

**NH State Commission on Aging
Monday, February 24, 2025**

10am to 12:00pm – NH Hospital Association, 125 Airport Road, Concord, NH

Attendance

Present In person: **Members:** Representative Janet Lucas, Representative Charles McMahon, Representative Lucy Weber, Wendi Aultman (DHHS), Susan Buxton (OLTCO), Brandy Cassada (Dept. of Safety), Sunny Mulligan Shea (MJ Attorney General), Jack Ruderman (NH Housing Finance Authority), Polly Campion (Grafton), Laurie Duff -Acting Chair, (Strafford), Margaret Franckhauser -Acting Vice Chair (Belknap), Laurie Harding (Grafton), Kris Hering (Grafton), Doug McNutt (Merrimack), Nick Toumpas (Rockingham).

Guests: Heather Smith (DMVA)

Staff: Rebecca Sky, Executive Director; Karen Knowles, Project Director; Dan Wise, Communications & Community Engagement Director attended public portion of the meeting.

Online: **Members (reason for online participation noted in parenthesis)** Danielle Albert, Rich Lavers (illness), Beverly Bjorklund (illness), Beth Quarm Todgham (out of state), Nicole Bryant – designee of Shelley Winters, Joanne, Ward (illness). **Guests:** Laurie Davie (UNH), Steve Maloney (NH DHS Office of Health Equity), Mo Baxley (GSIL), Teri Palmer (RLS – Statewide Mobility Manager), Jenny Horgan, Molly Singer (Dexterity), Mike Padmore, (Associate State Director of Advocacy at AARP-NH), Jeseca Wendel (Rockingham County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center Assisted Living Community), Madeline Ullrich (NH Care Collaborative).

Absent: Senator Bill Gannon, Carissa Elphick (Belknap), David Ross (Hillsborough), Roxie Severance(Coos)

Welcome

Call to Order 10:01

Laurie Duff, acting Chair, welcomed all to the meeting. Commission members were asked to state their reason for their remote attendance in the Zoom chat.

Approval of Minutes

Representative Lucy McVitty Weber motioned to approve January 2025 minutes; Doug McNutt seconded. Roll call vote; All responses in the affirmative. No abstentions. Motion carried.

Laurie Duff encouraged members to consider nominations or publicizing the Older Adult Volunteer awards. The nomination deadline is in March. Time limitations for the meeting did not allow for updates on the grant-funded Transportation Needs Assessment and the Multisector Plan for Aging outreach efforts.

2025 NH State House Top Issues Concerning Older Adults

Polly Champion, chair of the Policy Committee (aka State House Team) introduced **Mike Padmore, Associate State Director – Advocacy & Outreach, AARP NH**. He highlighted several bills that AARP NH's volunteer advocacy team has been working on:

HB 704 – Support. family caregiving priority is met with added funding for caregiver respite and senior volunteer programs.

SB 164 – Support. Fraud and abuse priority is met with new law that would ban predatory real estate listing agreements currently banned in 30 other states.

HB 577 – Support. Of the many housing-related bills in legislature, AARP is focusing on this bill which expands on homeowners' rights to add ADUs to their property, attached or detached to the existing home.

HB 570 – Oppose as amended. One of two bills regarding Prescription Drug Affordability Board in the NH House. The original bill would have extended term of employment for PDAB executive director, but House Executive Departments & Administration Committee amended it to abolish the PDAB entirely.

Judith Jones, coordinator of Health & Aging Policy, New Futures, spoke next and highlighted the following bills as priorities for her efforts:

SB 122 Support. Adjusts eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program, which enables low-income older adults to access Medicare benefits by paying co-pays and premiums under income guidelines. The bill eliminates a cumbersome, daunting asset test.

HB 60 – Oppose. This bill enables landlords to use lease expiration as cause for eviction, exacerbating the state's housing shortage and potentially swelling the number of under-housed or homeless people.

SB 244 – Support. A package of measures to increase the healthcare workforce.

HB 704 – Support. See description above.

Jones encouraged meeting attendees to sign up for New Futures' legislative action emails to stay up to date.

Polly Campion referred Commission members to the handout showing the legislation being tracked by the Policy Committee, noting that so far it was monitoring 64 of the 1,000 + bills introduced in the session, and that NHCOA has testified on 18 bills, and signed in with advocacy on 15 other bills. (Last year, NHCOA testified on 23 bills all session.)

In addition to legislation, the Policy Team is monitoring both the state budget and developments in Washington that may cut Medicaid funding. Very important issue.

Executive Session.

At approximately 10:30, the Board voted to meet in Executive Session. Lucy Weber motion, Polly Campion seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

The Commission on Aging entered an Executive Session to conduct interviews with two finalist candidates for the role of Executive Director of the NHCOA. All guests and staff were excused. The two finalist candidates were interviewed separately. The Commission members voted to offer the position to one of the two candidates.

At 12:08 pm a motion to adjourn the executive Session was made by Susan Buxton and seconded by Polly Campion.

2025 Legislative Session **healthy aging**



newfutures >>>

New Futures – NH Alliance for Healthy Aging >>>



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listening session takeaways >>>



Costs such as rent, food, insurance are increasing, and Social Security monthly income cannot keep up



Caregivers explain the work involved in keeping a loved one at home by providing 24/7 care in the home

research findings >>

- >>> Older adults are not immune to poverty
- >>> Poverty and homelessness among individuals 65 and older is increasing in NH
- >>> The cost of living in NH is higher than the average social security payment
- >>> 168,000 caregivers dedicated a total of 57 million hours taking care of a loved one in NH. The economic value of these hours is over 2,800 million

2025 legislation >>

- >>> **Support SB 122**
Medicare Savings Program is a Medicaid Program that Pays for Gaps in Medicare
 - >>> Eliminates the Resource Limit
 - >>> Increases the Income Limit
- >>> **Oppose HB 60**
Removes existing tenant protections and permits “no cause evictions” that allow landlords to evict tenants without providing a reason at the end of the lease term.

2025 legislation »



Support SB 244

Relative to expanding access to primary health care services, Medicaid rates

- » Increases Medicaid reimbursement rates for all health care providers
- » Establishes public-private workforce hub to help support recruitment, retention efforts for health care workers
- » Supports training programs at Area Health Education Centers



Oppose SB 134

Relative to work requirements under the state Medicaid program

- » Restricts access to Medicaid expansion by re-instating work requirements

2025 legislation »



Support HB 704

Relative to funding for Caregiver Respite and "Senior Volunteer Programs

- » Funding for ADRD Caregiver Respite
- » Funding for Senior Volunteer Programs
 - Senior Companions
 - Retired Senior Volunteers
 - Foster Grandparent



Advocate Regarding the Budget



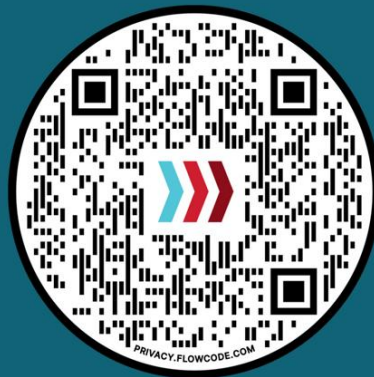
Oppose Federal Medicaid Cuts

Advocating for Healthy Aging >>>

<https://new-futures.org/current-legislation>



sign up for action alerts >>>



www.new-futures.org/training/sign-up