



New Hampshire Health & Equity Partnership

October 2016 Newsletter

Partner Profile: Melina Hill Walker, Endowment for Health



Melina Hill Walker joined the Endowment for Health in May 2016 as a Program Director focusing on the Endowment's work to address health equity in New Hampshire. Melina brings deep public health expertise and loads of enthusiasm to the work of health equity.

"My engine runs on interactions with a variety of diverse people from various ethnicities, backgrounds and languages," said Melina. "It's the fuel that keeps me going. I'm intrigued and

fired up to think about how we can make the world a better place for all. Those same values drive the work of the Endowment for Health.”

As a young kid, Melina dreamed of entering a health profession - possibly pursuing medical school. But later, her public health experience as a Peace Corps volunteer cemented her vision of health with a community and population focus.

Later in her career, she completed a two-year program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. “I learned an enormous amount there and also had the opportunity to structure my curriculum with a variety of courses, including health care studies at Harvard Business School. It was enlightening to see the approach to health as a business and to contrast that with a public health philosophy. I’m biased, for sure, but I believe the latter has more long-term impact.”

Melina believes there’s great strength in numbers and that it’s essential to be open to different ideas and opinions from as many individuals as possible. “Health equity,” she says, “is a topic on which there are many different points of view. Not everyone agrees on how best to address this work. The best ideas, she says, come to the fore with an open dialogue.”

“Once we’ve got broad input,” she says, “it’s crucial to analyze all available data and information on the issue, then determine what efforts will make the greatest impact. That’s how consensus is built. The New Hampshire Health and Equity Partnership provides a great foundation for us to do this important work.”

As a first generation American whose parents hailed from the Caribbean, Melina understands the challenges of coming to a new place. “We traveled a lot when I was young, living in many of the Caribbean islands and two years in Nigeria before moving to New Hampshire when I was in elementary school. I’m a New Hampshire girl with Caribbean heritage,” says Melina.

After college, Melina spent five years in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She worked as a Public Health Peace Corps volunteer at an Eastern Kivu regional hospital and subsequently moved to Kinshasa, the capital city, to help establish a graduate school of public health at the University of Kinshasa. “Certainly, my experiences in different cultures, as well as my own heritage, make me empathetic to how newcomers are often treated. I try my best to understand and appreciate the differences among the people I encounter and value the variety of approaches and views each offers. All of the community partners I’ve met thus far, in my work at the Endowment, are so impressive,” says Melina. “Their energy is positive and infectious. It gives me hope for New Hampshire’s future.”

ELCC Grad Profile: JerriAnne Boggis



JerriAnne Boggis gives lots of presentations. As Director of the *Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail* for the past four years, and Vice-President for five years prior to becoming President, JerriAnne has presented to all kinds of groups, from the diverse visitors who walk the Black Heritage Trail to New Hampshire school children, university students, local residents and visiting dignitaries attending her community lectures or participating in the annual Black New England Conference.

Feeling confident that she could share her information with clarity and wit came with lots of practice and the *Emerging Leaders in Communities of Color (ELCC) Leadership Program* helped her develop these skills.

In the fall of 2014, JerriAnne joined other participants in the 9-month ELCC Leadership Program. Senator David Watters (NH District 4) nominated JerriAnne to participate in the program and she jumped right in. "I thought it was important for communities of color to be represented at the "Leadership Table" and know who the major players are in the state," said JerriAnne. "If we're not at the Table, our voices can't be heard."

The ELCC Leadership program has developed a curriculum which focuses on supporting and enhancing emerging leaders' skills in seven critical areas: Public Speaking, Social Capital, Strategic Planning, Conflict Resolution, Group and Power Dynamics, Facilitation Skills and Advocacy. The training in public speaking, with generous assistance from the Concord Toastmasters, was a valuable part of the program for JerriAnne. "Having to give numerous presentations on lots of different topics and creating outlines for these speeches helped take the fear away," said JerriAnne.

A writer, educator, and community activist, JerriAnne works to correct the historical record on the racial complexity and richness of New Hampshire's diverse past. Through the development of several community programs that focus on history and race, JerriAnne has raised the awareness of New Hampshire's little known people of color and increase the visibility of Black history in the state. She believes that diversity programming is more than listening to a speaker or lighting a candle. It's about social change. The programs she creates are powerful, noticed, yet social and engaging.

Among her many awards, in 2015 JerriAnne was named by the NH Humanities Council as one of the 40 most influential New Hampshireites who have vastly enriched human understanding and whose original works and passion for excellence have put NH on the cultural map. In the same year, she also received the Telegraph award for being one of the 25 Extraordinary Women of Southern New Hampshire. She created and produces the annual **Black New England Conference which will be held this fall from Friday, October 21-October 22, 2016 at UNH and is entitled, Politically In-Correct: Humor, Satire and Black Consciousness.**

Through the ELCC Leadership Program, JerriAnne met many new people, developed a learning community with her ELCC Program colleagues, and looks forward to ELCC Alumni events where she can share information about her activities and interests. "I'd definitely recommend the **ELCC Leadership Program** to others," said JerriAnne, "Yes! Totally!"

Let's Get Ready for the Election!

A word about the importance of voting by Eva Castillo, NH Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees - NHAIR



With Election Day only a few weeks away, it's a great time to remember the importance of engaging in the democratic process by voting. We have heard many arguments against voting; from not liking the choices to mistrust in the whole process.

A community that has a high voting record, not only has a louder voice in determining who gets elected, politicians and elected officials pay more attention to them.

Our democracy is stronger when we all participate, the rich and the poor; the high end neighborhoods and the public housing dwellers; the longtime residents and the new citizens. All our voices feed and our democracy and make our country strong. Voters shape the future of our nation.

It is not only the national election that should have our attention. It is also important to vote for state officials. These public officials will determine everything that affects us directly in our daily lives. They decide what our children will learn, what services will be available in our communities, and what services will be cut down. The quality of our clinics and health centers depends on their allocation of funding. The budget for our schools, Police and Fire Departments is decided by our local officials. They decide who gets the contracts to build our infrastructure and where our resources will be allocated. The quality of life in NH is directly proportional to the quality of the people we elect for office.

November 8 we have the chance to speak up and be heard through our vote. Voting is our right and it is also our responsibility as citizens of this country. Casting our vote is an incredibly powerful way to make our voice heard and take a stand for our values and beliefs.

Let's all speak up on November 8. Let's Vote!

H&EP Partnership Update: Priority Work Groups and Committees



In January 2016, the **NH Health & Equity Partnership (H&EP)** had an interactive session to focus our collective efforts. We have identified three priority areas for action the next two years to advance our vision that “Everyone in New Hampshire has a fair opportunity to live a long, healthy life.”

- **REaL Data Priority Work Group:** Increase the capacity in NH for the collection of high quality Race, Ethnicity and Language (REaL) data across all systems at the state and local level to identify disparities and promote utilization of data to inform improvements, policies and procedures.
- **Culturally Effective Organizations Priority Work Group:** Increase organizational cultural effectiveness and improve the capacity of organizations in NH to provide high quality services

to all populations (especially racial, ethnic and linguistic minorities) by incorporating the elements of a culturally effective organization.

- **Workforce Diversity Priority Work Group:** Increase a diversified workforce to support economic opportunities for racial, ethnic and linguistic minorities and all populations in NH.

We are now in the midst of kickoff events for each priority area! The goal of these workgroup meetings is to bring together old and new partners, learn about previous work done in each priority area, discuss the current needs, and brainstorm different ways to address them. The workgroups will then each decide on their activities for the coming 12-18 months to advance the priority area.

One important element of the ***Collective Impact approach***, to which the Partnership is committed, is called “Shared Measurement”. Shared measurement has been defined as the “use of a common set of measures to monitor performance, track progress towards outcomes and learn what is and is not working in the group’s collective approach” (John Kania, FSG).

As we all work together to achieve health and equity in New Hampshire it is important that there is some agreement on what progress looks like and a commitment from partnership members to participate in tracking progress toward our shared goals.

A new Evaluation Committee has been formed for this purpose, with assistance from Antioch University New England, Center for Behavioral Health Innovation (BHI), selected via a competitive bid process this last spring to help us ***design, develop, and deploy a system of shared measurement.***

Everyone is welcome! Join now as we kickoff the work to be done going forward.

REaL Data Priority Work Group

November 22, 2016

1:00 - 3:00pm

City of Manchester Health Department

1528 Elm Street, Manchester, NH

Register to attend

Workforce Diversity Priority Work Group

December 1, 2016

1:00 - 3:00pm

City of Manchester Health Department

1528 Elm Street, Manchester, NH

Register to attend

Culturally Effective Organizations Priority Work Group

Met on Thursday, September 29, 2016.

The next meeting will be determined soon.

Please contact ***Nathalie Ahyi***, H&EP Program Director, to learn more. Don't miss any important announcements – sign up for the Partnership's electronic mailing list (the Equity Listserve) on the Partnership's website at www.equitynh.org.

We Are New Hampshire Video: “We are a place that not only values all voices, but is defined by them.”

Our state grew out of many cultures. Our future depends on continuing to do so.



Honoring the work of our partners and the leadership of community members who are creating a more ***Welcoming New Hampshire***, the Endowment for Health is pleased to share the ***We Are New Hampshire video***.

Filmmaker Rob Shore and communication expert Lynn Davey collaborated to capture four stories of four incredible people advancing welcoming in New Hampshire: Galina Szakacs of Nashua, Mary Georges of Manchester, Anna-Marie DiPasquale of Concord, and Kazuko Okubo of Laconia. They are working together to build bridges, to understand, to learn from each other and strengthen our communities.

Please help us to share this video far and wide. Share the link ([https://youtu.be/ ROR2sTBTIQ](https://youtu.be/ROR2sTBTIQ)) with others via social media using the hashtag #NHWelcomes. Share in your newsletters, in emails, etc.

Join us in using the hashtag #NHWelcomes to highlight efforts in your communities that are creating more welcoming places for people of all backgrounds.

NH Gubernatorial Forum on Young Children



Spark NH Gubernatorial Forum at the NH Institute of Politics, St. Anselm College, on August 30th

The H&EP was proud to be one of the 60+ co-sponsors of the Spark NH Gubernatorial Forum on Young Children on August 30th. The event hosted six of the state's candidates for Governor in the Primary: Republicans, Ted Gatsas, Chris Sununu and Jeanie Forester; and Democrats, Colin Van Ostern, Mark Connolly and Steve Marchand.

Candidates shared their perspectives on early childhood development and other key childhood issues as potential priorities in their administration should they be elected. There were 11 questions pertaining to services, current problems and the emerging needs in New Hampshire for children and their families.

Steve Barba, Chair of the New Hampshire Humanities Council presented the question which the H&EP submitted to all six of the candidates: “Racial and ethnic minorities are now 9% of NH’s population, and that diversity is higher in our youth as well as concentrated geographically in our urban centers with 12.2% of NH’s under-18 population belonging to a racial minority in 2010.

How do you plan to assure that your administration both reflects and responds to all of NH's children, including those who are part of the increasing racial, ethnic and linguistic communities in our state?”

All of candidates recognized that NH is becoming more diverse and stated that there was a need to make their administration be more representative of the current demographics. However, recommendations and suggestions varied. One candidate made the comment that “The future of our economy is based on folks that don't look like a lot of us on this stage.” NH’s past has been built by immigrants and NH’s future relies on being able to foster the next generation of immigrants and people of color to become part of the economic fabric.

The ***complete transcript of the event*** and ***further event details can be found on the Spark NH website.***

Building NH's Economic Future: Conference Explores Economic Benefit of Welcoming Immigrants



Mayor Karl Dean, former Mayor of Nashville gives keynote address

On September 16, leaders in business and education from all around New Hampshire convened at a conference, “Building NH’s Economic Future,” to highlight the importance of welcoming new immigrants to economic future of the state.

Nearly 200 participants attended the event, which was co-sponsored by Welcoming New Hampshire, the Endowment for Health, and Manchester Community College.

MCC’s President Dr. Susan Huard welcomed the audience to the college. Dr. Yvonne Goldsberry, President of the Endowment for Health, spoke powerfully about the meaning of citizenship and what it means to immigrants to this country.

Mayor Karl Dean, former Mayor of Nashville, delivered a powerful keynote address of insights from his experience of welcoming immigrants to his city, which has experienced an economic boom in recent years. Influential figures and community leaders from around the state listened on as Mayor Dean said, “We need more workers than we have, and we’re getting them from people moving to Nashville from other parts of the U.S., and we’re getting them through immigrants. If we didn’t have new people coming in, we wouldn’t have been as economically strong as we are. The Chamber in Nashville was a good ally when I was Mayor. They have been enormous supporters of our efforts.” He spoke of a recent visit to New Brunswick. “They also were having declining populations, and they were trying to be more attractive to immigrants because they realize that a city is a much more interesting place when it’s diverse, when people of different backgrounds come together.”



Plenary panel of business leaders (from Left to right): Tracy Hatch, President & CEO, Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce; Mike Skelton, President & CEO, Manchester Chamber of Commerce; Nannu Nobis, Nobis Engineering Inc., Incoming Chair, Greater Concord Chamber Board; David Juvet, Senior Vice President, NH Business & Industry Association

A plenary panel discussion with business leaders from Chambers of Commerce in Nashua, Manchester, Concord, and the NH Business and Industry Association, spoke about the practical and local aspects of immigrants and refugees in NH's economy and workforce.

At lunch time, the cities of Concord, Manchester and Nashua were recognized by Welcoming NH for their leadership in becoming Welcoming Communities.

Afternoon breakouts featured a panel of millennial professionals speaking about retention of young people in our state, and a panel from the education community addressed diversity, challenges and opportunities in local schools.

In the closing session, U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen spoke of the importance of welcoming newcomers from across the globe to our state. U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte also sent a proclamation with her remarks.



Group picture at the end of the day at the Welcoming NH Conference

“We Are One” Festival



Organizers and performers hold flags from their countries of origin

In 2000, Latinos Unidos de New Hampshire held the first Latino Festival in Manchester, NH. The event was the result of the efforts of many community residents, local agencies and socially responsible corporate partners.

The Latino community used this event to share the food, music and traditions of the various national, cultural and ethnic Spanish speaking cultural groups in Manchester, NH. The festival was a great success from the beginning and enjoyed 13 successful years.

After witnessing the social impact of the Latino Festival, members of communities of African descent came together in 2001 to host an event that would highlight and showcase the cultures of the African continent and Diaspora.

With the assistance of Latinos Unidos de New Hampshire the African/Caribbean Celebration was born. The event enjoyed the participation of national, cultural, and social groups from communities of African descent throughout the city, and the help of corporations, social service agencies, and city officials, to provide the opportunity for cultural affirmation and social interaction for 12 consecutive years of accomplishment.



Imelda Juarez Thompson in a traditional Mexican dress

In 2013, the Latino Festival and the African/Caribbean Celebration came together to form the “We Are One” Festival. These steps were taken to continue the tradition of summer ethnic festivals by bringing together the experience, expertise and ability of the two communities. In spite of personal and professional challenges over the years, the two groups have been able to continue to keep the music playing, the food cooking and to epitomize their motto “better together.”

This year’s festival featured a dynamic line-up of both community performers and professionals:

- Akwaaba (Traditional West African Drum/Dance)
- F.I.E.R.C.E. Dance Troupe (Hip Hop/Modern dance)
- Glympse and Young Easy (Hip Hop/Spoken Word)
- Group AAA (Traditional Rwanda/Burundi)
- Imelda Juarez Thompson (Traditional Mexican)
- James Carmona (Latin ballads)
- Jhony-O Tu Caballero (Bachata/Caribbean sound)
- Mystic Vibes (Reggae/Souk)
- New England Pentecostal Fellowship Choir (Gospel)
- NFBC Drummers (African drumming)

Contact us if you are interesting in helping create next year's event!

Don't miss these upcoming important end-of-the-year Events!

Greater Manchester Black Scholarship Foundation Dinner Dance

Friday, November 4, 2016

Puritan Backroom

Manchester, NH

[More information](#)

Boston Pan-African Forum

Friday, October 21, 2016

UMass Boston

[More information](#)

**I WANT TO
ACT**

[Learn More](#)

You can make
a difference.
Get Involved.
Make your
voice heard.

**I'D LIKE TO
LEARN**

[Learn More](#)

Resource materials
health & equity, the
determinants of health
and other related topics

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](#).

[Subscribe to our newsletter!](#)

