

President's Report
NHADACA Annual Meeting
November 21, 2014

This past year has resulted in the greatest growth of NHADACA since its inception in 1986. The Grand Opening of its new offices along with 2 training rooms for the NH Training Institute on Addictive Disorders (our workforce development project) in early May brought together several Past Presidents and one of the founding members of the Association-Michael Beebe. The goal to have NHADACA have its own identity was introduced at the strategic planning meeting of the Board of Directors in January 2013 and relied on the efforts of the 2013 and 2014 Boards. This was just the beginning of the work carried out by the Board on behalf of our membership. During the past two years continued work on a project that began in 2000 saw NHADACA receive 501c3 status which will allow us to apply for grants to continue our mission. This year also had us take an ambitious step in putting together a Marijuana Forum devised following a survey sent to the membership in February overwhelming directing that NHADACA provide a balanced education on both sides of the legalizing marijuana for recreational use. This forum has reached to this date nearly 1000 people and will be made available this Spring should there be another Bill introduced in the Legislature. Without taking a formal position we believe the information both speakers gave is important enough for those who will be voting and hope that they will take advantage to hear both sides of the issue presented in a civil manner. I want to thank Lori Magoon and Dianne Pepin along with the Forum committee members for their commitment which led to the success of the event. Other legislative issues NHADACA watched during the year included Casino Gambling which we believe will be introduced again next year, and the expanded Medicaid which is resulting in the estimate of access to treatment for about 7000 additional NH residents being paid by the NH Health Protection Plan. The need for MLADC's to enroll as providers will be addressed by representatives of the NH Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services (BDAS) at today's annual meeting. Also being watched are efforts by various municipalities to address the sale of "synthetic marijuana" such as spice following the overdoses in Manchester this past summer. On a more somber note while we are patting ourselves on the back for all our accomplishments this year we cannot forget the astronomical number of lives lost this year due to the heroin epidemic. I met a grandmother last week who had just lost her 31 year-old granddaughter and mother of two young children to an overdose recently and she said "enough is enough". She told me that her new mission is to make a difference and hopefully save another family from the pain she was going through. She asked how could she help and we discussed various ways her voice could be heard. From that conversation I am asking our entire membership to make sure our voices are heard in this battle. One way that can make an immediate difference is to make sure legislation is passed allowing all first responders including the Police access and training to administer Naloxone (NarCan). Ask that treatment centers, sober houses, clinicians, and family members of addicts have access and training to administer this tool that will reverse an opiate overdose. According to news reports Senator Ayotte has seen firsthand how this works. It is time that our voices are heard! As Carolyn told me "enough is enough".

I have been honored to have served as your President for the past 2 years and want to send my extreme gratitude to the Staff and Board of Director's of NHADACA. I am proud to have served with immediate Past President (and NAADAC's Northeast Regional Vice-President) Catey Iacuzzi and President-Elect Lori Magoon. Finally, NHADACA is fortunate to have Dianne Pepin as our Executive Director. Her leadership has led to most of the success that we have been able to achieve.

Peter DalPra