

New Hampshire Area Health Education Center

Kristina Fjeld-Sparks, MPH
Director, NH AHEC Program Office

Nancy Frank, MPH
Executive Director, North Country Health Consortium, Northern NH AHEC

Paula Smith, MBA
Director, Southern NH AHEC



NH AHEC Mission

To develop innovative approaches that meet the health needs of diverse populations by enhancing the knowledge, skills, and capacity of the health care workforce and New Hampshire communities.



AHECs Background

- 1972 – Area Health Education Centers were established through Congressional action to prepare primary care physicians for community practice following a Carnegie Commission report: *Higher Education and Nation's Health: Policies for Medical and Dental Education*.
- Establishment of the first AHECs coincided with establishment of community health centers and National Health Service Corps (NHSC)
- Receive infrastructure seed funding from a competitive grant through Health Resources Services Administration(HRSA).



AHEC

Robust national network

In general, the AHECs support:

Education

Clinical Care

Workforce Development

Community Health/Population Health



NH AHEC

- Established in 1997 – through Community and Family Medicine at Dartmouth Medical School (now Geisel School of Medicine).
- Structure in NH is one program office and two center offices:
 - Program office: The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice (Lebanon NH)
 - Center office: Northern NH AHEC at North Country Health Consortium (Littleton NH)
 - Center office: Southern NH AHEC at Lamprey Health Care (Raymond NH)

NH AHEC

- Part of the national network
- Bridge academic resources to communities
- With limited funding from the HRSA grant, each AHEC office seeks additional funding on the local level or works together on statewide or national initiatives.
- Structure designed to continually adapt to meet the community needs.

Few examples of NH AHEC activities

- Health Careers Programs for Youth
- Training of health professions students
- Continuing education for health providers and public health workforce
- Community Health Worker Training
- Chronic Disease Self Management
- Public Health Network/Substance Misuse Prevention Network
- Public Health Training Center (New England)
- Cultural and Interpretation training
- ***New Statewide Initiative: NH SBIRT Training Collaborative***

NCHC/NNHAHEC Workforce Efforts

- Live, Learn, Play in Northern New Hampshire
- Quality Improvement/Motivational Interviewing
- Health Career Opportunity Program for Paraprofessionals

SNHAHEC Workforce Efforts

- Continuing education to promote behavioral health & primary care integration
- Interpretation Training
- Community Health Workers

Thank you!

- **Kristina Fjeld-Sparks, MPH**
Director, NH AHEC Program Office
Kristina.E.Fjeld-Sparks@Dartmouth.edu
- **Nancy Frank, MPH**
Executive Director, North Country Health Consortium, Northern NH AHEC
nfrank@nchcnh.org
- **Paula Smith, MBA**
Director, Southern NH AHEC
psmith@snhahec.org