



## New Hampshire Health & Equity Partnership

### October 2015 Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of the New Hampshire Health and Equity Partnership quarterly e-newsletter. Our goal is to keep the community informed of the many partners' achievements, as well as past, present and future activities. We are very excited about this new opportunity to strengthen our Partnership through increased understanding of our respective efforts to advance our shared vision, and hopefully also foster increased collaboration.

We encourage you to share your stories and upcoming events through this e-newsletter by contacting Nathalie Ahyi at [nahyi@healthynh.com](mailto:nahyi@healthynh.com). As a member of the Equity Google Group, you are already subscribed to this quarterly newsletter. Feel free to ask your friends to subscribe through the button below and to share this newsletter with your networks. Your feedback is very welcome. Please let us know how we can better serve you.

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## Introducing Dr. Nathalie Ahyi: Director of the NH Health and Equity Partnership



Nathalie Ahyi, Ph.D., has joined the NH Health and Equity Partnership as its new director. In this capacity, she is responsible for raising the profile of the Partnership and for forging new,

collaborative relationships with other coalitions. She will also be working with partners to improve the availability of data on health disparities in New Hampshire and for building the necessary momentum to advance health equity for all of the state's residents.

A native of Togo, West Africa, Dr. Ahyi has extensive scientific training and education. She holds a Master of Science in plant physiology from the University de Lomé, Togo, and another Master of Science in Molecular Pharmacology and Medicinal Chemistry from Purdue University. Additionally, Ahyi received her Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from Indiana University and Purdue University at Indianapolis. "Through the course of my education, I became increasingly interested in community health issues and subsequently, began looking for ways to work on health disparities among populations," said Ahyi, noting that this interest led her to the NH Health and Equity Partnership.

"Dr. Ahyi brings a deep concern for the equity issues that the Partnership is trying to address, as well as life experience here in NH and several other places where she has lived," said Shawn LaFrance, executive director of the Foundation for Healthy Communities. "Her scientific training aligns well with the collective impact model in which we are engaged to begin tackling a complex issue like equity."

Ahyi drew some interesting health equity comparisons between her native country of Togo and what she has seen in the United States and New Hampshire in particular. "In Togo, health disparities are based largely on income and geography. There are different ethnicities, but almost everyone speaks at least two languages so language barriers were not as much of an issue. Here in New Hampshire, the data clearly points to health disparities for low-income populations as well as racial, ethnic, and language minorities. I am excited about gathering and analyzing further data on this topic and using an empirical approach to address equity issues," she said.

Yet, of all the work ahead of her, Ahyi most looks forward to collaborating with community leaders to better understand local needs and to help create a culture of health equity for all in the Granite State.

## **NH Health & Equity Partnership Fall 2015 Convening**

You are invited to attend the:

### **NH Health & Equity Partnership Fall 2015 Convening**

**Thursday, November 5th, 2015**

**1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

(Registration, networking and light refreshments at 12:30pm)

Manchester Health Department  
1528 Elm Street, Manchester, NH

[Download Flyer](#)

**Come Share and Celebrate the great work done collectively by all the various members of the partnership!**



It's time to celebrate the great work done collectively by all the various members of the partnership! Please come prepared to share what you are doing towards the Health & Equity Partnership's vision of seeking a fair opportunity to live a long, healthy life for all. Our learning in this session will be key to the next step in our journey as a partnership -- a follow-up convening in December to focus our shared agenda for our work together going forward!

Registration, networking and light refreshments begin at 12:30pm.

## **Please Register in Advance**

We want to ensure we have a seat for everyone. Please use the following link to complete a registration form by November 4th, 2015: <https://nhhep2015fallconvening.eventbrite.com>.

If you have information to share, but are not able to attend, please send ahead of time to Nathalie at [nahyi@healthynh.com](mailto:nahyi@healthynh.com). We want to be certain to include everyone's achievements and need to hear from you so your information can be included!

Contact Nathalie Ahyi @ 415-4272 or [nahyi@healthynh.com](mailto:nahyi@healthynh.com)

# Nuestra Voz /“Our Voice”: A New Voice for Equity in NH



Since March 2015, Manchester Public Access Television has had a new bi-weekly Spanish-language television program entitled Nuestra Voz or “Our Voice.” The brainchild of Eva Castillo, Director of NH Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees, and Daniel Maradiaga, the former Minority Health Program Specialist at the Office of Minority Health & Refugee Affairs, the program was created to address the lack of Spanish-language radio or television programming being broadcast from NH.

Ms. Castillo says “Ever since the defunding and closing of the Latin American Center I have had a sense of frustration. I do not understand how the largest immigrant/minority population in the state has no organization specifically dedicated to addressing their needs. I also felt many times as the lone voice for Latinos in the immigrant integration meetings in the state.

I thought making a TV program in Spanish would be a way to link us all until we can have a Center to serve the Latinos. The program would feature guest speakers and inform the community about the issues that concern us. It would be done in Spanish and the guests would give their presentations in Spanish.”

Each episode of the program airs four times on Channel 23 and then is archived on the “***Nuestra Voz NH***” Facebook page so people can access it in their own time. To date, 13 episodes have been recorded covering topics such as: the Affordable Care Act and how to get health insurance coverage under “Obamacare”; the Immigrant Integration Initiative; Immigration/Citizenship paperwork and clinics; Alzheimer’s Disease; workers’ rights; fair housing and tenant rights; and learning about the work of the Office of Minority Health & Refugee Affairs, the Office of Youth Services, and the Boys and Girls Club. The pair has done the footwork of trying to get the word out in the community – going to Spanish speaking businesses and churches to post the program flyer and keep trying to widen the audience.

Eva and Daniel are both longstanding and well known members of the Latino community and share a commitment to inform, serve, and ultimately, to motivate Latinos to speak up and take

action on the issues that concern them. They ask for our assistance in helping spread word of this new valuable resource to those who can most benefit from it by making [this flier](#) available to your constituents and clients.

## Wake Up. Learn. Reflect. Teach. Act. A Teach-In on October 24th to Promote Dialogue and Inspire Change



In March of 2015, a group of concerned individuals came together to create a movement for New Hampshire People of Color and their Allies to explore the impact of race on the quality of life for everyone (especially people of color) and transition into actions that will facilitate change.

The October 24th Teach-In is the next step in this process and provides an opportunity for collaboration in an effort to examine, discuss and address how race and race relationships have an impact on how we function in United States and specifically New Hampshire.



**The keynote speaker is Curtiss Reed, Jr., Executive Director of the Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity**

We need multiple voices at table to address the complexities associated with this topic. The keynote speaker is Curtiss Reed, Jr., Executive Director of the Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity. The program includes plenary sessions on Education, Juvenile Criminal Justice: The Womb to Prison Pipeline, and Political Action & Civic Engagement.

To register and/or obtain more information visit: ***Teach In!*** Questions can also be directed to Yemi Mahoney ([omahoney@anselm.edu](mailto:omahoney@anselm.edu) or 603.656.6028) or Dottie Morris ([dmorris@keene.edu](mailto:dmorris@keene.edu)).

The NH Health and Equity Partnership is pleased to be a partner for this event – and we are looking for more groups to join the movement with the other confirmed partners: Black Women’s Health Project, Emerging Leaders in Communities of Color, Keene State College, Manchester NAACP, NH Multicultural Student Affairs Consortium, Rivier University, Saint Anselm College, Southern New Hampshire University, Southern New Hampshire Outreach for Black Unity, University of New Hampshire, and Victory Women of Vision.

## **OE3 is Coming! Open Enrollment Period for the Health Insurance Marketplace**



*NHPICCC Outreach and Enrollment Workers Sugely Marin and Xiomara Miranda at the Nashua Latino Festival*

Mark your calendars – Open Enrollment begins November 1st! This is the time when consumers are able to sign up for health insurance in the Marketplace for 2016, if they do not already have health insurance coverage through their place of employment or some other means.

As service providers we can encourage and help facilitate the process. New Hampshire has many organizations that are educating consumers about their options for coverage as well as assisting consumers while navigating the process and getting enrolled – these dedicated staff may be called Marketplace Assisters, In-Person Assisters, Navigators, or Certified Application Counselors. A comprehensive list and map of where to ***Get Help*** can be found on the ***Covering NH*** website as well as lots of other information.

Research has revealed that people need to be exposed to information about accessing health insurance 8 times (on average) before they take action; for immigrants and refugees that number tends to be even higher. In-person assistance is imperative for our underserved

populations as the enrollment process is extremely complex. While there are always the options of going on to the HealthCare.gov (or CuidadodeSalud.gov) website themselves and doing everything on-line, or over the telephone by calling 1-800-318-2596, many of our minority/underserved populations have a clear preference and need for in-person assistance. Remember, the lack of assistance may leave someone uninsured and subject to a penalty; and the penalties have gone up each year.



*Suraj Budathoki, BCNH Market-place Coordinator assisting a client in Concord*

All organizations doing this work should be prepared to serve anybody who walks through their doors in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner – meaning mainstream organizations should provide communication access when it is needed. However, a number of organizations are doing this work in our communities with an intentional culturally and linguistically-tailored focus. ***NH Voices for Health*** leads the New Hampshire Partnership to Increase Coverage in Communities of Color (NHPICCC) which focuses on outreach and enrollment in both the Latino and African American communities in Southern New Hampshire. Their multi-lingual staff go to the most frequented public places in Manchester and Nashua, to help ensure people get the assistance they need. (For information contact Barbara Costa at [barbara@nhvoicesforhealth.org](mailto:barbara@nhvoicesforhealth.org) or 603-717-6861.)

Our local community health centers also provide in-person enrollment assistance in many different languages – including the Manchester Community Health Center and Lamprey Health Care in Nashua. The Foundation for Healthy Communities has a bilingual worker providing in-person assistance at the Nashua Public Health Department and local hospitals. And the Bhutanese Community of New Hampshire (BCNH)-led collaborative was recently awarded CMS Navigator funds to continue their outreach, education and enrollment activities with resettled refugees and other limited English proficient groups. Partners include the Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success (ORIS) and New American Africans, and the project will focus on Arabic, French, Hindi, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Lingala, Nepali, Somali and Swahili speaking refugees and immigrants. (For information contact Tika Acharya at [tacharya@bhutanesecommunitynh.org](mailto:tacharya@bhutanesecommunitynh.org) or 603-935-9620.)

# The NH Health and Equity Partnership Banners Premiere at the We Are One Festival in Manchester!



Anela Kruščica, DHHS Communication Access Coordinator and member of the Health and Equity Partnership's Awareness & Promotion Committee, with her daughter in front of the new banners at the We Are One Festival in Manchester, August 15th.

The Partnership is pleased to now have banners describing the Partnership's work, and we invite our partners to use them at events; please contact Nathalie Ahyi at [nahyi@healthynh.com](mailto:nahyi@healthynh.com) for information.

## Welcoming Week 2015 a Success!

Welcoming Week 2015, a nationwide event highlighting the contributions of immigrants to American communities, was the biggest ever; marking a significant moment for the Welcoming movement. Highlights of Welcoming Week include:

- 1.4 million people reached via social media and thousands more through 85+ local and national news stories
- 245+ events hosted with 22,000 attendees in 31 states across the US
- Heard from mayors, governors, and local officials from Anchorage, Alaska to Tampa, Florida who are shaping more welcoming policy
- Launched the Building Welcoming Communities campaign with the White House

Welcoming NH spearheaded the following local activities:



Nashua Mayor Donnalee Lozeau gives Welcoming Proclamation on the United Way's Day of Caring



Governor Hassan speaks at Becky Field's 'Different Roots, Common Dreams' book launch in Concord



Youth in Durham make signs of 'Welcome'



Eva Castillo, from the NH Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees (NHAIR), is awarded the Americanism Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution

## Nov 5: Raising of America / Raising of NH NHPTV premiere



Tune in to New Hampshire Public Television on November 5th at 7:30 p.m. for the national PBS premier of The Raising of America. Immediately following at 8:30 p.m., don't miss the New Hampshire companion program, Raising New Hampshire: The Early Years! We'll keep you updated on previews, trailers, and discussion guides as they become available.



The Raising of America is a 5-part documentary series and public engagement campaign. It explores how a strong start for all our kids can lead to a healthier, safer, better educated and more prosperous and equitable America.

This New Hampshire Public Television and Endowment for Health co-production examines the strategic and proven approaches to health, education, and family support that will help raise future generations of Granite Staters, enabling them to realize their full potential.

For more information about this documentary series, visit [www.RaisingOfAmerica.org](http://www.RaisingOfAmerica.org). To learn more about what New Hampshire is doing to prioritize our youngest residents visit the website for NH's Early Childhood Advisory Council, [www.Sparknh.com](http://www.Sparknh.com)

# Post-event Sept 25: Quality Workforce = Quality Health Care: An Interactive Research and Policy Forum

The Endowment for Health, the Office of Minority Health and Refugee Affairs' Health Profession Opportunity Project (HPOP), and the Institute on Assets and Social Policy at Brandeis University co-hosted an interactive research and policy forum highlighting the importance of good jobs and good health.

A series of speakers and panelists highlighted the findings from five research briefs:

1. *Perspectives and Practices of NH Healthcare Employers*
2. *Missing Persons*
3. *Strengthening NH's Healthcare Workforce*
4. *Culturally Effective Healthcare Organizations*
5. *The Networked Workforce*



New Hampshire DHHS Commissioner, Nick Toumpas, and Endowment for Health President, Yvonne Goldsberry, welcome participants and emphasize the importance of research and policy that results in good jobs and good health in New Hampshire.



Panel discusses workforce development pathways, networks and collaborations. From left to right: Kyle Worth, Sarah Currier, Jessica Santos and Kile Adumene.

# Post-event October 5: Hundreds Gather To Discuss Importance of Early Childhood Investments



*Journalist Cokie Roberts interviews Secretary Hillary Clinton on what she would specifically do to ensure all of our nation's children get the strong start they need to be the workforce of tomorrow America needs.*

What do a 3-star general, an award-winning neuroscientist, the retired CEO of Procter & Gamble, a CNN political commentator and ABC News' Cokie Roberts all have in common? They were all speakers at Transforming Tomorrow's Workforce Today, A First in the "Early Learning Nation" Event.

The October 5 event was co-hosted by the NH Forum on the Future, Business NH Magazine, the NH Coalition for Business and Education and the NH Department of Education, and was held at the Center of New Hampshire conference venue in Manchester. In addition to the impressive line-up of national speakers, the 2016 candidates for President of the United States were invited to participate.

# Post-event: Oct 6: Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative Summit

*NH Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative Annual Summit Draws Hundreds*



## NH Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative

*Creating a unified system of care*

More than two hundred children's mental health experts and advocates gathered at Concord's Grappone Conference Center on October 6th. The day focused on building an integrated system of care for children and youth with behavioral health needs with an emphasis on care that is family and youth driven, culturally effective and community-based.

The event showcased the progress made by the NH Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative over the past year and offered tracks on topics ranging from advocacy, evidence-based models of support, regional approaches, and cultural competence. Information about the Collaborative can be found at the website <http://www.nh4youth.org/> including the work for the various partners and workgroups.

The Behavioral Health Equity Work Group is a joint effort of the CBHC and the H&EP with a focus on identifying disparities, improving equity in access, and promoting the use of culturally relevant and meaningful behavioral health services that will create an effective and high-quality behavioral health system for all. For more information contact Amy Parece-Grogan, Behavioral Health Cultural and Linguistic Competence Coordinator at [amy.parece-grogan@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:amy.parece-grogan@dhhs.state.nh.us).

# The Endowment for Health invites you to participate in a Learning Exchange on Economic Development with WE Global Network



Thursday, October 22, 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Audubon Center in Concord, NH

- Learn how Midwest communities are expanding local and regional economies through immigrant-friendly economic development practices.
- Better understand how immigrants are already enriching NH's economy.
- Discuss with colleagues from your region and from across the state how to implement successful immigrant-friendly economic development strategies in your area.

The **Welcoming Economies (WE) Global Network** is working to tap into the economic development opportunities created by immigrants in more than 20 Midwest communities.

The event will begin with an overview of the Economic Impact of Immigrants in NH by Dennis Delay, Economist at the NH Center for Public Policy Studies. Steve Tobocman, Director of Global Detroit and Leadership Team Member of WE Global Network will provide keynote remarks and lead us through a working session. A light dinner will be provided.

Advance registration is required. Please **Register** no later than October 20.

This event is being offered as part of the Endowment for Health's Immigrant Integration Initiative.

<b>I WANT TO ACT</b>	You can make a difference. Get Involved. Make your voice heard.	<b>I'D LIKE TO LEARN</b>	Resource materials health & equity, the determinants of health and other related to
<a href="#">Learn More</a>		<a href="#">Learn More</a>	

## About Us

The New Hampshire Health and Equity Partnership is a public-private collaborative effort of philanthropic organizations, public health agencies, community based organizations, advocates and others concerned with health equity. The Partnership is guided in its work by the Plan to Address Health Disparities and Promote Health Equity in New Hampshire. The goal of the plan is to define statewide priorities and prepare recommendations to advance health equity for NH's racial, ethnic, and linguistic minority communities.

The New Hampshire Health and Equity Partnership is an initiative of the [Foundation for Healthy Communities](#).

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