NNHPHI Abstract

Session Title

**Enriching the Public Health Workforce Current and Future: New Hampshire Public Health Association’s Collaborative Approach**

Throughout its 25-year history, the New Hampshire Public Health Association (NHPHA) has consistently convened its membership to foster a culture of cross-sector learning. NHPHA reaffirmed its commitment to the professional development of public health workers by making it a strategic priority in its 2015-2019 strategic plan. In 2012, NHPHA initiated its Rising Stars Program, placing a special emphasis on engaging public health students and early career professionals. These efforts yielded dividends with a 400% increase in student participation in the annual student poster session during a 4-year period.

In 2017, through member interviews and surveys, NHPHA heard that there is no other organization in the state that brings public health practitioners together for collaborative learning and networking and that our Risings Stars program was enthusiastically viewed by partners. Yet members noted a gap in the provision of continuing education for public health professionals using a variety of mediums. Further they called for an expansion of the Rising Stars program, enhanced internship and mentoring opportunities to improve recruitment and retention of public health workers.

NHPHA’s ability to embrace these opportunities was buoyed by the designation and funding to be a community-based training partner of the New England Public Health Training Center and foundation funding for the association’s first ever workforce development coordinator.

During this session, the presenter will share the association’s growth and successes in workforce development including:

* Continuing educational offerings that align with Public Health 3.0, PHWINS findings and the National Consortium for Public Health Workforce Development call to action report Building Skills for a More Strategic Public Health Workforce
* Collaboration with diverse public health partners and volunteers to co-sponsor events on health equity, social determinants of health and lobbying and advocacy
* Engagement of faculty from all public health academic programs in the state to serve in an advisory capacity to the Rising Stars Program
* The establishment of a student internship program including a database and stipends for qualified students
* The launching of a public health mentorship program connecting seasoned public health professionals with students and early career professionals

NHPHA is a small organization with three part-time staff and a budget less than $200,000 that has sought to maximize its resources through partnerships. The American Public Health Association awarded NHPHA the 2018 Affiliate of the Year award for its workforce development and advocacy initiatives. The presenter will share strategies to leverage resources and partnerships to expand workforce development opportunities and engage participants to share their successes and challenges in this arena.