

State Commission on Aging



Rebecca Sky

Executive Director

March 10, 2021



Established 2019



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[RSA Chapter 19-P: State Commission on Aging](#)



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Members

26 Members:

1 Senator

2 Representatives

13 Community Members from 10 Counties

8 State Agencies:

- Department of Health & Human Services
- Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- Department of Employment Security
- Department of Transportation
- Attorney General
- NH Housing Finance Authority
- Department of Safety
- Department of Labor



Duties – RSA Chapter 19:P

- Review and recommend proposals for rules, legislation, waivers, operations, and other policies.
- Review and provide input relative to state planning efforts across agencies, including the state plan on aging, the mental health plan, and transportation and safety.
- Formulate or help to formulate, review, and evaluate policy proposals, considering fiscal, program, provider, and recipient impact, and make recommendations accordingly.
- Encourage the development of coordinated interdepartmental goals and objectives and the coordinating programs, services, and facilities among all state departments and nongovernmental organizations as they relate to older adults.
- Identify and recommend ways in which the state can support local and community efforts, through educational programs or otherwise, to promote healthy aging.
- Identify and recommend ways in which the state can partner with non-governmental organizations to promote healthy aging.
- Promote the skills, talents, and energy older Granite Staters can offer to make New Hampshire a better place to live for everyone.
- Assist in the implementation of the state plan on aging.
- Make a continuing assessment of problems relating to older adults.
- Advocate solutions to provide better integration of older persons into the social and economic life of the state.
- Solicit the cooperation and help of the various groups concerned with the problems facing older adults.
- Obtain from such groups their views, experience, assistance, and recommendations in the preparation and direction of future planning and administrative and legislative action as the commission may from time to time deem necessary and advisable.
- Request from governmental agencies within the state, subject to available resources, in making available such information, suggestions, and statistics to enable the commission to perform its functions.
- Other matters the commission deems necessary related to aging.



What Can the COA Uniquely Impact?

Initiated Strategic Planning Activities:

1. **Dialogue:** about priorities, community context / areas of influence, available resources. Develop a common understanding of the issues, root causes and potential solutions.
2. **Lay Foundation:** Map the landscape and use data – where is there alignment and opportunity for action.
3. **Organize for Impact:** Create agenda of common goals and strategy.
4. **Envision Success:** Develop measures to accompany goals and strategies, establish baselines





State of New Hampshire Commission on Aging

Vision

All people have the opportunity to thrive and be valued while growing older in New Hampshire.

Mission

To be a catalyst for change that values, serves, and celebrates people as they grow older.

3 Year Strategic Priorities

October 2020-September 2023

Develop and advance strategies to improve people's ability to age in the communities of their choice

Year 1 objectives:

- Objective to be developed by Task Force and approved by full Commission.

Catalyze New Hampshire towards being an Age-Friendly State

Year 1 objectives:

- Meet with leadership of age-friendly community initiatives to learn what supports from a state level would be beneficial to their goals.
- Request leadership of at least one state agency to come to the State Commission to discuss how they plan to incorporate the impact of aging demographics in their strategic planning by March 2021.

Engage Leaders regarding the Emerging Needs of Older Adults during the COVID-19 Epidemic

Year 1 objectives:

- Engage key stakeholders and subject matter experts on emerging needs in order to bring forward recommendations for action to the full Commission.

Develop Commission Infrastructure to Support Operational Success

Year 1 objectives:

- Create Task Forces in alignment with 3 year plan to develop objectives and strategies by November 2020.
- Help members of the Commission be effective by clarifying terms, defining roles and expectations and developing an onboarding process for new members of the Commission by January 2021.
- Develop Commission processes for advising the Legislature and Governor on current legislation and recommendations for future public policy by June 2021.

Values

Forward Thinking – We anticipate the future and are creative and innovative finding new ways forward.

Collaboration – We embrace cooperation as complex issues require multiple perspectives for development of meaningful solutions and collective action.

Public Trust - We pursue common good in ways that are respectful, accountable, transparent, equitable, and worthy of trust.

Stewardship – We seek to maximize benefit from New Hampshire resources.

Expertise – We utilize the wealth of knowledge and skills available within our state agencies, businesses, and communities.

Opportunity – We strive to amend systematic patterns of disadvantage and marginalization so that all have the opportunity to thrive while growing older.

Engagement - We aim to leverage the talents and energy of older people in New Hampshire to create a better future.



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3 Year Strategic Priorities

October 2020-September 2023

- *Develop and advance strategies to improve people's ability to age in the communities of their choice*
- *Catalyze New Hampshire towards being an Age-Friendly State*
- *Engage Leaders regarding the Emerging Needs of Older Adults during the COVID-19 Epidemic*
- *Develop Commission Infrastructure to Support Operational Success*



Aging in Community of Choice Task Force

Develop and advance strategies to improve people's ability to age in the communities of their choice

Year 1 objectives:

- Define the continuum of older adult population needs to age in place, what resources are available to meet those needs, what gaps exist, and potential policy solutions towards increasing access to supports by September 2021.
- Activities:
 - *Describe population and continuum of needs by Feb 2021.*
 - *Inventory available resources and gaps by May 2021.*
 - *Define possible policy avenues by August 2021. Consider how technology and new ideas on organization and/or rebalancing of system of care and delivery of services could impact gaps.*
 - *Advocate for policy avenues by October 2021.*



Age-Friendly State Task Force

Catalyze New Hampshire towards being an Age-Friendly State

Year 1 objectives:

- Meet with leadership of age-friendly community initiatives to learn what supports from a state level would be beneficial to their goals.
- Request leadership of at least one state agency to come to the State Commission to discuss how they plan to incorporate the impact of aging demographics in their strategic planning by March 2021.



COVID-19 Emerging Issues Task Force

Engage key stakeholder and subject matter experts in order to bring forward recommendations for action to the full Commission relative to the impact of COVID-19 on older adults in New Hampshire with the goal of helping older citizens come out of this crisis stronger.

- **Ageism** — address perceptions regarding older adults, societal behaviors and economic opportunities during the pandemic.
- **Social Isolation** — research and review strategies to alleviate social isolation during the pandemic such as broadband access, training on the use of technology,
- **Long Term Care System** — research innovative facility redesigns in order to provide better social distancing recommendations to the Commission.



Operational Infrastructure Task Force

Develop Commission Infrastructure to Support Operational Success

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- Help members of the Commission be effective by clarifying terms, defining roles and expectations and developing an onboarding process for new members of the Commission by January 2021.
- Develop Commission processes for advising the Legislature and Governor on current legislation and recommendations for future public policy by June 2021.



Annual Report

Brief Summary of Recommendations (published November 2020)

1. Conduct an in-depth assessment of the Long-Term System of Care
2. Increase funding for Nutrition Support Services
3. Statewide assessment of older adults' transportation needs
4. Increase housing affordable to older adults and the care provider workforce
5. Revisit Right-to-Know laws to allow for the continuation of public meetings via remote means
6. Sustain growth of telehealth services beyond the current state of emergency
7. Support a statewide vision for and investment in high speed broadband infrastructure



Annual Report

Executive Summary

<https://nhcoa.nh.gov/documents/FY2020/COA-2020-ANNUAL-REPORT-Executive-Summary-FINAL.pdf>

Full Report

https://nhcoa.nh.gov/documents/COA_2020_ANNUAL_REPORT_FINAL_DRAFT.pdf

The NH State Commission on Aging will continue to investigate how all of us can have the opportunity to thrive and be valued while growing older in New Hampshire in the years to come.



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