



Nicholas A. Toumpas
Commissioner

José Thier Montero
Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

29 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301-6527
603-271-4549 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4549
Fax: 603-271-8705 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964



December 7, 2011

RE: Health Officer Liaison Position

Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) Partners,

The Health Officer Liaison position is currently vacant and will not be filled in the near term due to the current hiring freeze and budget constraints, including anticipated cuts to the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG), a primary federal funding source for this position. Unfortunately, due to limited resources, several of the functions covered by this position will not be covered until further notice. This includes the following areas:

- Providing technical assistance to health officers (the exception to this is consultation with various DPHS programs that have expertise in their program areas such as lead and indoor smoking – see DHHS website <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/> and enter topic area to find programs)
- Assisting the Health Officer Association with organizing two annual conferences
- Staffing Health Officer Association meetings
- Providing orientation to health officers
- Providing on site assistance to towns for health officer related matters
- Providing advice and consultation to callers and responding to emails regarding sanitation, housing conditions and public health nuisances
- Attendance by the Health Officer Liaison at various meetings and committees

DPHS will continue to provide the following:

- Calls or emails from consumers for housing conditions and other related issues such as radon and mold will be referred to the appropriate external resource (if one is available) or local health officer when appropriate by the DPHS Healthy Homes program. DPHS Healthy Homes program can be reached at 271-8128 or bdrouin@dhhs.state.nh.us. Please use the One Touch Healthy Homes information & referral sheet to refer people to available resources.
- Coordination of disease investigation and notification of local health officers
- Coordination of development of public health nuisance guidelines to be made available to health officers once completed
- Publication on the DPHS and Health Officer Association website of the updated version of the health officer manual
- Approval of health officer and deputy health officer applications (Contact Janice Southwick at 271-5133 or by email at jsouthwick@dhhs.state.nh.us)
- Management of a health officer data base and contact information
- Contact, communication and coordination with the Health Officer Association as needed

Further notification will be provided should the staffing situation change. We regret any inconvenience that this reduction in staffing resources may cause to our partners and the citizens of New Hampshire.

Respectfully,

Michael Dumond
Chief, Bureau of Public Health Protection