

NHMS Council Meeting Minutes

2/12/25

Location: 2 Capital Plaza; Concord NH | 5:10pm- 6:30 pm;

Meeting called to order 5:10pm

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

Attendance Remotely: Maura Weston, Marie Ramas, Frances Lim-Liberty, Richard Johnson, Marc Bertrand, Lisa Patterson, Stephen Bishop, Maria Boylan, KC Kelly, Franklin Hubbell, Lin Brown

Motion to approve the minutes from 1/2025, no edits or discussion, seconded and passed with one abstain from Seddon Savage.

1. Introduction of Maura Weston from Cornerstone as the lobbying firm that will work with NHMS for 2025
 - a. Maura joined Cornerstone after many years in private practice and was drawn to Cornerstone due to their collaborative approach to advocacy. It is an employee-owned company. With the volume of legislation Maura and Cornerstone are trying to prioritize our goals but also help the outward facing of NHMS. They will help us shape our message and who we should talk to. They are looking to NHMS to make the priorities, but Cornerstone can shape the message. Cornerstone will help us figure out how to best use our time as some bills have traction to pass and some do not.
 - b. Cornerstone government affairs is a national organization, and the 14th location is in NH. It is a bipartisan organization and has varied subject matter engagement. This Cornerstone is not to be confused with the religious organization. Maura reports there are no conflicts of interest with other clients of theirs currently. Should there be other clients that have a conflict of interest, both parties would be informed and sign appropriate paperwork.
 - c. Calendar of the Legislative Session for the week comes out on Friday morning. Maura will update a tracker that will be circulated about the week ahead. Bills the membership is interested in:
 - i. HB 148 regarding LGBTQ rights (discrimination bill)
 - ii. SB 268, SB 38 regarding LGBTQ rights (discrimination bills)
 - iii. SB 252, telemedicine – removes in-person requirement for controlled substance prescriptions.
 - iv. Vaccine bill to close the NH vaccine association- Physician voices were heard. The vaccine association was well represented.
 - v. Cornerstone can help us reach out to build a strategy with our national representatives
 - vi. Tomorrow is the Governor's budget address. The House will then introduce the budget that should align with the Governor's budget address.

Cornerstone will help us comb through the budget. We can expect budget cuts. DHHS has introduced their budget to the Governor.

- vii. SB 256: Maura asks for information to be better versed on the bill that affects reimbursement regarding pharmaceuticals. Historically, Medicare stopped hospitals from buying medications such as oncology drugs. Do we align with the Hospital Association? We need time to think about it and see how it develops.
- viii. “Mominibus 2.0” scheduled for public hearing 2/19/25.

2. Open Positions that the NHMS needs to fill:

- a. We need an appointment for the PDMP urgently; quarterly virtual meetings that are from 3-5 pm. How do we fill this position? Marc Bertrand is the BOM rep to the PDMP. Next meeting is 3/10/25. Stephen Bishop has volunteered to sit on the PDMP.
- b. Melissa Martinez-Adorno can no longer attend the once-a-month meeting of the State Health Assessment, State Health Improvement Plan. Another representative of the NHMS is needed urgently. History: Grassroots efforts started by Tom Sherman, MD. It is a public health centered process. It is an advisory council for the state. Hospital Association and Nursing Association is present. Someone from the NHMS needs to be there as a voice for physicians.
- c. Seddon Savage is looking for another physician will sit on a Council that will advise and support the Governor on funds delegated to substance abuse. The state requires in-person attendance in Concord. Seddon is the only physician representative. She would like to step down in June 2025.

3. CEO Updates

- a. Cornerstone has software that is available to engage membership moving forward as bills come up.
- b. Goal will be to provide the link directly to the website where you can support or oppose a given bill that is introduced.
- c. Nancy Husarik mentioned 5calls.org which is a national website that is an efficient way to call legislators. 5 calls in 5 minutes.

Motion to adjourn at 6:30 pm

Submitted by Danielle Albushies, MD