

NHMS Council Meeting Minutes

1/8/25

5:15pm- 6:30 pm – NHMS Headquarters

Meeting called to order 5:15 pm

In Person: Travis Harker, Gary Sobelson, Nancy Husarik, Cathy Stratton, Kirsten Singleton, Ava Hawkes, Seddon Savage, Danielle Albushies, Jim Bartels

Remote: Marie Ramas, Audrey Kern, Frances Lim-Liberty, Richard Johnson, Marc Bertrand, Amy Less, Lisa Patterson, Melissa Martinez-Adorno, Stephen Bishop, Maria Boylan, Lucy Hodder, Ellen Joyce, KC Kelly, Victoria Jones, John Hink, Angel McLeod, Todd Morrell

Motion to approve the minutes from 12/2024, no edits or discussion, passed with one abstain from Seddon Savage.

1. **CEO Report**

Cathy Stratton

- a. Currently 3.5 staff. Resources are thin. Anticipate a busy legislative session. Plan to contract someone for advocacy manager. Looking to hire an outside lobbyist.
- b. Grant obtained from department of health and human services towards mental health. Grant: 60 K for scope of practice bills with funds to go towards contracting a lobbyist.
- c. The Board discussed a commitment to a 10% increase in membership drive that will involve the board and council for success.

2. **Legislative Bill Review**

Cathy Stratton

- a. How do we sift through the hundreds of bills that affect public health?
- b. Need a direction to identify areas of focus rather than go through a list.
- c. Areas of focus discussed and agreed upon with a point person needed for each topic

SCOPE of PRACTICE;

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS; (how do we support community Mental health staff crises);

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS;

LGBTQ+ CARE;

HOMELESSNESS;

VACCINES;

GUN PREVENTION

- d. We need a timeline of how long we are without a lobbyist. The calendar exists for current LSRs.

e. Identify what areas of expertise or interest that exists on the Council to make progress with the legislative session

f. Anticipate 15 hours per week from a lobbyist consultant separate from the scope of practice lobbyist to be paid by the grant from the AMA.

g. Cathy is in discussion with an advocacy coordinator that lives in Concord, but the consensus of the Council is to focus the search to contract a local lobbyist rather than an administrator. Cathy will work with Lucy Hodder who has contacts to fill this position. The Board was charged to work on this with urgency. How much to pay this contracted lobbyist and where those funds will come from to be determined by the Board.

h. Seddon reminded the Council about Project Echo regarding public policy every Thursday at 8am.

j. Next Legislative Committee Meeting – January 22.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:35pm

Submitted by Danielle Albushies, MD