

**New Hampshire Medical Society (NHMS)
Council Meeting Minutes**

Date: June 11, 2025

Location: Hybrid (In-person at NHMS office & Zoom)

Attendance:

Gary Sobelson, Melissa Martinez-Adorno, John Klunk, Nancy Husarik, Patrick Ho, Danielle Albushies, Lisa Patterson, Cathy Stratton, Kirsten Singleton, Lin Brown, Ross Bickford, Xi Nuo Gao, Seddon Savage, John Hinck, Maria Boylan, Richard Johnson, Stephan B., Shabnam Momtahn, Terra Wilkins, Bob Laflam

1. Call to Order and Welcome

- Meeting began slightly late due to an extended Board meeting.
 - President Patrick Ho and CEO Kathy Stratton welcomed attendees.
 - Approval of May 2025 Council Meeting Minutes: Motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.
-

2. CEO Updates – Cathy Stratton

a. AMA Annual Meeting Recap

- Strong engagement from NH delegates.
- AMA House of Delegates addressed Medicare payment cuts, vaccine confidence, and CDC integrity.
- NHMS contributed a resolution on tobacco-free generation, which passed.

b. Physician Health Program (PHP) Concerns

- Board of Medicine awarded PHP contract to an out-of-state, for-profit vendor, raising concerns about data privacy, qualifications, and state oversight.
- Executive Council has tabled the decision; continued advocacy is encouraged.
- NHMS will draft a letter of opposition and seek specialty society sign-ons.
- Concerns include limited NH presence, no licensed providers in-state, and loss of data ownership.

c. CE Broker & Licensing Frustrations

- Widespread complaints about clunky CE Broker system.

- Discussion on creating “how-to” resources or trainings for members.
- Suggestions for NHMS to post clear instructions online.

d. Events and Membership Initiatives

- Fisher Cats event upcoming; Patrick to throw the first pitch.
- Strong encouragement for registration to support visibility and sponsors.
- Launch of member recruitment challenge: goal of 200 new members in 2025.
- Encouraged outreach to residents and students (free membership).
- Testimonials shared for the NHMS Leadership Development Program; recruitment ongoing.

e. Online Community Platform Demonstration

- Preview of new NHMS member portal with directory, events, posts, and sponsor pages.
 - Log-in issues being resolved; further training and rollout planned.
-

3. Nominations and Leadership Opportunities

a. Open Positions and Committee Vacancies

- Active recruitment for board, council, and committee seats.
- Names suggested: Dr. Bill Zwolak (Manchester VA), Dr. Cornell Stanciu (Addiction Psychiatry).
- Plans to issue general membership outreach for volunteers.

b. Awards

- Advocate of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards discussed.
 - No decision yet on legislator award due to partisanship concerns.
-

4. Committee Reports

a. Education Committee – Kirsten Singleton

- Hospital CME reviews ongoing (5 completed in 2 years).
- Committee seeks 2–3 new members.
- Annual Scientific Conference planning well underway.
- Remaining speaker slots include opioid/substance use content and a keynote.

b. Membership Committee – Danielle Albushies (report via Cathy)

- Emphasis on outreach to residents, students, and new physicians.
- Resources and talking points to be distributed.

c. Physician Health Committee

- Potential name change under consideration.
- Discussion about including broader wellness themes.
- Would require bylaw update if formalized.

d. Bylaws Discussion

- General consensus to avoid reopening bylaws unless essential.
 - Minor updates (e.g., committee name changes) can be brought to annual meeting for vote.
-

5. Legislative and Advocacy Update

a. Overview

- Tracked 149 bills, including criminalization of medicine, vaccines, reproductive rights, and scope of practice.
- Four major advocacy themes: protecting public health, patient-physician relationship, reproductive care, and behavioral health access.

b. Legislative Outcomes (Select Highlights)

- **Opposed:** Repeal of Vaccine Association (retained); 15-week abortion ban (withdrawn); Scope of Practice Expansion (retained); CE Broker frustrations ongoing.
- **Supported:** Maternity care bills (some tabled); Mental health credentialing timelines (signed into law).
- **Concerning Items Passed or in Budget:**
 - Limiting DHHS immunization rulemaking authority.
 - ACIP overhaul by federal officials.
 - Ivermectin without prescription (status uncertain).

c. Future Advocacy Plans

- Proposed NHMS statement or op-ed denouncing undermining of vaccine policy.
- Discussion on crafting language to reassure public and combat misinformation.

6. Other Business

- Council plans to meet over the summer via Zoom.
- Open call for ideas for opioid-related speakers and nominations.
- NH Physician Magazine issue release announced.
- Recognition of council members for contributions.

7. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved.
- Meeting adjourned with thanks and well-wishes for the summer.

*Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Martinez-Adorno*