Annual Report on the Activities of the State Health Assessment (SHA) and State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) Advisory Council

November 1, 2025

LIVES WELL

Contents

Definitions....3
Background....3
Legislative History....5
House Bill 1639....5
Senate Bill 718....5
House Bill 157....6
Recommendations for Legislation: 2023....6
Summary of SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Activity: 2020-2023....7
SHIP Development....10
SHA-SHIP Council Accomplishments: November 2, 2022, to November 1, 2023....11
2023 SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Membership and Representation....12
Summary of SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Activity: November 2, 2023, to November 1, 2024....15
SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Meeting Presentations
Recovery in New Hampshire (Meeting date: 11/17/23)....15
Healthcare Workforce (Meeting date: 12/15/23)....15
Health Officer Report and Food Insecurity Presentation (Meeting date: 1/12/24)....16
Chronic Disease and Local-Level Reinforcement of SHA/SHIP (Meeting date: 2/9/24)....16
Social Service Needs and Infrastructure (Meeting date: 3/8/24)....16
Children's Behavioral Health (Meeting date: 4/12/24)....17
Adult Behavioral Health System of Care and Barriers to Care (Meeting date: 5/10/24)....18
Early Childhood Education & Development & Overview of Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Activities (Meeting date: 6/14/24)....18
Change in Facilitation, Review of SHIP Process, Next Phase of SHIP Work (Meeting date: 9/30/24)....18
Establishing a SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Chairperson and Co-Chairperson and Performance Measurement (Meeting date: 10/28/24)....19
Recommendations for Legislation: 2024....20
Future Work: November 2, 2024, to November 1, 2025....21
2024 SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Membership and Representation....22
Summary of SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Activity: November 2, 2024, to November 1, 2025....24
SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Meeting Presentations
Reaching a Quorum as a Council and Defining "Equity" (Meeting date: 11/18/24)....25
Unite Us Presentation and Legislative/Workgroup Updates (Meeting date: 1/28/25)....25
Impact of Policy Changes, State Legislation, Workgroup Updates (Meeting date: 3/24/25)....26
Workgroup Updates and Potential State Budget Impacts (Meeting date: 5/20/25)....26
Overview of SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Interviews/Rural Health Transformation Program (Meeting date: 9/26/25)....27
Recommendations for Legislation: 2025....29
Future Work: November 2, 2025, to November 1, 2026....30
2025 SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Membership and Representation....30

Definitions

Definitions of common acronyms and terms used in this report.

Term/Abbreviation	Definition
CHI	Community Health Institute
DHHS	New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Domain	A field of action, thought, or influence
Doorway Program	Nine Doorway locations in the state provide single points of entry for people seeking help for substance use
DPH	New Hampshire Division of Public Health
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
HB	House Bill
Quorum	The minimum number of members that must be present at a Council meeting to make the proceedings valid
RSA	Revised Statutes Annotated (NH law)
RHTP	Rural Health Transformation Program
RPHNs	Regional Public Health Networks
SB	Senate Bill
SHA	State Health Assessment
SHIP	State Health Improvement Plan
SNAP	NH Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Statutory	Related to or set by law
UNH	University of New Hampshire

Background

The State Health Assessment–State Health Improvement (SHA-SHIP) Plan was created through an evidence-based process guided by the Public Health Accreditation Board to both understand the current health and wellness environment of the state and create long-term goals to improve health outcomes of all residents. State Health Assessments are conducted by gathering data relevant to physical, social, and emotional health of residents, as well as information on the social drivers of health and health inequities. A data examination is conducted, and community input is gathered, which guides and prioritizes areas of opportunity for improvement of health outcomes.

New Hampshire previously completed a State Health Assessment and Improvement Plan in 2013, which was written for the years 2013-2020. In August of 2019, the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) convened statewide partners to serve as an advisory group for the development of a new State Health Assessment (SHA) and State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). Organizations invited to participate in the initial meeting included:

- New Hampshire Public Health Association
- Department of Education
- Commission on Aging
- Behavioral Health & Developmental Services of Strafford County, Inc./ Community Partners of Strafford County
- Elliot Health Systems

- Endowment for Health
- New Hampshire Alliance for Healthy Aging
- Upper Valley Community Nursing Project
- Center for Collaborative Change
- City of Claremont, New Hampshire
- Keene Housing
- New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority
- North Country Health Consortium, Inc.
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
- Navigating Recovery of the Lakes Region
- Lamprey Healthcare
- Ammonoosuc Community Health Services – Littleton
- New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute
- SAU # 39 Superintendent's Office
- New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services

This advisory group was tasked with creating a vision for the SHA and SHIP, defining essential content areas, identifying necessary data and information needed to support the content, as well as recognizing gaps in knowledge, and creating a user-friendly layout. Soon after, legislation formalized the advisory council membership, purpose, and responsibilities to ensure momentum was sustained. A legislative history is outlined below.

Legislative History

House Bill 1639

New Hampshire House Bill 1639, Relative to health care, was introduced in January 2020. HB 1639 required the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a state health assessment and a state health improvement plan and formally established the SHA-SHIP Advisory Council to assist. The bill crossed over to the house and was debated and amended until June 2020. It was signed by Governor Sununu on July 29, 2020. This resulted in two new sections added to RSA 126-A, authorizing the development of a SHA and a SHIP. (RSA 126-A:81 and RSA 126-A:82)

The statutory language specified the key tenets of both, as follows:

> II. The state health assessment shall:
> (a) Describe the status of health and well-being in New Hampshire.
> (b) Utilize input from state and local level stakeholders obtained through public forums.
> (c) Identify disparities in social determinants that impact health, health outcomes, and access to care.
> (d) Map health care service delivery, utilization, inter-entity collaboration, and identification of gaps or redundancies.
> (e) Utilize existing data for statewide and local planning.
> (f) Identify priorities for the state health improvement plan.
> III. The state health improvement plan shall guide the department in assessing, planning, implementing, and monitoring improvement in the health and well-being of New Hampshire's population.
> IV. The state health improvement plan shall focus on strategies to:
> (a) Improve health outcomes and reduce inequities; and
> (b) Strengthen public health and human service delivery systems.
> V. The state health improvement plan shall identify priorities and evidence-based practices, integrate services, and leverage resources across the state.

RSA 126-A:82 established a SHA-SHIP Advisory Council of 40 members representing a diverse array of key state, municipal and local stakeholders.

Senate Bill 718

New Hampshire Senate Bill 718 Relative to the New Hampshire State Health Improvement Plan and making an appropriation, therefore, was introduced in January 2020. SB 718 formalized the purpose of the SHA-SHIP, designated appropriation to support the work, and established reporting requirements. Language within the bill also established the advisory committee as a formal council, assigned the positions and organizations who would hold each seat, and specified the term length for members. The bill was debated and amended in the New Hampshire Senate until June 2020, when it was tabled, and no statutory changes were enacted.

House Bill 157

New Hampshire House Bill 157, Relative to the state health improvement plan and state health assessment and state health improvement plan advisory council, was introduced in January 2021. HB 157 was originally written as a repeal of the SHA-SHIP Advisory Council due to the concern that the SHA and SHIP would be duplicative of the Community Health Needs Assessments federally required every three (3) years by the twenty-two (22) not-for-profit acute care hospitals in the state. Department of Health and Human Services leadership addressed the concerns, informed stakeholders of the differences between the types of assessments, and language was amended to reenact the legislation in its entirety. Final language retained the SHA-SHIP Advisory Council, added additional Council members, and added content areas to the SHA and SHIP. HB157 was signed by Governor Sununu on May 17, 2021.

Following the passage of HB 157 in May 2021, SHA language from RSA 126-A:87 was revised to read:

> II. The state health assessment shall:
> (a) Describe the status of health and well-being in New Hampshire, access to critical healthcare services including maternity care, the cost of healthcare and insurance coverage, and the fiscal stability and sustainability of critical services to ensure sufficient and equitable access throughout the state.
> (b) Utilize input from state and local level stakeholders obtained through public forums.
> (c) Identify disparities in social determinants that may impact health, health outcomes, and access to care.
> (d) Map health care service delivery, utilization, inter-entity collaboration, and identification of gaps or redundancies.
> (e) Describe the role of state agencies in supporting the public health system in New Hampshire.
> (f) Utilize existing data and plan for future data to support statewide and local planning.
> (g) Identify priorities for the state health improvement plan.

At the same time, SHIP language was revised to read:

> III. The state health improvement plan shall guide the department in assessing, planning, implementing, and monitoring improvement in the health and well-being of New Hampshire's population.
> IV. The state health improvement plan shall focus on strategies to:
> (a) Improve health outcomes and reduce inequities; and
> (b) Strengthen public health and human service delivery systems.
> V. The state health improvement plan shall identify priorities and evidence-based practices, integrate services, and leverage resources across the state.

Recommendations for Legislation: 2023

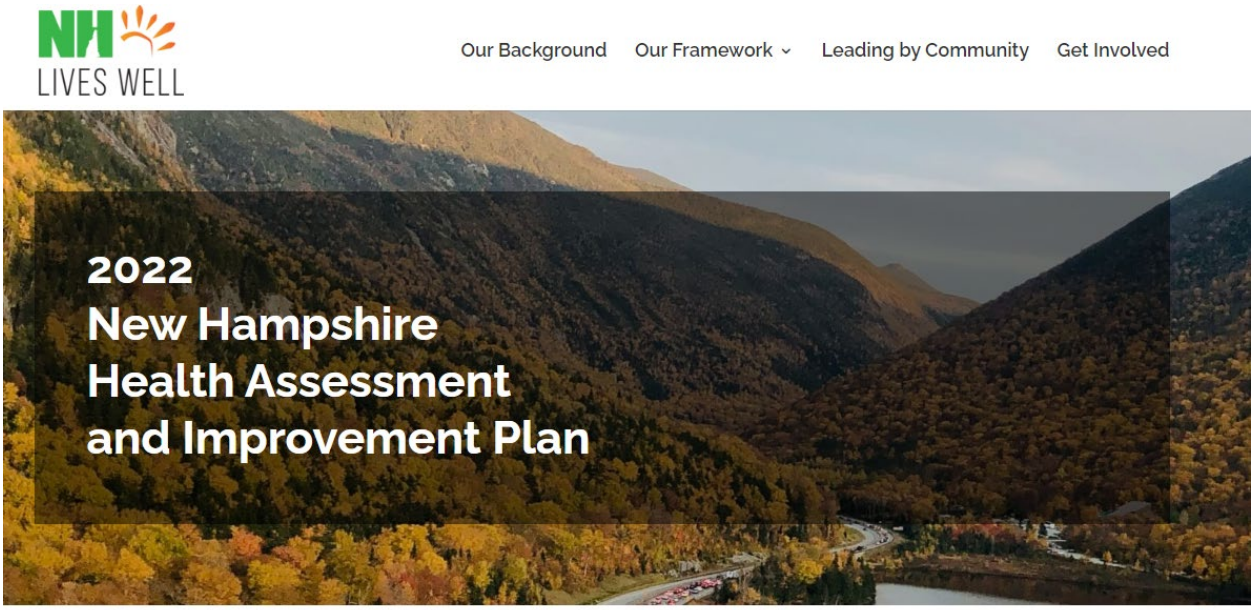
The SHIP document was finalized at the SHA-SHIP Advisory Council meeting on June 30, 2023. While the priority areas have been chosen, stakeholders and subject matter experts have not yet engaged in discussions about priority legislation. There were no recommendations for legislation in 2023.

Summary of SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Activity: 2020-2023

The State Health Assessment was statutorily mandated to be completed at the end of July 2020 in the original legislation, but the coronavirus pandemic of 2019 (COVID-19) resulted in many delays and additional time for completion was added to the January 2021 statutory amendment.

The NH State Health Assessment was launched as a web-based summation of key findings from the SHA-SHIP Advisory Council meetings in 2020-2021. The DPHS SHA-SHIP website, https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/population-health/nh-lives-well, is an excellent source of information regarding the review of measures, resources, and identified needs that were gathered during Council meetings in 2020 and 2021. The website is designed to be user-friendly, with corroborating data, relevant state and community resources, and links to additional data and information. Data were then used to guide workgroup discussions to develop the SHIP.

All meeting agendas, notes, and presentations can be found on the General Court of New Hampshire website: https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/committees/default.aspx?id=1527



Welcome to NH Lives Well!

With support from the NH Department of Health and Human Services, the NH State Health Assessment and Improvement Plan Advisory Council developed NH Lives Well in 2020 as a framework for the most recent State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan.

The phrase "NH Lives Well" comes from our vision of how we want people in NH to experience health and wellness: in all places, in all ways.

The purpose of this website is to share important information from the most recent New Hampshire State Health Assessment, and the State Health Improvement Plan that will follow.

A new SHA-SHIP cycle will be completed every five (5) years, and a more limited update will be completed yearly. To make this update more efficient, the New Hampshire DHHS Data Portal has been a primary source of data for the State Health Assessment. Changes in outcomes will also be tracked over the entire State Health Improvement Plan cycle using the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

(DHHS) Data Portal. The DHHS Data Portal is a Tableau-based dashboard visualizing health-influencing and health-outcome datasets in a user-friendly manner for those who wish to understand resident health. Data Portal Dashboards were created using evidence-based surveys and tools that provide data snapshots and trends.

The foundational concept of the SHA-SHIP is to reduce existing inequities that contribute to less desirable outcomes for specific populations in the State of New Hampshire. Together, the Council created the following vision to prioritize equity.

Vision

All people in New Hampshire have equitable opportunity to flourish and achieve optimal mental, physical, social, spiritual, and emotional wellness. We believe:

- Equity is shaped at state and local levels such that individuals and communities have equitable access to opportunities.
- Wellness happens where people live, learn, work, and play
- People include individuals and families across the lifespan

State Health Assessment Domains

The SHA is organized into four major Domain areas: Access to Opportunity, Social Connectedness, Health Status and Outcomes, and Community as described below.



For each domain area, NH Lives Well summarizes key findings, data included in the domain, highlighted areas for which gaps still exist, and existing resources. The website also describes the work done to collect qualitative data from state and local stakeholders about priorities within the domains.

SHIP Development

Following the launch of the NH Lives Well website, the State Health Improvement Plan phase of work began in the summer of 2022. The first phase of SHIP development was defining strategies to address the key areas of focus identified in the SHA. Domain-specific input sessions were held in October 2022, that were open to Council members, anyone engaged by the Council membership, as well as those who signed up to attend any of the sessions on the NH Lives Well website. SHA-SHIP Advisory Council members could choose to attend any or all the sessions; most members selected one domain area to attend. DHHS staff members with expertise in content areas related to the domains were also invited. Each domain group met three times to develop a first draft of strategies.

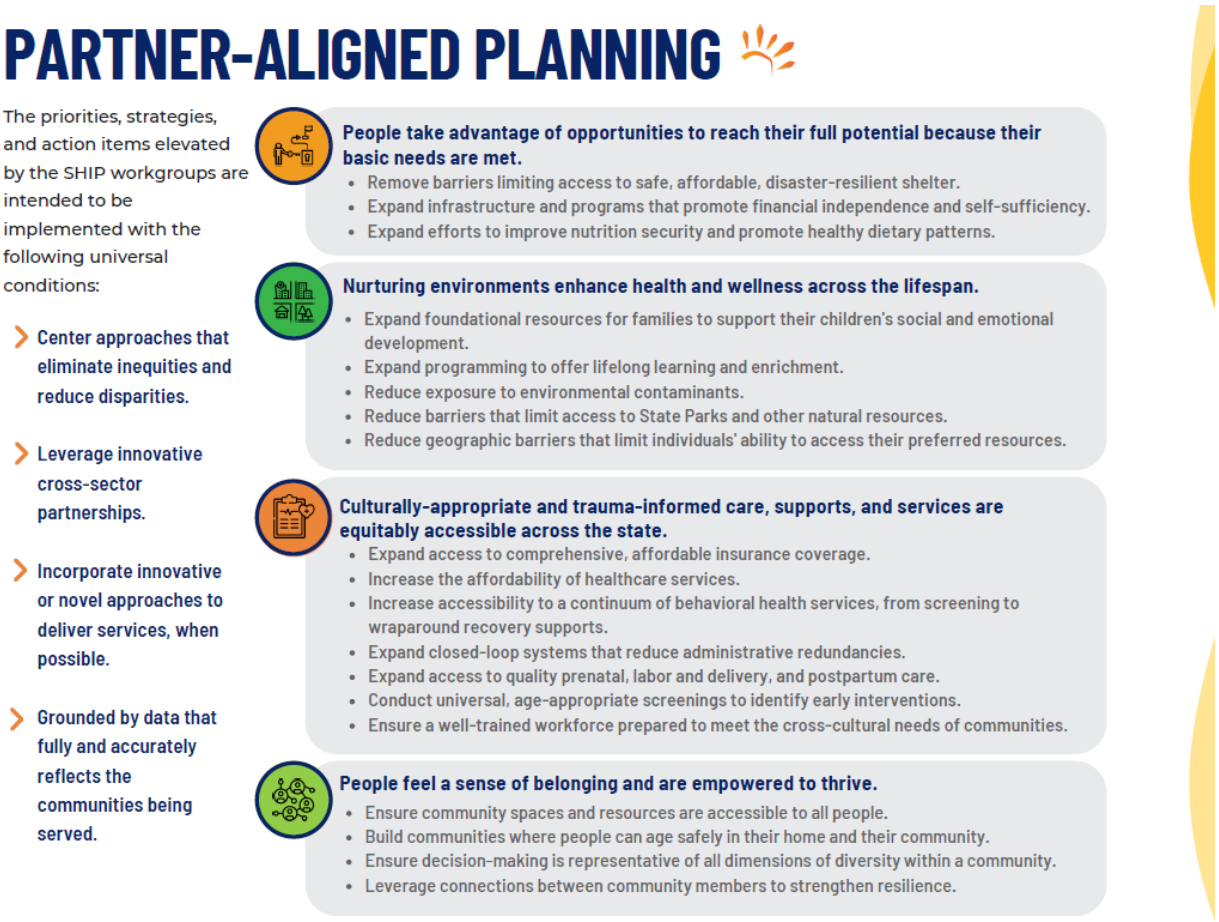
- Meeting 1 focused on the development of an Impact Statement to guide the work.
- Meeting 2 was a brainstorming session to identify potential strategies for each domain.
- Meeting 3 allowed the domain groups to refine the strategies.

The domain groups were then asked to rate proposed strategies based on criteria that the Council established.

The SHA-SHIP Advisory Council meetings, held between November of 2022 and May of 2023, reviewed and refined the content of the SHIP: the goal for each Domain (or Impact Statement), and potential strategies to achieve that goal. Together, these components created the SHIP. This report will not duplicate the content of the SHIP but will highlight two summary components: The finalized Impact Statements for each Domain, which create the goal within the domain, and frame the strategies and actions items:



Potential Strategies, grouped into Priority headings, were selected for each Domain. These strategies were chosen due to their positive downstream effects on the identified Impact Statements.



Example action items –activities that can achieve the strategies – were developed simultaneously. However, the Council recognized that these lists need to be developed more fully during the next phase of community engagement work. In this phase, community partners will review the SHIP and provide input about how the Strategies within each domain can be achieved in the specific context of localized NH communities. The next phase of work to review and collect community partner input is in the planning stages.

Council Accomplishments: November 2, 2022, to November 1, 2023

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) Institute for Health Policy and Practice (IHPP) and the Community Health Institute/JSI (CHI/JSI) were retained to provide facilitation, research, convening, and support to the SHA-SHIP Advisory Council after beginning the initial SHA-SHIP work with DHHS. IHPP and CHI/JSI gathered and analyzed the data using the subject matter expertise of the members of the Council. IHPP and CHI/JSI developed a process for gathering input for the SHIP from the Council and used that as the basis for the final SHIP language. All presentations, meeting agendas and other documentation were placed on the SHA-SHIP Advisory Council webpage for public review on the New Hampshire General Court website.

2023 SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Membership and Representation

Legislative Appointment	Name	Title
1. (a) Two members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader.	TBD	House Majority
2. (a) Two members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader.	William Palmer	House Minority
3. (b) Two members of the senate, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, appointed by the senate president.	Regina Birdsell	Senate Majority
4. (b) Two members of the senate, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, appointed by the senate president.	Becky Whitley	Senate Minority
5. (c) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee.	Ann Landry	Associate Commissioner
6. (d) The commissioner of the department of education, or designee.	Christine Brennan	Deputy Commissioner
7. (e) The commissioner of the department of insurance, or designee.	Jason Aziz	Director of Health Economics
8. (f) The commissioner of the department of safety, or designee	Justin Romanello	Bureau Chief
9. (g) The commissioner of the department of corrections, or designee.	Paula Mattis	Director, Medical and Forensic Services
10. (h) The New Hampshire attorney general, or designee.	Diane Quinlan	AG Designee
11. (I) The director of the division of public health services, department of health and human services, or designee.	Patricia Tilley	Director
12. (j) The chairperson of state commission on aging, or designee.	Polly Campion	State Representative – Chair of State Commission on Aging
13. (k) The director of the Manchester health department, or designee.	Anna Thomas	Chief Strategy Officer
14. (l) A representative from the New Hampshire Public Health Association, appointed by the association.	Hanan Bedri	Executive Director
15. (m) A representative of the New Hampshire Alliance for Healthy Aging, appointed by the alliance.	Martha McLeod	Alliance for Healthy Aging
16. (n) A representative of the North Country Health Consortium, appointed by the consortium.	Lauren Pearson	Executive Director
17. (o) A representative of the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute, appointed by the institute.	Phil Sletten	Policy Analyst

18. (p) Two representatives from housing entities, one appointed by the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, and one appointed by the New Hampshire Housing Authorities Corporation.	Joshua Meehan	Executive Director, NHHAC
19. (p) Two representatives from housing entities, one appointed by the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, and one appointed by the New Hampshire Housing Authorities Corporation.	Ignatius MacLellan	Director, Housing Services, NHHFA
20. (q) Three representatives of hospitals located in New Hampshire, one from an academic medical center, one from a community hospital that is not a critical access hospital, and one from a critical access hospital, appointed by the New Hampshire Hospital Association.	Greg Norman – Large Health System	Director, Population Health
21. (q) Three representatives of hospitals located in New Hampshire, one from an academic medical center, one from a community hospital that is not a critical access hospital, and one from a critical access hospital, appointed by the New Hampshire Hospital Association.	Monika O'Clair	Vice President of Strategy and Community Relations
22. (q) Three representatives of hospitals located in New Hampshire, one from an academic medical center, one from a community hospital that is not a critical access hospital, and one from a critical access hospital, appointed by the New Hampshire Hospital Association.	Pamela Martel	Executive Director, Finance
23. (r) A representative of a federally qualified community health center, appointed by the Bi-State Primary Care Association.	Edward D Shanshala II,	CEO
24. (s) A psychiatrist or psychologist licensed in New Hampshire, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.	Benjamin C. Hillyard	Psychotherapist Owner/Founder
25. (t) A physician, appointed by the New Hampshire Medical Society.	Marie-Elizabeth Ramas, MD	Family Physician
26. (u) An advanced practice nurse practitioner licensed in New Hampshire, appointed by the New Hampshire Nurse Practitioners Association.	Julie Bosak	Nurse Practitioner
27. (v) A representative of municipal government, appointed by the New Hampshire Municipal Association.	Deirdre Daley	Planning Board Member
28. (w) A school superintendent, appointed by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association.	Vacant	
29. (x) A representative of a peer recovery program, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.	Daisy Pierce	Executive Director
30. (y) An environmental health researcher from a New Hampshire college or university, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.	Suzanne Galoucher	Director

31. (z) A representative of a philanthropic organization, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.	Andie Hession	Grants Program Associate
32. (aa) A substance use disorder treatment provider, appointed by the New Hampshire Providers Association.	Kerran Vigroux	Executive Director
33. (bb) A community action program representative, appointed by the New Hampshire Community Action Partnership.	Beth Daniels	Southwestern Community Services
34. (cc) The director of the Nashua health department, or designee.	Bobbie Bagley	Director
35. (dd) A health officer, appointed by the New Hampshire Health Officers Association.	Kim McNamara	Health Officer, Portsmouth
36. (ee) Commissioner of the Department of Business and Economic Affairs	Vacant	
37. (ff) A representative of Community Support Network, Inc. (CSNI), appointed by CSNI.	Rebecca Bryant	President
38. (gg) A representative from New Hampshire Community Behavioral Health Association, appointed by association.	Margaret Pritchard	CEO
39. (hh) Director of the Office of Health Equity Department of Health and Human Services, or designee	Anela Kruščica	Communication Access Coordinator
40. (ii) Director of the Josiah Bartlett Center for public policy, or designee	Vacant	
SHA-SHIP Advisory Council facilitation and support was provided by: Jo Porter, Director UNH Institute of Health Policy and Practice Katie Robert, Director Community Health Institute, JSI-Northern New England		

Summary of SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Activity: November 2, 2023, to November 1, 2024

The Council decided to begin hosting presentations by organizations that are working on activities that fit within the four SHIP domains. Between November 17, 2023, and June 14, 2024, the Council invited organizations to present on their work and then have Council members and members of the public in attendance discuss how that works fits within the SHIP.

Below is a summary of each of those meetings. DPHS staff are currently working to post the slides and meeting recordings on the SHA-SHIP Advisory Council webpage for public review on the New Hampshire General Court website.

Recovery in New Hampshire (Meeting date: 11/17/23)

Daisy Pierce, PhD, Executive Director with Navigating Recovery of the Lakes Region, and Mark Dorman, CRSW, Coordinator of the Doorway at Concord Hospital-Laconia, presented on state overdose data as compared to other states, demographic data on recovery services, an overview of the nine Doorway Project regions in New Hampshire, as well as on more specific data and information about the Doorway at Concord Hospital Laconia.

Staff from the UNH presented statewide data on smoking and drug overdose deaths, as well as data on residents that reported needing treatment but not able to receive treatment at a facility for illicit drug use in 2018-2019 in New Hampshire. Following the presentation, Council members and meeting attendees from the public had a discussion around what else Emergency Medical Services (EMS) should be doing in New Hampshire and there was also sharing around what has happening in New Jersey and California.

Meeting Attendance		
Attendee Category	**# of attendees in person**	**# of attendees online**
Council members	3	15
Facilitators	3	0
Public/other	0	2

Healthcare Workforce (Meeting date: 12/15/23)

Kate Luczko from HealthForce NH presented data on the status of the healthcare workforce in New Hampshire. Information presented included registered nurses being in the highest demand among healthcare practitioners and technical occupations in the state and fewer younger people entering the work population. Ms. Luczko also presented that there will be 46% more 60–90-year-olds in the state within the next 10 years.

Data was presented on the number of primary care visits by insurance providers (commercial insurance, Medicaid, Medicare), as well as the sharp decline in the number of labor and delivery units in the state that provide critical prenatal and postpartum care to pregnant people and their infants.

Council members and others in attendance discussed the challenges of keeping trained registered nurses in the state, what existing training programs exist, and the exodus from the profession by nurses early in their career and if mentorship might help nurses stay in nursing longer. Protecting the physical safety of nurses was also discussed, including the possibility of creating edits to the patient and provider bills of rights.

Meeting Attendance		
Attendee Category	**# of Attendees in person**	**# of attendees online**
Council members	3	14
Facilitators	2	1
Public/other	0	2

Health Officer Report and Food Insecurity Presentation (Meeting date: 1/12/24)

Brian Lockard, Vice President of the New Hampshire Health Officers Association, presented on the various duties of health officers, what other roles they fill in their communities, and what challenges they face, as well providing some success stories.

Jessica Gorhan, Deputy Director with NH Hunger Solutions, provided some of the causes of food insecurity and the overall rate of food insecurity in the state. Jessica also talked about some of the state's weaknesses (i.e. being 47th in the nation in school breakfast participation and 39th in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participation), as well as current work being undertaken by NH Hunger Solutions and statewide partners to improve participation in federal meals programs.
Staff from CHI also reported that they were working on a toolkit to help Council members with talking points on how to integrate the SHIP into existing work going on in the state.

Meeting Attendance		
Attendee Category	**# of Attendees in person**	**# of attendees online**
SHA-SHIP Council members	4	15
Meeting Facilitators	3	0
Public/other	3	2

Chronic Disease and Local-Level Reinforcement of SHA/SHIP (Meeting date: 2/9/24)

Whitney Hammond, from the Bureau of Prevention and Wellness at DPHS, presented some of the work being done by programs within the Bureau, including heart disease as a priority condition. Ms. Hammond presented New Hampshire data on heart disease, blood pressure control, diabetes, and tobacco use.

Alia Hayes from DPHS presented on starting to create goals that align with SHIP priorities and provided examples around tobacco use and from the Regional Public Health Networks.

Council members and others in attendance discussed heart disease as a statewide area of concern, including questions around data specific to Strafford and Belknap counties and the benefit of the SHA-SHIP Council utilizing subject matter experts with lived experience.

Meeting Attendance		
Attendee Category	**# of Attendees in person**	**# of attendees online**
SHA-SHIP Advisory Council members	5	10
Meeting Facilitators	2	1
Public/other	1	2

Social Service Needs and Infrastructure (Meeting date: 3/8/24)

Rebecca Sky, Executive Director at the Commission on Aging, and Laurie Davie, Interim Director of the Institute for Health Policy and Practice, presented on New Hampshire's social service infrastructure around food/meals, area agencies, aging and disability resources, Regional Planning Commissions, family resource centers, and more. They also talked about the State Plan on Aging and overarching goals such as

advancing age-friendly communities, supporting older people to stay active and healthy, and advancing equity and person-centered thinking.

Alia Hayes from DPHS presented on the Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant, overseen by DPHS, and its primary activities completed during 2023.

Council members and others in attendance had questions regarding the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and whether the data collected could be disaggregated by demographics.

Meeting Attendance		
Attendee Category	**# of Attendees in person**	**# of attendees online**
SHA-SHIP Advisory Council members	5	16
Meeting Facilitators	2	1
Public/other	1	3

Children's Behavioral Health (Meeting date: 4/12/24)

Daryll Tenney, FAST Forward Coordinator for the NH Department of Health and Human Services, and Erica Tenney, Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program Coordinator at DPHS, presented on the Children's System of Care Framework, as well as on early behavioral health intervention, screening and access to care in the state. A school-based health services project was highlighted in the Manchester School District, where 6,682 behavioral health visits took place in participating schools during the 2022-2023 school year. Challenges presented included an increase in the number of youths experiencing behavioral health needs and the intensity of those needs, as well as overall workforce shortages in the behavioral health field.

Staff from CHI presented State Health Assessment data relating to the mental health burden in the state, including data on the percentage of residents experiencing a major depressive episode (2018-2019, All adults: 8%, Ages 12-17: 16%, Ages 18-25: 17%) and the percent of adults reporting having any mental illness (2018-2019, All adults: 22%, Ages 18-25: 33%).

Meeting Attendance		
Attendee Category	**# of Attendees in person**	**# of attendees online**
SHA-SHIP Advisory Council members	3	16
Meeting Facilitators	3	0
Public/other	5	2

Adult Behavioral Health System of Care and Barriers to Care (Meeting date: 5/10/24)

Maggie Pritchard, CEO at Lakes Region Mental Health Center, presented on New Hampshire's 10 Community Mental Health Centers, who they serve, and what core mental health services they provide. Ms. Pritchard also talked about the acute care services provided by the Community Mental Health Centers and why they are needed.

Following that presentation, Department of Health and Human Services staff talked about the mission of the State Mental Health Authority and the organizational structure of DHHS programs, as well as sharing the state's 10-year Mental Health Plan goals.

Maggie Pritchard, Darryl Tenney, and Daisy Pierce discussed the barriers to care the state is facing, including the limited number of beds available, lack of funding, workforce challenges, and overall access to treatment.

Kim McNamara, Health Officer for the City of Portsmouth, commented that, “services for people with developmental disabilities are at crisis level.”

Council members and others in attendance discussed the need for “silos” to be addressed and further discussed the barriers mentioned above and other barriers, such as where to patients leave their pets or their car during treatment.

Meeting Attendance		
Attendee Category	**# of Attendees in person**	**# of attendees online**
SHA-SHIP Advisory Council members	5	17
Meeting Facilitators	2	1
Public/other	0	2

Early Childhood Education & Development & Overview of Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Activities (Meeting date: 6/14/24)

Alia Hayes presented the budget and activities in the Block Grant’s workplan, which includes all activities to take place from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024. Programs funded include New Hampshire Public Health Laboratories, the SHIP, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the state’s Cancer Registry, diabetes screening, and the health officer liaisons.

Dr. Kim Nesbitt, Assistant Professor with UNH Human Development and Family Studies, presented on the Preschool Development Grant and Athena Cote, Family Support and Community Engagement Administrator with the Maternal and Child Health Section at DPHS, presented on the Division’s Early Childhood Integration Team.

Christina Lachance, Director of the New Hampshire Council for Thriving Children, along with Kendra Dix and Michelle Lewis from NH Family Voices, also presented.

Council members and others in attendance discussed the idea of combining funding sources and working to remove the “silos of service delivery,” to be more coordinated and comprehensive.

Meeting Attendance		
Attendee Category	**# of Attendees in person**	**# of attendees online**
SHA-SHIP Advisory Council members	11	9
Meeting Facilitators	3	1
Public/other	2	2

Change in Facilitation, Review of SHIP Process, Next Phase of SHIP Work

(Meeting date: 9/30/24)

The SHIP facilitation contract with the NH Department of Health and Human Services ended on June 30, 2024, and through a competitive bidding process, Brandeis University was selected as the new facilitation organization for the SHA-SHIP Council effective on July 1, 2024.

Dr. Palmira Santos and Kristen Faughnan were introduced as the new facilitation staff members from Brandeis University, and Alia Hayes presented on the 91A requirements that must be met by the Council, including the quorum requirements that 21 of the Council’s 40 members must be present at a meeting, with at least 13 members being present in person, to achieve a quorum.

Dr. Santos asked for volunteers from the Council that may be interested in either the Chairperson or the Co-Chairperson roles for the Council.

Whitney Hammond discussed the purpose and history of the Council and emphasized the requirement and importance of monitoring and updating the SHIP.

Dr. Santos discussed the next phase of the Council's work, which will include an annual progress report and finding key indicators for the Council to measure to document its work.

Meeting Attendance		
Attendee Category	**# of Attendees in person**	**# of attendees online**
SHA-SHIP Advisory Council members	12	13
Meeting Facilitators	2	0
Public/other	0	5

Establishing a Council Chairperson and Co-Chairperson and Performance Measurement

(Meeting date: 10/28/24)

Dr. Santos provided a short overview of the September 2024 meeting and reiterated that the SHIP is now in the action planning and performance measurement stages.

The remainder of the meeting focused on the Health Status and Outcomes domain of the SHIP, including discussion around equitable access to care, support and services.

Dr. Santos led a discussion about the difference between "equal" and "equitable" and there was a question about what specific definition of "equity" would be used by the Council.

Dr. Santos and her colleague, Kristen Faughnan, led the Council in a whiteboarding exercise that asked members to identify innovative interventions, as well as areas of deficit in the state. Ed Shanshala, Chief Executive Officer of Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, spoke about their Portable Teaching Kitchen Initiative as an example of an innovative intervention.

Dr. David Nagel, New Hampshire House Representative from Belknap County District 06, volunteered to be the Chairperson for the Council and Ed Shanshala volunteered to be the Co-Chairperson. As there was no quorum present, neither could be officially confirmed by the Council.

Meeting Attendance		
Attendee Category	**# of Attendees in person**	**# of attendees online**
SHA-SHIP Council members	8	17
Meeting Facilitators	3	0
Public/other	0	1

Council Accomplishments: November 2, 2023, to November 1, 2024

The Council held nine meetings, with each meeting featuring presentations on topics that align with the SHIP. The nine meetings averaged 26 attendees, with an average of six Council members appearing in person and an average of 14 Council members attending via Zoom. The April 12, 2024, and October 28, 2024, meetings had the largest attendance (29 attendees), while the largest in-person attendance of 12 Council members occurred at the September 30, 2024, meeting.

The SHA-SHIP Council facilitation contract with CHI/JSI and UNH ended on June 30, 2024, and a new facilitation contract was awarded to Brandeis University by DHHS through a competitive process. Staff from Brandeis facilitated both the September and October 2024 meetings.

Alia Hayes, SHA-SHIP Manager with DPHS, left her position on October 4, 2024, and Whitney Hammond and Scot Foster from DPHS will now manage DPHS efforts around the SHIP.

Dr. David Nagel volunteered to act as chairperson for the Council and Ed Shanshala agreed to be the co-chairperson.

Dr. Nagel's first opportunity to serve as the chairperson will be during the meeting to be held on November 18, 2024.

Recommendations for Legislation: 2024

While there are no recommendations from the Council for legislation at this time, the inability to reach a quorum of 13 in-person Council attendees at any of the nine meetings did lead to discussion by the Council members on what could be done to help achieve an official quorum. Council members, meetings facilitators and other meeting attendees discussed the possibility of amending Council legislation to reduce the number of Council members so a quorum could be more easily achieved. Having Council members send a delegate from their organizations when they couldn't attend meetings in person was also discussed. The subject will be revisited in late 2024 or early 2025 by the Council members.

Future Work: November 2, 2024, to November 1, 2025

The Council will be focusing on looking at statewide activities currently being prioritized, as well as creating and/or adopting specific measures that it can use to track progress. The Council is asking for volunteers that specialize in statewide data and performance measurement to work as a part of a workgroup that will focus on creating measures that are the most appropriate to accurately track the Council's progress. The Council will also be looking to create other content-specific workgroups that will help to move the work forward.

2024 SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Membership and Representation

Legislative Appointment	Name	Title
(a) Two members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader.	Dr. David Nagel	House Majority
(a) Two members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader.	William Palmer	House Minority
(b) Two members of the senate, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, appointed by the senate president.	Regina Birdsell	Senate Majority
(b) Two members of the senate, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, appointed by the senate president.	Becky Whitley	Senate Minority
(c) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee.	Ann Landry	Associate Commissioner
(d) The commissioner of the department of education, or designee.	Christine Brennan	Deputy Commissioner
(e) The commissioner of the department of insurance, or designee.	Morgan Harris	Director of Healthcare Analytics
(f) The commissioner of the department of safety, or designee	Justin Romanello	Bureau Chief, EMS
(g) The commissioner of the department of corrections, or designee.	Paula Mattis	Director, Medical and Forensic Services
(h) The New Hampshire attorney general, or designee.	Alexandra Sosnowski	AG Designee
(i) The director of the division of public health services, department of health and human services, or designee.	Whitney Hammond	Interim Deputy Director, DPH
(j) The chairperson of state commission on aging, or designee.	Polly Campion	State Representative – Chair of State Commission on Aging
(k) The director of the Manchester health department, or designee.	Anna Thomas	Chief Strategy Officer
(l) A representative from the New Hampshire Public Health Association, appointed by the association.	Tory Jennison	Interim Executive Director
(m) A representative of the New Hampshire Alliance for Healthy Aging, appointed by the alliance.	Martha McLeod	Alliance for Healthy Aging
(n) A representative of the North Country Health Consortium, appointed by the consortium.	Lauren Pearson	Executive Director
(o) A representative of the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute, appointed by the institute.	Phil Sletten	Policy Analyst
(p) Two representatives from housing entities, one appointed by the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, and one	Joshua Meehan	Executive Director, NHHAC

appointed by the New Hampshire Housing Authorities Corporation.		
(p) Two representatives from housing entities, one appointed by the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, and one appointed by the New Hampshire Housing Authorities Corporation.	Ali Sekou	NH Housing Authority, Manager of Community Engagement and Inclusion
(q) Three representatives of hospitals located in New Hampshire, one from an academic medical center, one from a community hospital that is not a critical access hospital, and one from a critical access hospital, appointed by the New Hampshire Hospital Association.	Greg Norman – Large Health System, Dartmouth-Hitchcock	Director, Population Health
(q) Three representatives of hospitals located in New Hampshire, one from an academic medical center, one from a community hospital that is not a critical access hospital, and one from a critical access hospital, appointed by the New Hampshire Hospital Association.	Meaghan Heusler, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital	Planning Data Analyst & Community Benefit Manager
(q) Three representatives of hospitals located in New Hampshire, one from an academic medical center, one from a community hospital that is not a critical access hospital, and one from a critical access hospital, appointed by the New Hampshire Hospital Association.	Monika O'Clair, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital	Chief Strategy Officer
(r) A representative of a federally qualified community health center, appointed by the Bi-State Primary Care Association.	Edward D. Shanshala II	CEO
(s) A psychiatrist or psychologist licensed in New Hampshire, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.	Benjamin C. Hillyard	Psychotherapist Owner/Founder
(t) A physician, appointed by the New Hampshire Medical Society.	Melissa Martinez-Adorno	Obstetrician/ Gynecologist
(u) An advanced practice nurse practitioner licensed in New Hampshire, appointed by the New Hampshire Nurse Practitioners Association.	Jennifer Johnson	Nurse Practitioner
(v) A representative of municipal government, appointed by the New Hampshire Municipal Association.	Deirdre Daley	Planning Board Member
(w) A school superintendent, appointed by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association.	Vacant	
(x) A representative of a peer recovery program, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.	Daisy Pierce	Executive Director
(y) An environmental health researcher from a New Hampshire college or university, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.	Suzanne Galoucher	Director
(z) A representative of a philanthropic organization, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.	Andie Hession	Grants Program Associate

(aa) A substance use disorder treatment provider, appointed by the New Hampshire Providers Association. *	* The New Hampshire Providers Association ceased operations on June 30, 2024.	
(bb) A community action program representative, appointed by the New Hampshire Community Action Partnership.	Beth Daniels	Southwestern Community Services
(cc) The director of the Nashua health department, or designee.	Bobbie Bagley	Director
(dd) A health officer, appointed by the New Hampshire Health Officers Association.	Kim McNamara	Health Officer
(ee) Commissioner of the Department of Business and Economic Affairs	Vacant	
(ff) A representative of Community Support Network, Inc. (CSNI) appointed by CSNI.	Rebecca Bryant	President
(gg) A representative from New Hampshire Community Behavioral Health Association, appointed by association.	Margaret Pritchard	CEO
(hh) Director of the Office of Health Equity Department of Health and Human Services, or designee	Reuben Hampton	Director
(ii) Director of the Josiah Bartlett Center for public policy, or designee	Vacant	

SHA-SHIP Advisory Council facilitation and support provided by:

Jo Porter, Director
UNH Institute of Health Policy and Practice (through June 30, 2024)

Katie Robert, Director
Community Health Institute, JSI-Northern New England (through June 30, 2024)

Dr. Palmira Santos, Research and Evaluation Scientist
Schneider Institutes for Health Policy
Brandeis University (as of August 1, 2024)

Kristen Faughnan, Senior Research Associate
Schneider Institutes for Health Policy and Research
Brandeis University (as of August 1, 2024)

Summary of SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Activity: November 2, 2024, to November 1, 2025

Dr. Palmira Santos and Kristen Faughnan from Brandeis University worked with the Council to update the data from the 2021 State Health Assessment (SHA) and to determine how best to begin implementing the priorities in the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). Four workgroups were created to help with the planning of Council meetings and to update the data located in the SHA.
The workgroups formed were:

1. Leadership Workgroup
2. Access to Opportunity Workgroup
3. Health Status & Outcomes Workgroup
4. Measurement Workgroup

The Leadership Workgroup was created to assist with planning Council meetings, while the other three workgroups provided input on data suggested by Dr. Santos and Ms. Faughnan that would eventually become the *NH State Health Improvement Plan Annual Report 2025.* The report was completed and shared with Council members on June 30, 2025. The report provides updates to the data included in the 2021 SHA, discusses the limitations of that data, and gives examples of data sources that could be included in the next iteration of the SHA. Dr. Santos also provided recommendations, based on suggestions from each workgroup, on what additional steps the Council should take regarding data collection, including completing a scan of New Hampshire-generated data, utilizing targeted surveys to access missing data, and suggesting the Council convene panels of experts specific to housing, food insecurity, and healthcare provider shortages.

Due to funding constraints, the contract with Brandeis University for facilitation of the Council ended on June 30, 2025. Scot Foster, Community Outreach Coordinator for the NH Division of Public Health (DPH), began assisting the Council with meeting logistics, communications and facilitation as of July 1, 2025.

The five Council meetings held between November 18, 2024, and September 26, 2025, included discussions and presentations on the Unite Us statewide coordinated care network, a discussion on proposed state legislation relative to SHIP priorities, and a panel presentation on potential Medicaid policy changes and what the impacts of those changes would be for New Hampshire residents. Council meetings also included updates from each of the workgroups and Whitney Hammond, Interim Deputy Director of the NH Division of Public Health (DPH), presented an overview of what activities DPH proposed for the 2025-2026 CDC Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant. Prior to the September 26, 2025, Council meeting, 15 of the 35 (43%) active Council members volunteered to participate in a standardized interview process to provide input on the Council's accomplishments and challenges over the last year. Council members interviewed reported that the three largest health-related issues currently facing the state were access to and coordination of healthcare services, the cost and limited supply of housing, and food insecurity.

With the General Court of New Hampshire SHA-SHIP Advisory Council website unable to post audio or video recordings of Council Meetings, Jessica Morton, Health Communication Specialist with DPH, created a new webpage on the existing SHA-SHIP website. The new page will host Council news and information, including meeting documents, audio and video recordings, as well as upcoming meeting dates.

The State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement (SHA-SHIP) Advisory Council webpage was launched on October 13, 2025. Council members and members of the public will now be able to view

meetings presentations, agendas, minutes, and video recordings of Council meetings. Meeting agendas, minutes, and presentation slides will continue to be posted on the General Court of New Hampshire website, as well.

Below is a summary of each of the Council meetings held between November 2, 2024, and November 1, 2025, as well as a summary of workgroup meetings held between November 2, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

Reaching a Quorum as a Council and Defining "Equity" (Meeting date: 11/18/24)

Dr. Santos led the Council in a discussion on how the group defines the term "equity," with Reuben Hampton, Director of the Office of Health Access for DHHS, sharing more about equity from the perspective of that office. Council members discussed the challenges in different regions of the state and members discussed the work of the Community Engagement Workgroup that was created by the Council early on in its formation but is no longer active.

The Council discussed the Unite Us coordinated care network and it was determined that a representative from Unite Us should be invited to join a future Council meeting so members could learn more about current Unite Us efforts in the state.

Meeting Attendance		
Attendee Category	**# of attendees in person**	**# of attendees online**
Council members or Designee	11	15
Facilitators	2	0
Public/other	0	1

- Agenda, Presentations, Minutes
- Recording

Unite Us Presentation and Legislative/Workgroup Updates (Meeting date: 1/28/25)

Jennifer Olson, Information Technology Manager from the Office of the Commissioner, provided an overview on the Unite Us coordinated care system, including a new prioritization timeline for inclusion of services. Emergency departments, NH Hospital coordination, Doorways services, and rapid response/211 services are currently in the process of being added, with community-based organizations being added to the Unite Us platform later in the process.

Dr. Santos announced that the Access to Opportunity Workgroup, Health Status & Outcomes Workgroup and the Measurement Workgroup were starting to meet and would continue to meet monthly through the end of June 2025. Dr. Santos shared that the purpose of the workgroups would be to provide input toward the update of the SHA, referred to as the *NH State Health Improvement Plan Annual Report 2025*, to be completed in 2025.

Meeting Attendance		
Attendee Category	**# of attendees in person**	**# of attendees online**
Council members or Designee	4	12
Facilitators	2	0
Public/other	0	1

- Agenda, Presentations, and Minutes
- Recording

Impact of Policy Changes, State Legislation, Workgroup Updates (Meeting date: 3/25/25)

Phil Sletten, Research Director for the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute, presented on the potential impacts of the proposed federal Medicaid policy changes. Mr. Sletten reported that Medicaid is the largest program New Hampshire operates, with a total of $2.5 billion dollars going to all its various parts. Federal funds for Medicaid were the largest source of revenue to the state in SFY 2024, totaling $1.4 billion dollars.

Mr. Sletten presented that children in households with low incomes represented 86,533 (46%) of state Medicaid enrollees, with children and adults with disabilities representing 15,571 (8%), and Foster Care and older adults representing an additional 23,045 (12%) of the state's Medicaid population.

Mr. Sletten discussed two federal proposals around Medicaid that, if implemented together, could cost the State of New Hampshire $493 million dollars during state fiscal year 2025 to maintain the same level of service for Medicaid enrollees.

Dr. Santos facilitated the state legislation discussion on four proposed housing bills, one healthcare workforce shortage bill, and three other health-related bills, including the "Momnibus 2.0" bill, that would have the state invest in birth centers and expand access to home visits. The group also discussed SB 190 , that would reduce the number of Council members required to be in attendance at meetings in order to achieve a quorum.

The Measurement, Health Status & Outcomes, and Access to Opportunity workgroups each provided brief updates on their work toward updating the SHA data.

Meeting Attendance		
Attendee Category	**# of attendees in person**	**# of attendees online**
Council members or Designee	7	10
Facilitators	2	0
Public/other	0	2

- Agenda, Presentations, and Minutes
- Recording

Workgroup Updates and Potential State Budget Impacts (Meeting date: 5/20/25)

The May 20, 2025, Council meeting had the highest in-person attendance, with 14 members attending in-person vs. 10 members attending via Zoom. The Council made a concerted effort to have members attend in person, which proved helpful and allowed for a quorum to be achieved.

With a quorum reached, the Council members attending in person voted unanimously to approve the minutes for all meetings held since July 1, 2024. Council members then voted to elect Dr. David Nagel as Chairperson and Ed Shanshala as Co-Chairperson of the Council. The Measurement, Health Status & Outcomes, and Access to Opportunity workgroups each provided brief updates on their work toward updating the SHA data.

Phil Sletten, Research Director, and Jess Williams, Policy Analyst with the NH Fiscal Policy Institute, presented on the potential impacts to New Hampshire residents based on the changes to the New Hampshire State Budget. Among the challenges presented were the repeal of the Interest and Dividends Tax in January of 2025, that decreases state revenues by $184.6 million dollars, which is 8.8% of New

Hampshire's general fund revenues during the last fiscal year. Mr. Sletten also detailed some of the policy changes in the Governor's proposed budget, including a reduction in funding for developmental services and an overall decline in funding for services among older adults and people with disabilities. Lower payments for hospitals for uncompensated patient care due to a lack of an agreement regarding Medicaid Enhanced Tax funding was also discussed, which would lead to a $183.3 million-dollar (61%) reduction between fiscal year 2025 and fiscal year 2026.

Whitney Hammond presented on the HB 2 House budget changes and their potential impact on DPH. Ms. Hammond shared that the impacts would be felt in the areas of childhood immunizations, the State Loan Repayment Program, and the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program, to name a few. Ms. Hammond also discussed the proposed federal budget, which could impact community health worker funding, DPH Laboratory funds, immunization clinics, mental health services, addiction treatment, and the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation and Program.

Meeting Attendance		
Attendee Category	**# of attendees in person**	**# of attendees online**
Council members or Designee	14	6
Facilitators	2	0
Public/other	0	2

- Agenda, Presentations, and Minutes
- Recording

Overview of SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Interviews/Rural Health Transformation Program (Meeting date: 9/26/25)

Scot Foster sent an email to all 35 active Council members in August of 2025 asking if any members would be willing to complete a structured interview. Questions included how they felt the last year with the Council had gone; what the primary challenges and successes were; what members felt the biggest public health issues were in New Hampshire; and what direction the Council should take in the next year.

Fifteen of the 35 (43%) active Council members participated in the interviews, and Scot presented on some of the major themes that emerged, including:

- Interviewees felt that the Council needs better leadership, better communication, and actionable goals
- The Council would like more opportunities to advise DHHS and state legislators on public health issues and initiatives being planned in the state, rather than hearing presentations from various groups
- Improving access to healthcare/behavioral health, coordination of services, affordable and available housing, services for older adults, and food insecurity were the state's top public health concerns reported by the interviewees

The Council discussed how workgroups were utilized in the previous year, and Council members agreed that workgroups need to have clear objectives, defined goals, and better leadership. The group agreed to discuss what workgroups would be needed this coming year at the November 2025 Council meeting.

Whitney Hammond provided an overview of the new DHHS Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), which is a $100-200 million dollar federal grant opportunity from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Council discussed how members, partners, and members of the public could submit

potential grant initiatives to DHHS. Council members were encouraged to submit initiatives through the Survey Monkey link provided and to also promote the link to any organizations they felt would be interested in submitting grant initiatives. Ms. Hammond also discussed the potential need for an advisory council for the RHTP and if the SHA-SHIP Advisory Council could meet that need. Council members agreed to continue that discussion at the November 2025 Council meeting.

Meeting Attendance		
Attendee Category	**# of attendees in person**	**# of attendees online**
Council members or Designee	8	10
Facilitators	1	0
Public/other	2	0

- Agenda, Presentations, and Minutes
- Recording

SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Workgroup Activity

Leadership Workgroup

- Workgroup members: Scot Foster, Whitney Hammond, David Nagel, Ed Shanshala, Meaghan Heusler, Tory Jennison, Ali Sekou, Dr. Palmira Santos, and Kristen Faughnan
- Met six times between November 2, 2024, and November 1, 2025
- Determined the number of Council meetings, as well as specific meeting dates and locations
- Created agendas for each Council meeting

Access to Opportunity Workgroup

- Workgroup members: Polly Campion, Daisy Pierce, Andie Hession, Dee Daley, Josh Meehan, Meaghan Heusler, Justin Romanello, Ali Sekou, Maggie Pradgett, Scot Foster, Dr. Palmira Santos, and Kristen Faughnan
- Met on January 14, March 4, and May 8, 2025.
- Reviewed data provided by Dr. Palmira Santos, both from the SHA and data not included in the SHA, specific to housing affordability, availability, economic stability, and participation rates for the NH Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Dr. Santos used feedback from the group to create the *NH State Health Improvement Plan Annual Report 2025*

Health Status and Outcomes Workgroup

- Workgroup members: Dee Daley, Maggie Pritchard, Morgan Harris, Tory Jennison, Scot Foster, Dr. Palmira Santos, and Kristen Faughnan
- Met on December 18, 2024, January 22, 2025, February 27, 2025, and May 7, 2025
- The group reviewed the NH Insurance Department's 2024 Final Report of Health Care Premium and Claim Cost Drivers, NH Medicaid Unwinding Data, and data from both the SHA and outside the SHA specific to primary care, dental care, and mental health care providers per 100,000 population. The workgroup also looked at insurance coverage types and medical costs in New Hampshire
- Dr. Santos used feedback from the group to create the *NH State Health Improvement Plan Annual Report 2025*

Measurement Workgroup

- Workgroup members: Andie Hession, Jess Williams (NH Fiscal Policy Institute), Lauren Pearson, Reuben Hampton, Tory Jennison, Dr. Palmira Santos, and Kristen Faughnan
- Met on December 3, 2024, January 21, 2025, February 27, 2025, and May 6, 2025
- The group reviewed the Area Deprivation Index and the Social Vulnerability Index, as well as statewide data on housing (suggested by the Access to Opportunity Workgroup), educational attainment, income, internet subscriptions, SNAP, commute distances/times, transportation, early childhood, and treatment/provider data (suggested by the Health Status and Outcomes Workgroup). Chronic disease data on smoking, diabetes, asthma, heart disease, high blood pressure, along with data on mental health, was also reviewed.
- Dr. Santos used feedback from the group to create the *NH State Health Improvement Plan Annual Report 2025*

Recommendations for Legislation: 2025

New Hampshire SB 190 was signed by Governor Sununu on June 24, 2024, which changed the quorum requirements for the SHA-SHIP Advisory Council to, "1/7th of the total appointed membership of the Council."

The bill also states that, "A [Council] member participating in a meeting remotely as described in this paragraph is deemed to be present for all purposes, including for determination of a quorum and voting," meaning that Council members attending via Microsoft Teams can now count toward a quorum.
SB 190 directly addressed the recommendation made by the Council in 2024, which can be viewed on page 20, making it easier for the Council to achieve quorums for each meeting.

While no specific legislation was recommended for 2025, the Council did discuss the potential challenges of reducing the number of residents eligible for Medicaid. The Council considered that cuts to the program not only adversely impact Medicaid enrollees but may also directly lead to closures of hospitals and healthcare facilities in rural areas.

The Council also discussed statewide issues around the cost and availability of housing, as well as the potential for loss of access to behavioral health services and services for New Hampshire residents with disabilities and their families/caregivers.

Future Work: November 2, 2025, to November 1, 2026

The Council will be focusing on improving communication with statewide partners, such as the Regional Public Health Networks (RPHNs), and will be looking for current public health initiatives in New Hampshire that fit under the four large domains included in the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). The Council will review the *SHIP Champions* designation, created by Katie Robert, Jo Porter, and the Council in 2023, to potentially recognize "champions" doing great public health work in New Hampshire.

The Council will also continue to work with staff from DHHS to determine what, if any, role the Council will have regarding the Rural Health Transformation Program.

Council members want to play a more active role in advising on proposed state legislation that could impact the health of New Hampshire citizens. The Council looks forward to having conversations with both DHHS and state legislators on how best to provide suggestions around legislation, including cost-benefit analysis, when possible.

2025 SHA-SHIP Advisory Council Membership and Representation

Legislative Appointment	Name	Title
(a) Two members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader.	Dr. David Nagel	House Majority
(a) Two members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader.	William Palmer	House Minority
(b) Two members of the senate, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, appointed by the senate president.	Suzanne Prentiss	Senate Minority
(b) Two members of the senate, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, appointed by the senate president.	David Rochefort	Senate Majority
(c) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee.	Ann Landry	Associate Commissioner
(d) The commissioner of the department of education, or designee.	Madeline Parker	Child Nutrition Programs Manager
(e) The commissioner of the department of insurance, or designee.	Morgan Harris	Director of Healthcare Analytics
(f) The commissioner of the department of safety, or designee	Justin Romanello	Bureau Chief, EMS
(g) The commissioner of the department of corrections, or designee.	Mary Reed	Deputy Director of Medical Services
(h) The New Hampshire attorney general, or designee.	Alexandra Sosnowski	Assistant Attorney General
(i) The director of the division of public health services, department of health and human services, or designee.	Whitney Hammond	Interim Deputy Director, DPH
(j) The chairperson of state commission on aging, or designee.	Polly Campion	Chair of State Commission on Aging

(k) The director of the Manchester health department, or designee.	Anna Thomas	Chief Strategy Officer
(l) A representative from the New Hampshire Public Health Association, appointed by the association.	Tory Jennison	Executive Director
(m) A representative of the New Hampshire Alliance for Healthy Aging, appointed by the alliance.	Martha McLeod	VP of Community Engagement
(n) A representative of the North Country Health Consortium, appointed by the consortium.	Lauren Pearson	Executive Director
(o) A representative of the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute, appointed by the institute.	Phil Sletten	Research Director
(p) Two representatives from housing entities, one appointed by the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, and one appointed by the New Hampshire Housing Authorities Corporation.	Catherine Bowler	Executive Director, Laconia Housing
(p) Two representatives from housing entities, one appointed by the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, and one appointed by the New Hampshire Housing Authorities Corporation.	Ali Sekou	NH Housing Finance Authority, Manager of Community Engagement and Inclusion
(q) Three representatives of hospitals located in New Hampshire, one from an academic medical center, one from a community hospital that is not a critical access hospital, and one from a critical access hospital, appointed by the New Hampshire Hospital Association.	Tricia Zahn – Academic Medical Center (Cheshire Medical Center)	Senior Director of Population Health
(q) Three representatives of hospitals located in New Hampshire, one from an academic medical center, one from a community hospital that is not a critical access hospital, and one from a critical access hospital, appointed by the New Hampshire Hospital Association.	Meaghan Heusler, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital	Planning Data Analyst & Community Benefit Manager

(q) Three representatives of hospitals located in New Hampshire, one from an academic medical center, one from a community hospital that is not a critical access hospital, and one from a critical access hospital, appointed by the New Hampshire Hospital Association.	Monika O'Clair, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital	Chief Strategy Officer
(r) A representative of a federally qualified community health center, appointed by the Bi-State Primary Care Association.	Edward D. Shanshala II	CEO, Ammonoosuc Community Health Services
(s) A psychiatrist or psychologist licensed in New Hampshire, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.	Benjamin C. Hillyard	Psychotherapist
(t) A physician, appointed by the New Hampshire Medical Society.	Maria Boylan	Doctor of Family Medicine
(u) An advanced practice nurse practitioner licensed in New Hampshire, appointed by the New Hampshire Nurse Practitioners Association.	Jennifer Johnson	Nurse Practitioner
(v) A representative of municipal government, appointed by the New Hampshire Municipal Association.	Deirdre Daley	Planning Board Member
(w) A school superintendent, appointed by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association.	Vacant	
(x) A representative of a peer recovery program, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.	Vacant	
(y) An environmental health researcher from a New Hampshire college or university, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.	Suzanne Galoucher	Associate Professor, Plymouth State University
(z) A representative of a philanthropic organization, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.	Andie Hession	Grants Program Associate, Endowment for Health
(aa) A substance use disorder treatment provider, appointed by the New Hampshire Providers Association. *	* The New Hampshire Providers Association ceased operations on June 30, 2024.	
(bb) A community action program representative, appointed by the New Hampshire Community Action Partnership.	Beth Daniels	CEO, Southwestern Community Services
(cc) The director of the Nashua health department, or designee.	Bobbie Bagley	Director
(dd) A health officer, appointed by the New Hampshire Health Officers Association.	Kim McNamara	Health Officer, Portsmouth
(ee) Commissioner of the Department of Business and Economic Affairs	Vacant	
(ff) A representative of Community Support Network, Inc. (CSNI) appointed by CSNI.	Ann Potoczak	President and CEO
(gg) A representative from New Hampshire Community Behavioral Health Association, appointed by association.	Margaret Pritchard	CEO
(hh) Director of the Office of Health Access, Department of Health and Human Services, or designee	Reuben Hampton	Director

(ii) Director of the Josiah Bartlett Center for public policy, or designee	Vacant	
SHA-SHIP Advisory Council facilitation and support provided by: Dr. Palmira Santos, Research and Evaluation Scientist Schneider Institutes for Health Policy Brandeis University (August 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025) Kristen Faughnan, Senior Research Associate Schneider Institutes for Health Policy and Research Brandeis University (August 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025) Scot Foster Community Strategies Coordinator NH Division of Public Health (July 1, 2025, to present)		