

The Partnership Convening
Friday, January 3, 2025
10:00 - 11:30 AM ET



Meeting Minutes

The first convening of the year provides a legislative update here in NH, along with highlights, new initiatives, and calls to action from partners working in youth substance use prevention.

Attendees (46): Jennifer MacDonald (Newfound), Tricia Brannen (YouthWell), Jillian Andrews Dubois (New Futures), Dan Andrus (Foundation for Healthy Communities), Tim Lena (Project SUCCESS Counselor at Timberlane/SoRock), Elizabeth Brochu (CADY), Melissa Lee (UNH Cooperative Extension), Carol Furlong, Laurie Warnock, Aimee Tucker (Concord High SAP), Kate Frey (New Futures), Cailynn Aumock (CAPHN), Barry Sandberg (NH State Opioid Response), Mary Calhoun (Dover School District), Barbara Crouse (SAP Counselor & CPS at MVHS in Penacook), Sarah Cain (New Futures), Charlotte Scott (SoRock), Jace Troie (NAMI NH), Shana Karlstrand (CAST), Marissa Carlson (NHTI), Kate MacDonald (South Central NH Public Health Network), Melissa Allen (Belmont SAP), Meghan Stewart (PINETREE INSTITUTE), Jess Morton (NH TPCP), Monica Gallant (Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley/CAST), Kandyce Mohan (BDAS), Elizabeth Duffy (NH DHHS), Sandra Pratt (Gateways), Celeste Clark (Raymond Coalition for Youth), Phillip Rousseau (SAP at Gorham Middle High School), Kate Merrigan (Up for Learning), Randy Herk (Reality Check, Jaffery), Kattie McKinnon (SAP Coordinator, White Mountains Regional High School), Corinne Shea (CAST)

CHI/JSI: Julie Yerkes, Nikki Chute, Emma Kane, Audrey Foxx, Ryan Barry, Martha Bradley, Emily McMaster, Karyn Madore, Amy Daniels, Cora Kakalec

[Please complete our meeting evaluation here.](#) CEUs and attendance certificates are available for those who fill out the evaluation form.

Watch the recording here.

- 1. Welcome** (Julie Yerkes)
- 2. Legislative Update** (Kate Frey, New Futures)

- Welcome Sarah Cain, a new coordinator at New Futures.
- A brand new legislature will kick off on January 8th with the inauguration.
 - This is a budget year. A lot of work at New Futures will focus on what needs to be done with the new budget.
 - NH is walking in with a deficit this year which will mean less federal funding as some funding sources are drying up, there is also a reduction in revenue.
- New Futures is the lead organization on advocacy.
- Priorities for New Futures include: alcohol fund, substance abuse treatment, children's behavioral health system of care (lots of issues around this - making sure there is appropriate funding), and funding 9-8-8 (this year NH needs to find its share of funds to keep it going), and non-academic surveys - restricting YRBS surveys
 - Cannabis
 - We may still see bills coming around cannabis (legalization/commercialization) but it could be less this year as the new legislature is not in support
 - Alcohol
 - Looking to fully fund the alcohol fund: \$10.7 million.
 - New Futures still believes that the state should still run alcohol sales versus private
 - Social districts is when whole blocks or parts of the town are similar to a block party, allowing open containers
 - Keeping an eye on licensing
- [Sign up for action alerts](#) - and the alcohol fund in particular
- Advocacy trainings will be happening this year
 - Can host an advocacy summit/training for youth
 - Upcoming New Futures trainings:
 - ADVOCACY 101 (Webinars)
 - Thursday, January 16 at 4:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, February 18 at 12:00 p.m.
 - ADVOCACY 101 (In-person, includes State House tour)
 - Wednesday, January 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - Friday, March 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - ALL ABOUT THE STATE BUDGET (Webinar)
 - Friday, February 7 at 1:30 p.m.
 - Learn more and register for any of these trainings here: <https://new-futures.org/trainings#upcoming>
- Lunch and learns on Fridays including different ways you can advocate
 - New Futures is excited to announce a weekly Lunch and Learn series to inform you about critical legislative developments

across key health and well-being policy areas. Each week, our expert policy team will provide a legislative update, answer questions, and connect you to opportunities to get involved.

- January 10 | Substance Use Prevention, Treatment & Recovery
- January 17 | Children's Behavioral Health
- January 24 | Healthy Aging
- January 31 | Public Health & Access to Health Care
- All are 1:30 - 2 PM
- Register at new-futures.org/post/lunchlearn

3. Partner Updates (Highlights, New Initiatives, Calls to Action)

- **NEW Resource: [NH YRBS TA Center](#)**
 - A lot of schools are opting to take the YRBS in January this year. This has always been offered but not a popular choice. Check in with your community's schools to get prepared.
- **NH Prevention Conference**
 - Save the date! May 12, 2025 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH
 - Registration coming soon at: nhpreventionconference.org (keep an eye out in your email)
 - JSI is the event planner for the conference. NH TPCP and BDAS are supporting the conference.
 - Looking for topic ideas for presentations. Next week, the call for breakout session abstracts will be released.
- **[UNH Cooperative Extension - Health & Well-Being](#)** (Melissa Lee)
 - Outreach and engagement arm of UNH. Their goal is to bring research-based education, TA, and resources into the community.
 - Reminder: UNH Cooperative Extension is statewide!
 - [Mental Health First Aid \(MHFA\)](#)
 - SAMHSA funding and a contract through the DOE
 - Offers ongoing events, free and available to all community members
 - Youth (grades 9-12) and Adult MHFA programs offered
 - Coming soon: MHFA for Older Adults
 - Can fund individuals to be instructors to be able to offer MHFA in their community
 - [Community First Responder Program](#)
 - How to respond to opioid overdoses and use naloxone
 - Working with the University of Rhode Island

- 10 minutes to learn about an opioid overdose response, then you can complete an online form to receive naloxone by mail. 734 households have received naloxone through this program in NH. You can also request fentanyl and xylazine testing strips.
 - This program has run for about 2 years.
 - [Chronic Pain Resources](#)
 - 19% of adults are impacted by chronic pain
 - These resources/courses educate on how to manage chronic pain, including medications.
- [Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley Community Action for Safe Teens \(CAST\)](#) (Monica Gallant)
 - [Children's Resiliency Retreat](#): specific for youth who are impacted by a loved one's substance use disorder.
 - Identified as a promising practice by NH Service to Science, going in front of the board in March to become evidence-based.
 - Occurs one day each month
 - Youth really enjoy the supportive network and learning they are not alone.
 - Youth group has been working on a mental health awareness campaign for the past year.
 - Delivered 300 *Comfort Cases* to high school students (fidgets, journals, affirmation statements, sensory stickers). These have been very well received!
- **Getting to Y** (Liz Brochu, CADY and Kate Merrigan, Up for Learning)
 - GTY NH kick-off event on January 23rd at the Grappone Center -
 - [GTY NH Conference Invitation](#)
 - [GTY Resource Table Invitation/Sign Up](#)
 - Invitation went out to schools (177 schools were invited)
 - [Up for Learning](#) (VT-based, but works nationwide)
 - Mission: Empowering youth and adults to reimagine and transform education together.
 - Has programming for middle school - [P2C2](#)
 - Getting to Y: Y stands for youth/why
 - Trains teams of youth and adults to work together in analyzing their local YRBS data, presenting it, and using their findings to make change.
 - Designated a best practice
 - Building relationships with our schools and communities

- Benefits and Incentives to schools
 - Monthly Support Meetings for Schools/Students/Mentors & Advisors
 - Listening Tour in Late March/Early April
 - Statewide GTY NH Youth Conference in October
 - SMPCs and DFCs will be the direct contacts within the schools
 - GTY NH HUB: Communities for Alcohol- and Drug-free Youth (CADY) - Elizabeth Brochu - GTY NH Project Director ebrochu@cadyinc.org
 - [Access the presentation here.](#)
- **Gateways** (Sandra Pratt)
 - Accepting registration for a Direct Support Professional certification training. It's a partnership with the University of Wisconsin. 40 hrs with certification and a \$1,000.00 bonus for the participants (18 years old and older) who complete the program.
 - Visit <https://www.gatewayscs.org/dspcert/> if a participant is ready to start.
 - **Middle School YRBS** (Ryan Barry, JSI)
 - There is no statewide middle school YRBS, only high school.
 - Interested in your school offering one? Assistance is offered by the [NH Center of Excellence on Addiction](#).
 - Uses the CDC general middle school survey combined with DFC core measure questions to create a baseline survey.
 - MS YRBS is incredibly valuable data for high schools to understand incoming students and trends.
 - [Life of an Athlete](#) (Tim Lena)
 - An evidence-based program through NH Service to Science.
 - Sent invitations for a student leadership conference to athletic directors. The conference will be held on January 30th at the Primex in Concord.
 - 30 schools have responded, looking at close to 100 students. Will consist of presentations and breakout sessions all on evidence-based programs (Life of an Athlete, One Trusted Adult).
 - Still a few spots open if your school hasn't signed up yet.
 - **YouthWell NH** (Tricia Brannen)
 - A NH non-profit that began 1.5 years ago. YouthWell is a funding source for current and new youth-focused initiatives.

- YouthWell's goal is to make an impact on mental health. NH has a lot of mental health resources, but not always the funding to run/expand/enhance them.
- Partners with organizations serving youth to fulfill their mental health missions.
- Also involved with legislation that could impact youth mental health.
- Has funded almost \$200,000 into NH programs!
- SPRING GRANT PROGRAM
 - Application submissions accepted Mar 17th-Apr 14th
 - Funding decisions made by Jun 2nd
 - youthwellnh.org/funding-application
- **NH's Service to Science program**
 - Invites in-state substance use prevention as well as prevention/recovery hybrid programs to participate in the Service to Science (STS) process. Organizations participating in the STS process receive technical assistance and feedback to improve program effectiveness from JSI and the NH STS Expert Panel.
 - Visit nhcenterforexcellence.org/service-to-science to learn more about the process and incredible programs.
 - Questions? Reach out to cora_kakalec@jsi.com
- **Prevention Certification Board**
 - For folks seeking initial certification or assisting someone who is, we have an online "office hour" with board members from 11:30-12:30 on the first Friday of the month (every month except July). Join here: jsi.zoom.us/j/93824998464?pwd=Z1orMDdnZHZYWnhaNHVzNOowcHlhcz09
 - Developed a new foundational prevention training to accompany the SAPST & Prevention Ethics. It's called the Prevention Core Competencies and will take place in NH for the first time at NHADACA from March 3-5, and [registration is still open!](#)
 - Nominations for the 2025 NH Prevention Specialist of the Year will be open soon, so start thinking about your favorite awesome Certified Prevention Specialist to nominate.
 - We're always open to folks who are interested in learning more about joining the board or joining one of the board committees, such as the Peer Review Committee.
- **NH Tobacco and Cessation Program**

- 2025 is the 20th Anniversary of the Tobacco Quitline. Starting in February, QuitNow-NH will be offering those uninsured or on Medicaid who enroll in the program to receive up to \$150 in gift cards when they enroll in the QuitNow-NH coaching and Nicotine Replacement Therapy programs. For more information visit: [QuitNow-NH 20th Anniversary](#).
 - Hosts a quarterly Tobacco Free Network. If you have interest in learning more, email tpcp@dhhs.nh.gov.
 - TPCP is rolling out a sponsorship program for youth coalitions across the state that are working on projects around tobacco use or protective factors. Some examples of work we are sponsoring (Screenagers showings, Getting to Y work, Registrations to the Prevention Conference, connecting to your local Pediatricians and providing them the resources about My Life, My Quit (Tobacco Quitline for 13-17 year olds), or other ideas as suggested). Reach out to me to learn more: tpcp@dhhs.nh.gov.
 - Tobacco and JSI/CHI have been working on rolling out a youth prevention campaign on protective factors. JSI/CHI is currently working on development of the campaign and will be doing testing in the next few months. We hope to launch the campaign sometime this spring/summer.
- **NH Teen Institute** (Melissa Carlson)
 - Still have 2-3 spots available for our winter Leaders In Prevention retreats for middle school students! Teams are made up of 8 or so middle school students, 2 adult advisors, and can come from schools or programs outside of school (Boys & Girls Clubs, youth groups, etc.).
 - For more information, please visit www.nhteeninstitute.org/lip and/or email our Program Director, Maura, at mmcgowan.ti@gmail.com
- **Young Adult Strategies** (Barry Sandberg)
 - Supported by NH DHHS. Resources for late teens to early 20s who are going through transitions in their life.
 - Offers trainings, social media, and currently developing an online resource library.
 - The Partnership has lots of resources for young adults: <https://drugfreenh.org/for-young-adult-providers>
- **Corinne Shea**
 - I'm with the Institute for Behavior and Health (IBH) based in the DC area, but am a NH resident and member of the CAST

Coalition serving the Souhegan Valley. IBH's prevention initiative works with coalitions nationally and has many free customizable resources for youth and parents/caregivers:

onechoiceprevention.org

4. Partnership Updates

- **[The Power of Prevention Podcast](#)** is in Season 2
 - Latest episode: [Making Sense of the Science: How Cannabis Use Impacts the Adolescent Brain with Dr. Kristen Gilliland](#)
 - New episode with Bobbie D. Bagley from the City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services coming soon
- **[NEW Social Media Toolkit for Dry January 2025](#)**
 - We have tutorial videos on:
 - [How to co-brand with The Partnership](#)
 - [How-to post our toolkits on your social media](#)
- **[NEW Youth Vaping Prevention Resources for Educators](#)**
 - Access free eLearning modules, videos, and a community vaping prevention toolkit
 - Hosted on QuitWorksNH.org
- **[Stronger Than You Think Campaign](#)**
 - Supports open conversations between parents, caregivers, and adults and the young people in their lives
 - Access social media toolkit, download digital materials, and order free print materials
- **[The Partnership Prevention Blog](#)**
 - Recent blog posts:
 - [Building Inclusive Communities: How to Help LGBTQIA+ Youth Thrive](#)
 - [Understanding Youth Vaping in New Hampshire: Insights and Resources for Prevention & Early Intervention](#)
 - [Health Literacy: A Key to Reaching Youth in Substance Use Prevention](#)
 - Dry January blog coming soon
- Hosting an event? We can help you promote it! Let us know by [connecting with us on our website](#).
- [Sign up for The Partnership's eblast](#)