

NHMS Council Meeting Minutes

3/12/25

Location: 2 Capital Plaza, Concord NH - 5 pm- 6:30 pm

Meeting called to order 5:05 pm

Attendance in Person: Travis Harker, Gary Sobelson, Nancy Husarik, Cathy Stratton, Kirsten Singleton, Seddon Savage, Danielle Albushies, Patrick Ho, John Klunk, John Hink, Maria Boylan, Jonathan Ballard

Attendance Remotely: Frances Lim-Liberty, Frank Hubbell, Audrey Kern, George Letterio, Xi Nuo Gao, K.C. Kelly, Victoria Jones, Stephen Bishop, Marc Bertrand, Amy Lee

Motion to approve the minutes from 2/2025. Edit regarding accuracy of attendance, once edit made, seconded and passed unanimously.

1. NHMS Updates

- a. Friday late afternoon group to meet with the lobbyists to discuss bills of interest for the following week
- b. Board of Directors is working on membership, fiduciary responsibilities. Plug for project Echo.
- c. Date for annual scientific Conference 11/7-11/9 @ Mt. Washington; Integrating Mental Health Care into Medicine.
- d. Bringing in guest speakers for Council meetings: New Futures, Experts on housing crisis, and more
- e. Committees should be reporting to the Council. Reports will be added for future meetings.
- f. Board will report from the Board Retreat to the Council.

2. Committee Updates

- a. Education Committee: ACCME guidelines have to be met; ideas to be discussed
- b. Wellness Committee working on options for the Scientific Conference; New England History of Medicine Group reached out for option to engage with the medical society.
- c. Membership Committee: Looking for Council Members to help with a membership drive. Those interested should reach out to Danielle Albushies (dalbushies@gmail.com)
- d. Nominating Committee: Looking for Council Members to join.
- e. AMA report: National focus on the 3% medicare cut that occurred. Medicaid cut is 10% per year – with this federal cut we would double the uninsured in NH. We will see more from specialty societies regarding engagement on this issue.
- f. Stephen Bishop attended the PDMP association meeting and is now our NHMS rep - cuts to NH Medicaid can increase drug overdose fatalities, ER visits, PCP visits.
- g. Governor's Commission for Substance Abuse Treatment. Opioid abatement commission gets funds from legal settlements that cannot be defunded from

change in federal rules. Seddon will be stepping down from her role. Cathy will set up a portal online to help organize steps for those interested.

h. Audrey Kern has stepped in to the role on the telehealth committee.

3. NHBOM/PA topics

- a. BOM said Physician Assistants should have the same amount of CME as Physicians.
- b. Draft rules are in line with the statute
- c. We have until 4/4 to comment.
- d. Lisa Patterson provided testimony regarding our scope of practice as physicians whereas physician assistants do not have an official specialty for scope of practice.

4. Legislative Updates

- a. HB 159– passed in the House. Bradley’s Law. Gets to the Mental Health aspect of guns.
- b. HB 524 – Repeal of the NH Vaccine Association; It passed the House Floor now goes to House Ways and Means Committee. Public Hearing 3/18 @ 10:30
- c. HB 493- Requirement for a CME related to child abuse. Proposal to make an amendment to make it a one time requirement rather than yearly requirement.

Motion to adjourn at 6:30 pm

Submitted by Danielle Albushies, MD