



## Endowment News

## Using Public Policy to Create Change

Spring 2007

**About our Newsletter:** Welcome to the first edition of the Endowment's e-newsletter. Each edition will focus on an important issue central to our work. Information, opinion and insight from the foundation and health fields will also be included, as well as related tools and resources. Our first issue is dedicated to health-related public policy. *If you do not wish to receive future issues, simply scroll to the bottom of the page and click "SafeUnsubscribe".*

### Public Policy - Values in Action

Message from James W. Squires, M.D., President



Early in the life of the Endowment for Health, we faced a challenging question: Could we meet our mission and live up to our values through traditional grantmaking alone, or did we need to look upstream at some of the public policies that contributed to the problems facing our communities? Did we want to use the resources in our trust to create short-term fixes? Or did we also want to work for more lasting solutions?

The answer to that question was a clear "yes" from our Board and Advisory Council. With advice from the Attorney General's Charitable Trust Division and examples from our foundation colleagues, we embarked on an effort to develop and define a grant program for projects that would advance public policies in our key theme areas.

The results of those efforts are evident in our Public Policy grant portfolio. In this issue, Program Director Kelly Laflamme writes about lead poisoning, one of these important public policy issues. The best-intentioned lead poisoning education efforts are rendered ineffective without state laws to back it up. Additionally, on the issue of health insurance, we can't have a health system that works for everyone if there are situations like divorce or first jobs that make it impossible for people to keep their health coverage. Another public policy example can be seen in the Endowment's efforts to improve oral health, as we work with community partners to increase public awareness - of childhood caries, a real, serious, and all-too-common disease.

The Board and staff of the Endowment for Health believe strongly that public policy helps shape public attitudes as much as public attitudes shape the policy. Public policy can become a window into the collective mind of our society. We therefore remain deeply concerned about the common good and, as the philosopher Hannah Arendt put it, we will stay involved in the "realm of the public." The Endowment for Health will use its resources and its voice to articulate the needs of those whose voices are not heard, are on the margins, or are muted in the public dialogue. We will continue to speak out for those without a voice and for all those who live in New Hampshire. We recognize that many will be reluctant to listen, but we would be derelict in our obligations to society if we failed to voice our concerns.

Our work in public policy is defined by our legal role as a foundation – research, advocacy, education, support for coalitions, and capacity building. It is driven by our core values of integrity, stewardship, fairness, respect, compassion, and courage. We welcome the dialogue and the partnerships that help us meet our mission: "to improve the health and reduce the burden of illness for the people of New Hampshire, especially the vulnerable and underserved. "

## Foundations and Public Policy - A Strategy for Lasting Change

Mary-Vallier Kaplan, Vice President of Program



Echoing a trend in foundation work across the country, the Endowment's public policy effort increases each year. We view public policy as a critical tool to make sure we achieve lasting impact in each of our "themes," the important health issues on which we focus our work. Working in partnership with other foundations and organizations, we invest in public policy improvement at all levels and branches of government and through engaged civic conversation.

***"Foundations do their best work when they support wider debate about issues that a government may address narrowly or not at all, and move public policy through the result of well-aired democratic processes. If we ignore these challenges, we would fail our strategic vision."\* David Nee***

As part of our policy strategy for the oral health theme, the Endowment funded the New Hampshire Coalition for Oral Health Action to implement "Watch Your Mouth." This state- and New England-wide public awareness campaign helped create political understanding of the importance of oral health to overall health. Our partners in funding that effort were the Northeast Delta Dental Foundation and the Harvard Pilgrim HealthCare Foundation.

The Endowment for Health is also a major funder in building health-related public policy infrastructure in New Hampshire. As such, we provide unrestricted operating support to the critical statewide health-related organizations that advocate, develop information, and build nonprofit public policy capacity, such as the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy, the Institute on Health Law and Ethics, and the New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits.

At times, the Endowment also plays an entrepreneurial role in public policy, often using its own voice and connections. For example, the Endowment convened a broad-based group of New Hampshire residents in a Citizens Roundtable to learn about and prioritize important issues of health and health care costs in New Hampshire. That group's recommendations, along with the Endowment's Pillars Project, grew into the New Hampshire Citizens Health Initiative convened by Governor John Lynch.

***"Like most developing foundations, our role in public policy will continue to grow as we work harder to create sustainable systemic change."***

Like most developing foundations, our role in public policy will continue to grow as we work harder to create sustainable systemic change. We will always comply with federal regulations in how we use our resources to impact public policy. At the same time, we will continue to highlight the knowledgeable and capable voices of New Hampshire residents and nonprofits in policy debates on health and health care issues in our state and region. We will do this through the development of nonprofit advocacy organizations, new advocacy skills workshops, and public policy leadership development.

The Endowment considers itself a "learning organization," and we remain in a learning mode for our public policy work. We will continue to learn how to partner effectively with government on projects, such as our efforts to improve access to health care with the Manchester Health Department or with the Legislative Commission on Mental Health. We will partner with other foundations to improve analysis and advocacy on the impact of our State budget on its vulnerable and underserved residents.

We also want to increase overall knowledge and understanding of the role that public policy plays in creating long-lasting improvement in health. The Endowment will continue to work to increase the knowledge base of our policymakers on critical health issues, through efforts like the New Hampshire Public Health Association's annual non-partisan convening, of "Public Health 101," a policy overview for

legislators. We will use our foundation's growing communications capacity to disseminate knowledge and resources that inform sound public policy. The Endowment will continue to work with its foundation partners across the region and the country to support the development and implementation of excellent health-related public policy that improves the health of the people of New Hampshire.

\*David Nee is Executive Director of the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund, New Haven, Connecticut, as quoted in *The Family Advisor: Family Foundations and Public Policy*, Council on Foundations, 2003.

## Lead Poisoning - A Preventable Public Health Problem

*Kelly Laflamme, Program Director*



Lurking in New Hampshire's older and historic homes is a poison that causes incalculable damage to the health and future well-being of our children. Lead paint has been banned from residential use for nearly 30 years, and we've known the danger that lead poses for more than 100 years. Yet, lead paint still poisons more than 200 children every year in towns and cities across New Hampshire. The prevention of childhood lead poisoning has been a recurring – and seemingly intractable – public policy problem for our state.

Even though the serious and often permanent damage to children's health that lead causes is completely preventable, New Hampshire's current laws on lead paint effectively allow children to be used as lead detectors. The State Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program can't move to protect children until a child has an elevated blood lead level of 20 mcg/dL – twice the actionable level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.



*Older buildings with chipping paint pose significant lead poisoning hazards.*

Failing to address the danger of lead in and around our homes impacts us all in increased health care costs, increased special education costs, and in the loss of potential within every affected child. In fact, New Hampshire bears the dubious distinction of being the last state to report a death due to childhood lead poisoning in 2000. It is a moral imperative that, as a state, we work to prevent such tragedy from continuing to happen.

When twenty children in one apartment building in Manchester were poisoned this summer, the headline in the *Union Leader* read, "Who's to blame?" Rather than lay blame, we must each look for our role in preventing this from happening again. The steps are clear: ensuring screening for children and pregnant women, teaching parents how to protect their children, educating contractors and property owners about lead-safe maintenance and renovation practices, and advocating for public policy that promotes and funds primary prevention. With these, New Hampshire can eliminate childhood lead poisoning.

The Endowment for Health, too, asked itself, "What is the role of a foundation in addressing this critical public health issue?" Working in collaboration with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the Norwin S. and Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation, we co-convened a meeting of community stakeholders to improve our understanding of the problem and identify where strategic funding could make the most difference. Through this convening and subsequent conversations, we learned that one reason lead poisoning had been an intractable public policy problem for so long was that there had not been a coordinated, multi-sector advocacy effort on lead poisoning prevention.



With our partners, the Endowment for Health has used its resources to put a spotlight on the problem of lead. We have spoken publicly about the need for improved lead poisoning prevention policy and participated in the Governor's Task Force on Lead which developed recommendations for policy change, such as bringing New Hampshire into compliance with CDC recommendations. In addition, in collaboration with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, we co-funded a public policy grant to Child Health Services to convene a Childhood Lead Poisoning Collaborative to advocate for improved protection of our state's most valuable resource, our children.

For more information about the Childhood Lead Poisoning Collaborative, contact Anne Phillips at Child Health Services at [aphillips@healthservices.org](mailto:aphillips@healthservices.org)

For more information about the State Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, go to <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/CLPPP/default.html>

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## Endowment's Annual Meeting Highlights



Past Board Chair Sue Chollet is honored for her service and dedication to the Endowment

The Endowment for Health hosted its annual meeting on March 19. Nearly 150 community partners attended the event. Board members Sue Chollet and Mike Coughlin previewed the Endowment's updated values and Endowment President Dr. James Squires made remarks on matters of public policy that affect health and health care in the State of New Hampshire.



Endowment for Health President, James W. Squires, M.D., kicks off the Annual Meeting with thoughts on public policy.



Keynote speaker Cynthia Wainscott shares her thoughts on the importance of Mental Health awareness with David Rappaport from the Maine Health Access Foundation. Endowment for Health Program Director Kim Firth, (background left), exchanges ideas with Ann Connor from the New Hampshire Telehealth Program.

Keynote speaker Cynthia Wainscott discussed the stigma attached to mental illness and encouraged the group to redefine its language and viewpoint when discussing matters of mental health with the public, the media and key stakeholders. Wainscott's remarks set the groundwork for the Endowment's new grantmaking theme, Improving the Mental Health of New Hampshire's Children and their Families, which will officially kick off this coming October.

## Priorities and Strategies to Assist Vulnerable Populations



Jane Isaacs Lowe, Ph.D., of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, recently addressed a group of 120 New Hampshire community partners to fund innovative programs that improve the health and health care of Americans. The Endowment for Health sponsored the event.

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## New Reports on Endowment Supported Projects

Pound of Prevention, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Policy Team, Citizens Health Initiative  
<http://www.steppingupnh.org/secure/docs/032207%20Pound%20of%20Prevention.pdf>

Financing New Hampshire Hospitals: Cost Shifting in 2005, New Hampshire Center for Public Policy  
[http://www.nhpolicy.org/hospital\\_costshift\\_2007.pdf](http://www.nhpolicy.org/hospital_costshift_2007.pdf)

Girls Speak Up! Conversations with Young Women About Critical Issues in Their Lives, UNH Center on Adolescence  
<http://www.adolescence.unh.edu/Girls%20Speak%20Up%20Report.pdf>

Rural Data for Action: A comparative Analysis of Health Data for the New England Region, New England Rural Health Roundtable  
<http://www.newenglandruralhealth.org/policy/data.htm>

Children's Health Insurance in New Hampshire. An analysis of New Hampshire Healthy Kids, Carsey Institute  
[http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/documents/NHHealthyKids\\_final.pdf](http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/documents/NHHealthyKids_final.pdf)

## Tools & Resources for Public Policy Foundations and Public Policy

Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy. University of Southern California  
<http://www.usc.edu/schools/sppd/philanthropy>

Funding Health Advocacy, Grantmakers in Health, 2005  
[http://www.gih.org/usr\\_doc/IssueBrief21\\_Funding\\_Advocacy.pdf](http://www.gih.org/usr_doc/IssueBrief21_Funding_Advocacy.pdf)

Myth vs. Fact: Foundation Support of Advocacy, Thomas R. Asher, Alliance for Justice, 1995  
[http://www.allianceforjustice.org/images/collection\\_images/myth.pdf](http://www.allianceforjustice.org/images/collection_images/myth.pdf)

Public Policy Grantmaking Toolkit, Northern California Grantmakers, 2005-2006  
<http://www.ncg.org/toolkit/home.html>

Top 10 Ways Private Foundations Can Influence Public Policy, Council on Foundations, 2007  
<https://www.cof.org/store/ProductList.cfm?TabID=141&action=T&args=PUBS&navItemNumber=3773>

## Policy and Advocacy for Nonprofit Organizations

Lobbying on a Shoestring, Judith C. Meredith, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, 2000  
<http://www.realclout.org/ppi/publications/index.stm>

New Voices at the Civic Table, Alliance for Children and Families  
<http://www.alliance1.org/newvoices/index.htm>

Resources for NH Nonprofits on Election Activities, NH Center for Nonprofits  
[http://www.nhnonprofits.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogsection&id=49&Itemid=74](http://www.nhnonprofits.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=49&Itemid=74)

Worry-Free Lobbying for Nonprofits, Alliance for Justice, 1999  
[http://www.allianceforjustice.org/images/collection\\_images/Worry-Free%20Lobbying%202003.pdf](http://www.allianceforjustice.org/images/collection_images/Worry-Free%20Lobbying%202003.pdf)

## Evaluation for Public Policy and Advocacy

Advocacy and Policy Change Issue. Includes Theory & Practice, Evaluations to Watch, Promising Practices. The Evaluation Exchange, Spring 2007  
<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/eval/issue34/>

Build Your Advocacy Grantmaking: Advocacy Evaluation Tool & Advocacy Capacity Assessment Tool, Alliance for Justice, 2005  
[http://www.allianceforjustice.org/research\\_publications/publications/index.html](http://www.allianceforjustice.org/research_publications/publications/index.html)

## Theme-Related Policy Resources

*Economic Barriers to Health:*  
Kaiser Family Foundation  
<http://www.kff.org/>

*Oral Health:*  
Children's Dental Health Project  
<http://www.cdhp.org/>

*Geographic Barriers to Health:*

Community Transportation Association  
<http://www.ctaa.org/>

American Telemedicine Association Policy Issues

[http://www.atmeda.org/news/policy\\_issues/policy\\_issues.htm](http://www.atmeda.org/news/policy_issues/policy_issues.htm)

*Mental Health of Children and their Families:*

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
<http://www.bazelon.org/>

*Social Cultural Barriers to Health:*

American Public Health Association Health Disparities  
<http://www.apha.org/advocacy/priorities/issues/disparities/>

Commonwealth Fund Underserved Populations

[http://www.cmwf.org/topics/topics.htm?attrib\\_id=12024](http://www.cmwf.org/topics/topics.htm?attrib_id=12024)

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## What's on Your Mind about Health?

### 2007 Endowment for Health Listening Sessions

*A dialogue about health issues facing you, your community and our State*

**Upper Valley** – Thurs., **April 26**, 1 to 3 p.m., Mascoma Valley Senior Center, 1166 US Rt. 4, Canaan

**Great North Woods** – Wed., **May 2**, 9 to 11 a.m., Colebrook Public Library, 126 Main Street, Colebrook

**Greater Nashua** – Wed., **May 9**, 9 to 11 a.m., Nashua City Hall Auditorium, 229 Main Street, Nashua

Attend any or all sessions! RSVP: Peg LePage at 603- 228- 2448 or email  
<mailto:plepage@endowmentforhealth.org>

Endowment Listening Sessions Schedule and Directions

[http://www.endowmentforhealth.org/news\\_calendar\\_events\\_view.asp?K=55](http://www.endowmentforhealth.org/news_calendar_events_view.asp?K=55)

**SAVE THESE DATES!**

**Citizens Health Initiative Spring Conference**

May 29<sup>th</sup>, Grappone Center, Concord

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**Oral Health Celebration**

June 13, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Highlander Inn, Manchester

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**Program Workshop and Mental Health Kick-Off**

October 2, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Grappone Conference Center, Concord

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**Coming Soon**

Plans are underway at NH Center for Nonprofits to bring basic and advanced lobbying seminars to New Hampshire's nonprofits.

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**June 30 - Planning, Convening and Technical Assistance**

Proposals Due.

Details...

[http://www.endowmentforhealth.org/grant\\_center\\_pctai.asp](http://www.endowmentforhealth.org/grant_center_pctai.asp)