

STRAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK + ♥ ♻️



SCPHN 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2025 - JUNE 2026



Department of
**HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**

This publication was financed under a Contract with the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Strafford County Public Health Network

GREATER SEACOAST HEALTH



1 OF 13 Regional Public Health Networks
Funded by the NH Department of
Health and Human Services (DHHS)

A PROGRAM OF

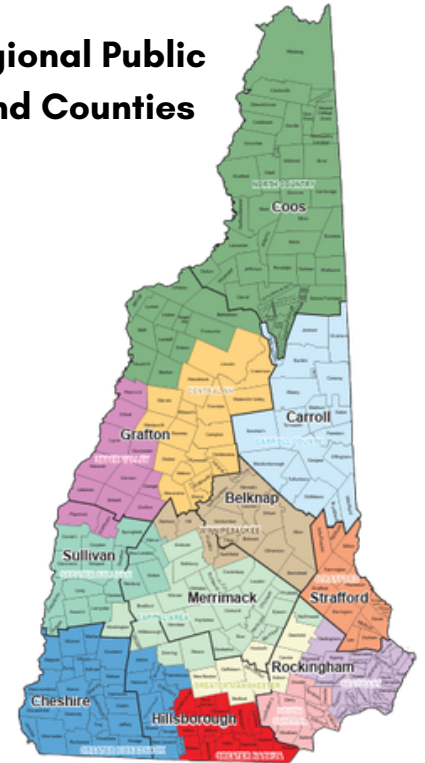


Greater Seacoast Health

MISSION to improve the health, wellness, and quality of life for all individuals in Strafford County

VISION Vibrant, healthy, and productive communities which value health and wellness with thriving and prosperous citizens

New Hampshire Regional Public Health Networks and Counties



Department of
**HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**

Our Staff

From left to right:

Jason Usher, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; Coreen Toussaint, Public Health Nurse; Ashley Wheeler, Public Health Network Manager; Cory Towne-Kerr, Prevention Coordinator; Barry Sandberg, Young Adult Program Coordinator



Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC)

Our PHAC includes stakeholders from across our region who provide leadership and guidance to our SCPHN staff, and help to prioritize public health disparities in Strafford County. The PHAC is intended to build on and blend existing local leadership and coordinate groups working on various public health issues in support of the development and implementation of our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

CURRENT PHAC MEMBERS

Chair: Steve Pappajohn, Dover Police Dept.
Vice Chair: Chris Kozak, Community Partners
Carrie Conway, Portsmouth Christian Academy
Jen Czysz, Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Steve Fruchtman, Middleton Fire & Rescue
Jessica Garlough, Greater Seacoast Health
Anne Grassie, Rochester Child Care
Meaghan Heusler, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital
Kerry Norton, Hope on Haven Hill
Emilia Poehlman, UNH Institute on Disability
Jacqi Shirey, Rochester School District
Katie Soule, Granite YMCA
Christine Wyrsh, Greater Seacoast Health

WE'D LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PHAC MEMBERS FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP & SUPPORT AS THEY MOVE ON FROM SERVING ON OUR COUNCIL:

John Burns, SOS Recovery Community Organization
Pete Hanson, Turbocam Intl.
Bill Harbron, Dover School District
Tanisha Johnson, Community Action Partnership of Strafford County

ALL PARTNER MEETINGS

DEC 2025

53 

ATTENDEES

Theme: Using Collaboration as a Tool for Success

JUNE 2026

50 

ATTENDEES

Theme: Working Through Challenges

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Every three years, SCPHN and our Public Health Advisory Council develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) - an action-oriented strategic plan and framework to be used to leverage resources and to engage and mobilize community stakeholder organizations to address barriers and opportunities to improve community health.

The CHIP is our County-wide plan to help improve the health of our communities. We do this by pulling together organizations and community members to help improve programs and services that help keep people well. **Our 2023 - 2026 CHIP priorities are...**



Substance Use

Prevention, Treatment, Recovery & Overdose Prevention



Healthy Living

Food Access, Chronic Disease Prevention



Mental Health

Prevention, Treatment & Recovery



Healthcare Access

prenatal, oral health and sexual health



Emergency Preparedness



Injury Prevention

Lead Poisoning, Dating and Domestic Violence, Suicide Prevention

JOIN OUR WORK GROUPS

Strafford County Addiction Task Force
Prevention Leadership Group
Healthy Living Coalition
Ready Strafford (*Emergency Preparedness*
Regional Coordinating Council)

**SCAN THE QR
CODE TO
LEARN MORE
OR VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT
SCPHN.ORG**



Training & Education



Pictured above is Tym Rourke during his keynote address at our 2026 Strafford County Addiction Summit

OVER THE LAST YEAR, OUR SCPHN TEAM HAS PROVIDED **29 TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS** TO **OVER 450 ATTENDEES** ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- 988 and NH Rapid Response
- A.I.D. for Mental Health
- Advocacy 101
- Bridges to Care: How SSPs can lead the charge in collaborative care models*
- CPR & First Aid
- Clearing the Air: How Adults Can Support Youth Around Vaping*
- Drug Endangered Children: New Findings to Enhance Community Response*
- Fostering Resiliency & Recovery in Uncertain Times*
- Harm reduction for family and friends of people with SUD*
- Invisible No More: Substance Use Disorders Among Women Veterans – Trauma-Informed, Veteran-Centered, and Community-Driven Solutions*
- Mental Health First Aid
- Motivating and Empowering Recovery through Integrated Treatment (MERIT)*
- NAMI Connect Suicide Prevention
- Principles for Marijuana Policy*
- Re-Entry Into Recovery Ready Communities*
- Web EOC
- When It Happens: Responding to Recurrence in Recovery-Oriented Spaces - a Panel Discussion*

**indicates topics presented at our 2026 Addiction Summit*



Pictured to the left is Sarah Johnson with the Joy Labs presenting at our December 2026 All Partner Meeting and Luncheon

At our All Partner Meeting & Luncheon in December, we were joined by Sarah Johnson, Founder of the Joy Labs based in Winona, MN. Sarah walked us through some discussion and activities about *Moving Community Health Forward Together*. During this workshop, we explored how we can maximize existing partnerships and collaborations in our Network to continue to create systems change while working through the challenges we face.

Our Strafford County Addiction Summit returned in full force in March 2026! We welcomed over 100 participants to Bud Carlson Academy in Rochester for a day filled with workshops on topics across the continuum of care, local resources and connection with others working across our communities.

We are grateful to our Strafford County Addiction Task Force members, presenters and sponsors who helped make this event a success!

GREATER SEACOAST COMMUNITY HEALTH

STRAFFORD COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH
NETWORK + ♥ +

2026 Strafford County ADDICTION SUMMIT

FRIDAY MARCH 13, 2026

Bud Carlson Academy, Rochester, NH

Sponsored by:  **braeburn**

 **Mass General Brigham**
Wentworth-Douglass Hospital

 **WellSense**
HEALTH PLAN

 **Kennebunk Savings**
Helping happens here. 



Department of
**HEALTH &
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Advocating for Change



Once again sponsored by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, our SCPHN Team led an Advocacy Collaborative of partners in Strafford County to advocate to the NH Legislature on issues related to substance use and mental health, food access, housing, and the cost of healthcare.

Our SCPHN Team provided written testimony and signed in to support or oppose over a dozen pieces of legislation.

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVOCACY COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS



HOME FOR ALL
ENDING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER



**New Hampshire
Public Health
Association**



Our 2026 Legislative Breakfast was hosted by our SCPHN Team and Advocacy Collaborative partners in February, and featured 4 Issue & Policy Briefs provided by our SCPHN Manager, Dover Youth to Youth, our partners at NH Hunger Solutions and Gather, Home for All Coalition, and the UNH Institute for Health Policy & Practice.

Though time was limited, there were great discussions had between partners, community members and our local and state legislators. We look forward to seeing you next year!



Pictured above are two Dover Youth to Youth students sharing their advocacy message about regulating the sale of addictive products at our 2026 Legislative Breakfast

Pictured below is Peter Ntourntourekas with New Futures presenting at an Advocacy Workshop hosted at Greater Seacoast Health in Somersworth



As part of our advocacy efforts funded by the NH Charitable Foundation, we work closely with New Futures to provide education to staff, partners and community members to grow their knowledge and their ability to advocate for change. This year, we hosted three Advocacy Workshops.

These workshops provide an overview of how a bill becomes a law in the NH Legislature, when and how individuals can take action to support or oppose proposed legislation to support health and wellness in our communities.

NHCF Investment Supports CHIP Initiatives

NH Charitable Foundation continues to invest in Regional Public Health Networks across the state. In 2026, NHCF provided a grant to SCPHN in support of initiatives outlined in our Community Health Improvement Plan - better known as our CHIP.

Our SCPHN Team and Public Health Advisory Council committed part of this funding to promote oral health in Strafford County and distribute related resources. We worked with Northeast Delta Dental to create 1,008 dental kits for adults, children and people with disabilities. These kits include toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss and alcohol-free mouthwash, including flip-top toothpaste, floss picks and adaptive brushes.

We partnered with members of Greater Seacoast Health's Dental team to provide 22 kits & other resources to residents at Home for All - a program of Community Action Partnership of Strafford County - at an educational workshop they hosted in March.



Pictured above are staff from Greater Seacoast Health's Dental Team & others at their educational workshop at the Home for All shelter.

Outreach

SCPHN STAFF CONDUCTED **118 HOURS**
OF OUTREACH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Pictured top left are Jason Usher and Coreen Toussaint at a community resource fair at Nute Middle-High School

Pictured top right is an SCPHN resource table from Home for All's Pop Up Care Village

Pictured bottom left is Cory Towne-Kerr at the Rochester Mental Health Alliance's Valentines Warmth & Wellness event at the Rochester Community Center

Pictured bottom right is Barry Sandberg and intern Amanda Walsh at Somersworth's National Night Out

Naloxone & Overdose Prevention

Organized and supported by our Addiction Task Force, our SCPHN Team distributed Naloxone & other overdose prevention materials in our communities:

- 210 Nasal Naloxone Kits
- 345 Drug Test Strips
- 159 Overdose Prevention Kits with Naloxone, test strips & wound care supplies
- 24 First Aid Kits with Naloxone for Businesses



Family Preparedness Activity & Resource Kits



image courtesy of HSEM

Our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Jason, put together kits with activity & coloring books, stress ball-buckets, family emergency plan templates and other family-preparedness resources that were handed out at National Night Out, at the Milton & Middleton Fire Department events, & at other events throughout our communities

Deterra Bags for Safe Medication Disposal

Our Prevention Coordinator, Cory, has been coordinating the distribution of Deterra Bags - a resource used to safely dispose of unused or unwanted medication at home in between the DEA-sponsored Take Back Day events. In addition to outreach at schools, community events and resource fairs, Cory also provides Police Depts with Deterra Bags and other prevention resources to hand out at their Take Back Day events.

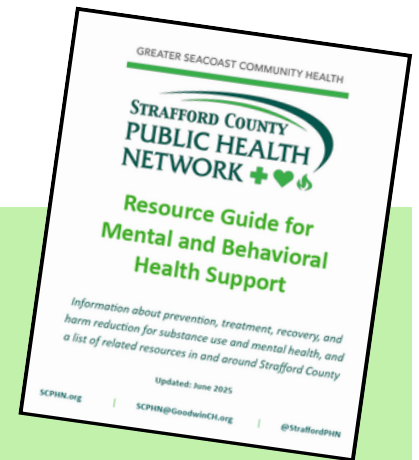


image courtesy of Deterra Systems

Program Highlights

Substance Use & Mental Health

Our Strafford County Addiction Task Force completed our Assets & Gaps Analysis & Report in the Fall of 2025. This report helps us better understand the strengths & opportunities for improvement in our communities related to services across the continuum of care for substance use and mental health.

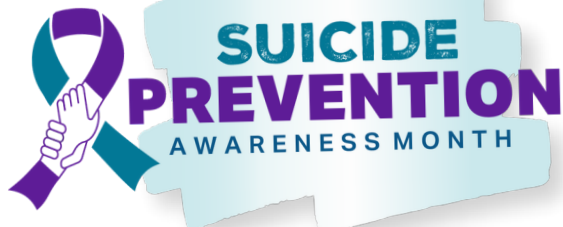


In February, SCPHN Manager Ashley and a partner from Dover Police Department's Social Work Unit met with the Strafford County Police Chiefs to discuss how we can collaborate to improve access to services and support in our rural communities. This work will continue over the Summer & into 2027.

We also use this information to update our Resource Guide for Mental and Behavioral Health Support.



Pictured above are members of our Addiction Task Force after a Task Force meeting at Brighter Day Recovery in Somersworth



Our SCPHN staff supported the Dover, Rochester & Somersworth Mental Health Alliances in their Tri-Alliance Meeting in September to bring over 100 community members together to kick-off their 2025-26 “season” with connection, discussion & an activity for Suicide Prevention Month!

FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH

DOORS OPEN @ 5:30PM
MOVIE STARTS @ 6PM

INSIDE OUT
CAMP CONEY PINE
LOWELL STREET
ROCHESTER

SCAN THE QR CODE OR USE THE LINK TO LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING
tinyurl.com/PHNMVNT

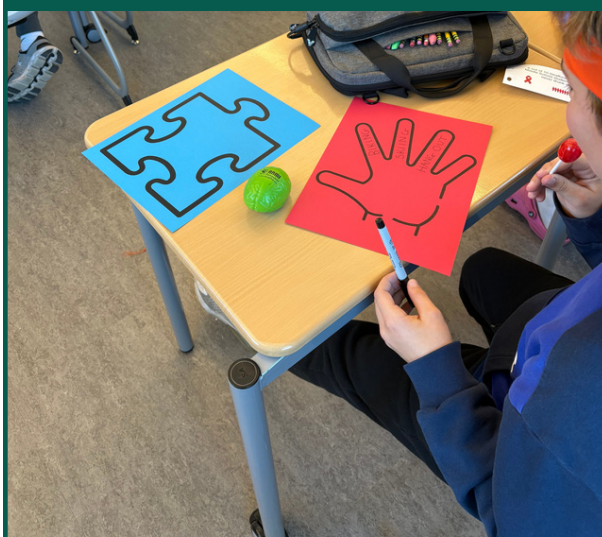
LIGHT SNACKS & PIZZA WILL BE PROVIDED
BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC & LAWN CHAIRS!

- RESOURCES & INFORMATION ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH
- TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

Department of Health & Human Services
Greater Seacoast Community Health
STRAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK



Pictured above: Mia Brikiatis with Granite YMCA and SCPHN's Ashley Wheeler at the Tri-Alliance meeting



STRAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK



IN HONOR OF
RED RIBBON WEEK 2025
OCTOBER 23 - 31



STUDENTS WILL WRITE THE NAME OF ONE PERSON THEY CAN TURN TO FOR SUPPORT ON A PUZZLE PIECE

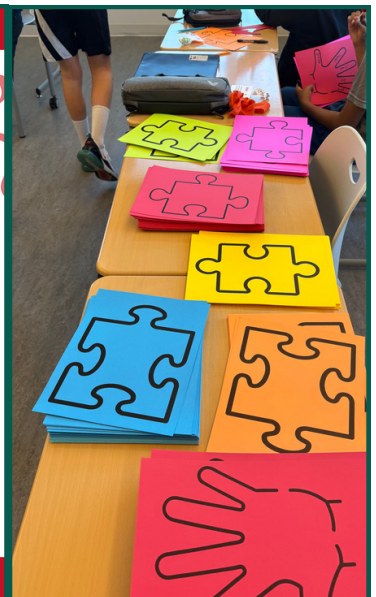


EACH LOLLIPOP WILL SHARE A STATISTIC FROM THE STRAFFORD COUNTY YRBS DATA AND SHARE A POSITIVE PREVENTION MESSAGE



ON A RED HAND, STUDENTS WILL WRITE 5 THINGS THAT MAKE THEM FEEL BETTER WHEN THEY'RE FEELING STRESSED OR HAVING A BAD DAY

LEARN MORE ABOUT RRW AT REDRIBBON.ORG



Our Prevention Leadership Group (PLG) worked with 10 Strafford County schools to participate in Red Ribbon Week activities that promote protective factors against substance use and share prevention messaging using data from our Strafford County Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

The pictures above are from Oyster River Middle School during Red Ribbon Week 2025



Promote. Protect. Prepare.

Our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator & Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) hosted a WebEOC training for newly appointed Emergency Management Directors (EMDs), police and fire chiefs, and EMS leaders, many of whom had never received WebEOC training or had not participated in an extended period. This training also helped to familiarize users with the NH's recent transition from the previous platform to Juvare.

WebEOC, maintained by the New Hampshire Department of Safety's Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Division, is a crisis and disaster management system that supports large-scale incident management, public safety information sharing, and real-time situational

awareness. The training focused on helping participants use the platform to establish a common operating picture, share critical information, monitor infrastructure disruptions, and support informed decision-making during response, recovery, and mitigation operations.

Emergency Preparedness & Ready Strafford MRC

Join the Ready Strafford MRC



Medical Reserve Corps. (MRC) are a national program that convenes community volunteers "who want to donate their time and expertise to prepare for and respond to emergencies and to support ongoing preparedness initiatives". (ASPR) Despite the name, MRCs are made up of medical professionals and non-healthcare volunteers from the communities they serve.

Join the Ready Strafford MRC to help support your community & work with our SCPHN team to support preparedness & other community-based initiatives.



Strafford County Healthy Living Coalition

Our Strafford County Healthy Living Coalition partnered with Seacoast Eat Local and NH Hunger Solutions to host the 'Food for All' event at the Dover Farmer's Market in October! The event featured a passport card that pointed participants to make stops around the Market to learn how to access local food & federal nutrition programs, discover more about local community programs, & learn how to support food access through advocacy & action... all while enjoying the market!

We also celebrated two of our HLC members - Sara Oberle and Stacey Purslow - for their work to improve food access in our communities!

Young Adult Strategies for Prevention & the NH YAAC

We are in the fourth year of the Young Adult Strategies for Prevention (YAS) grant program with NH DHHS. We employ the help of three other Regional Public Health Network (RPHN) partners to implement this statewide grant to prevent substance use and suicide among NH young adults between the ages of 18-26.



The NH Young Adult Advisory Council (YAAC) is a central part of our Young Adult Strategies grant program that brings together young adults across New Hampshire to support one another, lead trainings and activities, and create resources

that reduce stigma and address substance use and mental health challenges in young adults in NH.

Young Adult BOOK CLUB

Join Young Adults ages 18-29 across NH who enjoy reading! Topics will include transitions as a young adult, managing relationships, mental health, and substance misuse.

This is a virtual event!
To register for one or more of the day's scan this QR Code:



If you have barriers to accessing the book, please email nhyoungadults603@gmail.com

November 5th 6:30-7:30PM	December 3rd 6:30-7:30PM	January 7th 6:30-7:30PM
		

Our YAAC regularly hosts pro-social events and activities such as book clubs, walks or hikes, and trauma-informed yoga to engage with young adults in substance-free spaces, to facilitate meaningful discussion, and share resources.

Follow @NHYoungAdults603 on Facebook & Instagram to stay in the know!

Our YAAC and YAS Leadership Team launched the new NH Young Adult website & Online Resource Library!

Find the Resource Library and more information about the YAAC at NHYoungAdults603.com.

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NORTH COUNTRY HEALTH CONSORTIUM

CAPITAL AREA Public Health Network
An Initiative of Granite United Way

ALL Together

Greater Sullivan County Public Health Network

NEW HAMPSHIRE DHHS Department of HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

NH Young Adult Online Resource Library Website Launch **NEW!**

We're thrilled to introduce our brand-new online resource library!

Your one stop shop for New Hampshire, local, and national resources around **mental health, substance use, housing and food security, and community resources!**

NHYoungAdults603.com



Questions? Reach out to us at: NHYoungAdults603@gmail.com

OR SCAN HERE



Thank You to Our Partners

GREATER SEACOAST HEALTH



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