuse issues. He stressed the need for empathy for those lacking housing—"What if I were to leave this meeting with no home to return to."

- Lynn Lippitt said that eviction protections are not always well understood. Tenants need education and landlords need support. She mentioned that New Hampshire has a great deal of older housing stock in which older adults are “over-housed” in homes they are unable to maintain—a potential motivation for shared housing. She said that there are currently pilot projects embarking on housing rehabilitation with a focus on energy efficiency.
- Wendi Aultman said that the NH Department of Health and Human Services is working closely with the Governor’s Office to ensure that a portion of the American Rescue Plan funds go toward development of permanent supportive housing.
- Patrick Herlihy asked if the goal of building 13,500 more units of affordable housing was overly optimistic, given labor and materials shortages. Ms. Easterly Martey said that she thought the goal was attainable, since it includes some projects already underway. He emphasized the desirability of placing housing in proximity to public transit routes.

In conclusion, Ms. Easterly Martey asked that attendees share the Council’s report with other public and nonprofit groups.

**III. Legislative Session Recap- Presenter Martha McLeod, New Futures and NH Alliance for Healthy Aging (Commission legislative bill watch document was included in July meeting packet; PowerPoint presentation attached to these minutes)**

Martha McLeod provided a recap of the 2020-21 state Legislative Session. Much of the information she covered was also included in the Commission on Aging’s legislative bill watch document. Highlights of her presentation included:

**Broadband**: details regarding implementation are to come through the state rules process; American Rescue Plan funds to be used for municipal infrastructure can include broadband and internet. Ms. McLeod suggested that attendees look at their own community’s appropriation and advocate for broadband spending at the local level.

**Advance Directives/Guardianship**: SB 74 & SB 134 both adopted. Durable power of attorney & living will are now one document. Defines key terms: attending practitioner, POLST, near death, active dying, and surrogate. Provides for supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship making a less restrictive and more responsive process for adults with disabilities.

**State Health Assessment/State Health Improvement Plan**: original intent was to repeal. Final product refined participants and goals. Chair of Commission on Aging is listed as a member.

**Emergency Powers (COVID-19 Response)**: makes various changes to the powers of the NH-DHHS Commissioner during a public health emergency and makes changes to the composition and authority of the joint legislative HHS oversight committee allowing them to review and rescind emergency orders.

**Virtual Meetings for Governing Bodies**: authorizes further study.

**State Budget for SFY22-23**: Reduces state revenues, specifically from the interest and dividends tax; makes a back-of-the-budget cut of \$22.6 million for funding for NH-DHHS staff; provides rate increases to providers of Choices for Independence (5% generally except market and manual prices services, and those services with a 15% hike: personal care, homemaker, case management, and Adult Day).

Increases for affordable housing. The budget does not include a Medicaid dental benefit, as was proposed, and it also took out \$1.5 million proposed in the Governor's budget for senior centers.

Funds were appropriated for implementation of Alvarez & Marsal report, economic development including workforce recruitment, retention, and creation. Governor's Office of Strategic Initiatives moved to Department of Business & Economic Affairs.

The Legislative filing session for legislation to be proposed in 2022 begins in September. Chair Campion asked that Commission members think about legislation that could be brought forth in the next year.

**IV. Public Input**

John Wilson discussed the process for input into the NH-Department of Transportation's 10-year transportation plan.

**V. Adjournment**

Chair Campion adjourned the meeting at noon. The Commission will take a meeting break in August and meet again on September 20. Task Forces will continue to meet in the interim.

# New Hampshire Council on Housing Stability

3-Year Strategic Plan to address Housing Instability and Homelessness

June 2021



## GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON HOUSING STABILITY

Established in November 2020 by Governor Christopher T. Sununu, for the purposes of creating and implementing a plan to create housing stability for all citizens of the State of New Hampshire.

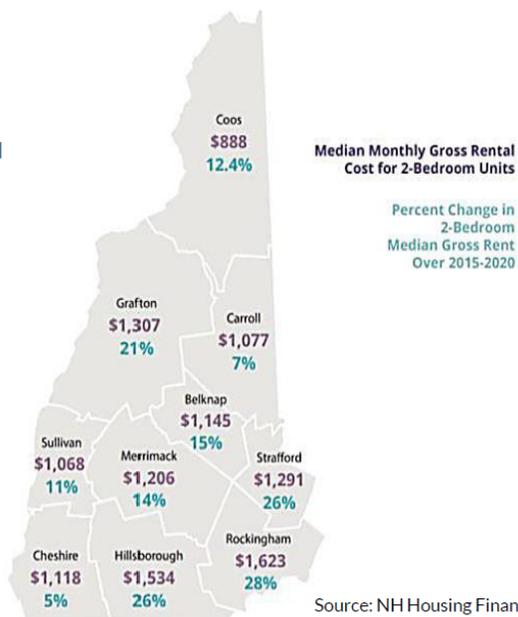
41 Members of the Council

Four Working Groups

- ★ Housing Instability and Homelessness
- ★ Data
- ★ Planning and Regulation
- ★ Regional Coordination

## WHY HOUSING?

- ★ Despite low unemployment and a strong economy, NH has had a lack of affordable housing for decades. Construction of new housing levels have never recovered from the Great Recession of 2008, yet housing demand has continued to increase.
- ★ Median rental costs have been increasing at a constant rate for two decades while renter income has not.
- ★ NH requires the 15th highest wage in the country to meet the cost of housing. This means that employees need to earn over \$23/hour to afford an average 2-bedroom home.
- ★ New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) estimated that 20,000 more units were necessary to meet current demand.



## WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?

- The low supply and high prices make it hard for employers to hire and retain workers, and the housing demand has the greatest pressure at the lower end of the market – creating unstable housing circumstances for many and a **threat of homelessness**.
- The 2020 pre-pandemic Point-in-Time Count documented a **21% increase in homelessness from 2019**
- Annual, unduplicated Homelessness Management Information Systems (HMIS) data that showed that over 4,400 persons - including children in families - received homeless services in 2020.

### *ENSURING THAT HOMELESSNESS IS RARE, BRIEF AND ONE-TIME*

## WHAT IS THE VISION BEHIND THIS NEW PLAN?

- **Housing ends homelessness and creates stability** for children, adults, families, business, and communities;
- Greater access to affordable housing will **assist New Hampshire businesses and strengthen the state's economy;**
- Individuals and families experiencing homelessness and housing instability often have other conditions impacting their circumstances;
- Housing stability is one of the Social Determinants of Health and is **essential for all children, adults, and families to thrive in New Hampshire;**
- Investing in housing is a better solution for individuals, families, and communities creating improved health, social, educational, and economic outcomes;
- **Needed services and support should be delivered in each community,** based on the unique assets, resources, strengths, challenges, and needs unique to each area of the state.

## BIG PICTURE GOALS



END VETERANS HOMELESSNESS BY 2022



REDUCE FIRST-TIME HOMELESSNESS BY 30%  
OR 1,000 HOUSEHOLDS BY 2024



INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS  
BY 13,500 BY 2024.

## GETTING IT DONE

- Promote increased housing stability at the state and local levels by **improving crisis response, services infrastructure and policies** that support individuals and families to maintain housing in their community.
- **Remove regulatory barriers to affordable housing** in order to expand New Hampshire's housing market for all.
- Increase production of publicly-financed **affordable housing**.
- Deploy targeted financial incentives or tax off-sets designed to **promote private-market housing production** and use of existing structures for rental housing.
- Achieve a productive legislative strategy for the 2022 session that supports efforts to **increase housing production**.
- Integrate and coordinate a housing stability governance structure connecting state government with local communities through needs assessments, strategic initiatives, and data-driven decision-making.

## WHAT ARE SOME KEY STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT THE COUNCIL GOALS?

Harnessing American Rescue Plan Funds to **generate new housing and invest in programs** that support low-income and homeless households.

Provide **financial support for local communities to make regulatory changes** that promote affordable housing development and economic development incentives.

Launch a statewide campaign to **recruit private landlords** and provide a financial incentive for leasing to households using rental assistance vouchers.

Expand **coordinated funding applications for supportive housing** by combining capital, operating (rent) and supportive services resources to reduce the production time for supportive housing.

**Increase homelessness prevention funding** to incentivize best practices for shelter diversion.

Use **community input through a design process to advance repurposing of vacant commercial spaces for housing**.

## WHAT IS THE COST?

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides a unique, one-time opportunity to invest in programs that will making a lasting impact on housing availability in New Hampshire.

With **\$45,000,000 from ARP Funds** and other new resources, the goals and strategies will receive the necessary support to make the greatest impact.

Read the full Action Plan and all detailed recommendations and strategies on the Council website

[www.nhchs.org](http://www.nhchs.org)





## Legislative Session Recap

New Hampshire Alliance for Healthy Aging Advocacy

July 19, 2021

### Recap-Broadband

**Senate Bill 85**-passed and signed by the Governor. Also nullified and language included in House Bill 2 (p. 197). Establishes an initiative and matching grant fund for broadband projects in unserved areas.

**Senate Bill 88**-adopted by both bodies and enrolled-not signed by Governor as yet. Amends previous statute by removing the need to have a town vote to establish communication district planning committees. Amends the pole attachment RSA to implement One Touch Make Ready (OTMR).

**American Rescue Program Act (ARPA)**- funds for municipalities includes ability to use for funds to invest in infrastructure use, including broadband internet.

**Ways to get involved**-Check in with your local community to see what their plans are for the ARPA funds, whether they have established a broadband committee or a committee to discuss how to use the ARPA funds.



### Recap-Advanced Directives/Guardianship

#### Senate Bill 74

- Simplifies and clarifies the process of executing health care advance directive by combining into one form the durable power of attorney for health care document and the living will. Either or both can be executed by the individual.
- Defines 'attending practitioner' (responsible for treatment) and 'POLST' (the form with emergency medical orders signed by attending practitioner).
- Redefines 'near death' as 'actively dying'
- Defines the role of a surrogate as adult with health care decision making capacity

#### HB540/SB134-Supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship

- HB540 was incorporated into SB134 (an omnibus bill)
- Less restrictive process for decision-making and self-determination of adults with disabilities.



# Recap-State Health Assessment/State Health Improvement Plan (SHA/SHIP)

## House Bill 157

- Original intent was to repeal the SHA/SHIP
- Final product revised components of the state health improvement plan and revised the membership and duties of the state health assessment and state health improvement plan advisory council.
- Includes Chair of Commission on Aging as member.

# Recap-Emergency Powers

## House Bill 187

- Makes changes to the powers of the Dept of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Commissioner during a public health emergency
- Authorizes the joint legislative DHHS oversight committee to review and rescind emergency orders issued by the Commissioner
- Gives a person subject to a treatment order for a communicable disease a right to a hearing on the order
- Amends the membership of the ethics oversight committee (communicable diseases)
- Amends the membership of the DHHS oversight committee to add additional legislative members

# Recap-Virtual meetings for Governing Bodies

**Senate Bill 95-Bill died** when Senate refused to accede to House request for committee of conference.

Bill began in the Senate as an omnibus bill with several efforts. Would have:

- authorized governing bodies of municipalities to have virtual or in-person meetings
- added remote access to the RSA 91-A statute
- Penalties for violation of privacy-adds a second offense charge



# Recap-State Budget HB 1 and HB 2 Overview\*

- Substantially reduces revenues through both immediate and long-term tax modifications, with the most significant long-term change, eliminating the Interest and Dividends Tax, significantly lowering taxes primarily on high-income individuals while reducing future revenues available for public services.
- Reduce DHHS's Budget for staff by \$22,600,000 in general funds for biennium ending June 30, 2023, equating to approximately 226 full-time positions over 2 years.
- Both affordable housing efforts and municipalities will receive more State funding support under this budget relative to the last one.
- Additional funds will be devoted to the construction of a forensic psychiatric hospital and medical services for adults in long-term care settings.
- Provided a directive to the NH Department of Health and Human Services to implement a rate increase of 5% to providers effective July 1, 2021 that applies to **all Choices for Independence (CFI) services** with the exception of market priced services, manually priced services, and the following, which shall receive rate increases as budgeted (15%): **personal care services, homemaker services, case management services, and adult day medical care.**

\*Courtesy of NHFPI



## The State Budget does not:

- Provide a Medicaid dental benefit for adults aged 21 years and older, which had been first included in the Senate's version
- Does not provide for funding for senior centers to reduce isolation-this was removed at last moment in Committee of Conference although title was left in



# Recap-State Budget HB 2 and COA priorities

## Summary of HB 2 Committee of Conference Report Elements Related to COA Priorities:

- **Congregate housing** provided for under the Medicaid waiver pursuant to RSA 151-E and congregate services provided for in RSA 161-F:37 are **suspended** for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.
- Reimbursements to the **foster grandparent program** through the senior volunteer grant program, **suspended** for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.
- **Social Services Block Grant Cost of Living** – Income levels adjusted for elderly and adult clients under the social services block grant program each January, tied to the cost of living increase in social security benefits on a yearly basis.
- **Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funding impact on county reimbursement of funds**-If the FMAP increases, the counties' portion of the non-federal share shall be reduced by the amount of the increased federal percentage.
- **Appropriated funds** for financial recommendations, in the **Alvarez & Marsal** report-streamline agency operations
- Created an economic development fund that may be used for a number of state purposes including **workforce recruitment, retention, and creation**.
- Appropriated funds to DHHS for funding **one-time maintenance of the legacy Medicaid management information system (MMIS)** as the department transitions to new modular IT systems.
- Right to Freedom from Discrimination in Public Workplaces and Education – **still able to educate on Ageism**

