

Research Exchange



Photo Credit: Troi Perkins

Welcome to the NNE CO-OP PCBRN's Quarterly Newsletter, Spring 2023 Edition!

We are excited to announce the release of our new quarterly newsletter, designed to keep you up-to-date on all the latest news and information related to the Northern New England CO-OP Practice and Community Based Research Network (NNE CO-OP PCBRN).

Since 1972, we have been committed to providing primary care practices across Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine with the resources and support they need to deliver high-quality care to their patients.

In this issue, you'll find a wealth of information, including continuing education opportunities, upcoming conferences, research opportunities, staff reports, and information for members.

We will also reflect on our last Annual Meeting held in January 2023, which was held in-person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Newsletter Highlights

Letter from our Executive
Director

2023 Annual Meeting
Review

Staff Report: Presenting
CO-OP Research

Introducing CO-OP
Research Workgroups

Upcoming Conferences
and Seminar Information

Letter from Executive Director



Meagan Stabler, Ph.D., CHES (She/her)
NNE CO-OP PCBRN Executive Director

It is with great excitement and gratitude that I write you today. Building on 50+ years of excellence, we have had a productive start to 2023. My name is Meagan Stabler and I began as the Executive Director of the NNE CO-OP PCBRN in April, after five years at Dartmouth College working in the Department of Epidemiology and TDI. My background in public health research collaborations has focused on serving rural communities and marginalized populations and I look forward to embodying this experience when serving the CO-OP. I was fortunate to join the 2023 annual meeting in Stowe, VT prior to my official start. Between this experience and meeting many of you throughout the interview process, I have been blown away by the passion, generosity, and brilliance of the CO-OP members.

In my first few months as Executive Director, I am prioritizing a few key initiatives. First and foremost, the CO-OP leadership team will be embarking on a Learning Tour across Northern New England to connect with CO-OP members and visit practices to hear firsthand about the challenges and successes you experience conducting clinician-lead research. This will be an invaluable opportunity to learn from you and work together to identify ways we can better serve you and our community. Additionally, we are pursuing new research and grant opportunities that will benefit CO-OP member practices and the patients we serve. We are also engaging the CO-OP Board and leadership team with upstream strategic management planning to ensure that we are well-positioned to continue to serve our communities effectively. Finally, we will be expanding membership benefits like member-only webpages and a virtual workspace to help facilitate communication and collaboration among our members based on member feedback.

I am honored to be joining the NNE CO-OP PCBRN leadership team, and I am committed to working hard to support our shared mission to provide research opportunities for clinicians and health professionals, publish evidence-based results, and facilitate patient outcome improvements via clinician-lead research translation. I look forward to getting to know you all and working together to make a positive difference in the lives of our patients.

Sincerely,
Meagan Stabler, PhD, CHES

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meagan Stabler', with a stylized flourish at the end.



Photo Credit: Eline Altenberg

43rd CO-OP Annual Meeting

by Troi Perkins

The CO-OP's 43rd Annual Meeting was held at Stoweflake Mountain Resort and Spa in Stowe, Vermont on January 27-29th. It was the largest meeting yet with 127 registered attendees from 25 institutions and six states. This year's theme was Climate and Political Determinants of Health which was kicked off by Dr. Tess Wiskel from Harvard C-Change as our keynote speaker. Sessions included discussions that focused on integrated healthcare and collaborations outside of clinical settings.



Photo collage from 43rd Annual NNE CO-OP PCBRN Meeting

Our climate health panel showcased interprofessional collaboration best with panelists such as Dr. Christine Vatovec, Assistant Research Professor at UVM Osher Center for Integrative Health; Christophe Courchesne, Senior Attorney and Assistant Professor at Environmental Advocacy and Environmental Justice Clinics, Vermont Law and Graduate School; Jessinta Palack, Medical Student at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and part of Medical students for a Sustainable Future; and Dr. Seddon Savage, Education Director, and Project ECHO coordinator at Dartmouth Health and with NH Healthcare Workers for Climate Action.

In addition to seminars, the conference included three official networking events, including a game night with over 60 attendees, a S'mores campfire, and the traditional CO-OP sunrise swim led by the CO-OP's Clinical Research Director, Maureen Boardman. We also had a two-hour research poster session featuring 30 posters. Per the usual CO-OP Magic, we ended with our brainstorming session which produced 11 research-ready projects and five research interest workgroups this year.

We hope that you can join us in making even more great memories at our next Annual Meeting on January 26-28th, 2024!



Photo above is "Stowe Today" by Annika Brown, winner of 43rd Annual Meeting Photo Contest



Photo Credit: Charles MacLean

Presenting CO-OP Research



CO-OP Staff from left to right: Zoe Daudier, Maureen Boardman, and Troi Perkins

On April 27, CO-OP staff attended the 2023 Vermont Nursing Practitioners Association (VNPA) Conference and presented three posters about ongoing CO-OP research.

The inclusion of all providers is key to the CO-OP's mission of community-based research in the Northeast. Many nurse practitioners expressed interest in future research, and we plan to continue to support the VNPA and attend next year's conference in Stowe, Vermont in November.

NAPCRG PBRN

Collaborating with other practice-based research networks (PBRN) help us to continue moving forward toward better research and healthcare.

This year, the CO-OP has three posters and one workshop accepted for the upcoming NAPCRG PBRN Conference in Bethesda, MD on May 31-June 1, 2023.

Posters:

- Bringing Climate Health to PBRNs
- COVID-19 Perceptions on Vaccine Hesitancy
- HPV Expanded Age Range Knowledge in VT and NH

Workshop:

- Spot the Bot: Awareness of Fraudulent Survey Takers in Research



Bethesda, Maryland

Research Interest Workgroups

Our research interest workgroups are open for anyone to join.



Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

This is an ongoing research workgroup within the CO-OP which has looked at

topics from ACE screenings to the introduction of resilience measures in ACEs. Thoughts included training videos and additional questionnaires i.e. mental health-related and climate health-related screenings.

CO-OP Contact: Zoe Daudier

Climate Awareness

Climate Change is the leading driving force Public Health around the world but



how are clinics actually addressing it? What is the current status of awareness of climate health issues and vocabulary among clinical workers and leadership in New England?

CO-OP Contact: Troi Perkins

Panel Size

Practices and healthcare organizations are in the midst of determining panel



size. What are the determining factors that contribute to a reasonable panel size for Primary Care Providers? What impact does Panel Size have on PCP work satisfaction and retention?

CO-OP Contact: Neil Korsen



Referrals to Specialists

What is the driving force behind specialist referrals- the patient or clinician?

Are referrals meeting the expectations of the patient, PCP, and specialists involved? Is there a need for improvement in the way patient referrals are handled?

CO-OP Contact: Zoe Daudier & Troi Perkins



Reproductive Health

With the rise of increasing political fights on reproductive healthcare access, what do

clinicians need for materials and/or training to address healthcare concerns of their patients? Is there consistent reproductive health and abortion information across institutions, clinics, and states within New England?

CO-OP Contact: Meagan Stabler

Other

Have a burning idea? Want to get engaged in a research topic not listed here?



You can send a message to our email (NNECO-OPPCBRN@hitchcock.org) to pitch an idea for a new research interest workgroup. If you already have a research project ready to go and want to work with the CO-OP, then please fill out our new Research Intake Form posted on our website and [here](#).

Upcoming Conferences

- **May 15-16,**
Health Equity Conference, San Diego, CA
- **May 16-19,**
Annual NRHA Rural Health Conference, San Diego, CA
- **May 16, 7:30-4:00 PM EST,**
Bistate Primary Care Conference: Social and Environmental Drivers of Community Health. Fairlee, VT
- **May 31-June 1,**
NAPCRG 2023 PBRN Conference, Bethesda, MD
- **June 6, 8:30-5:00 PM EST,**
5th Clinical Climate Change: Clinical Care for Workers in the Climate Crisis, Hybrid, NY
- **June 20-25,**
2023 AANP National Conference, New Orleans, LA
- **Oct. 30- 3 Nov.,**
NAPCRG 51st Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA



Continued Learning

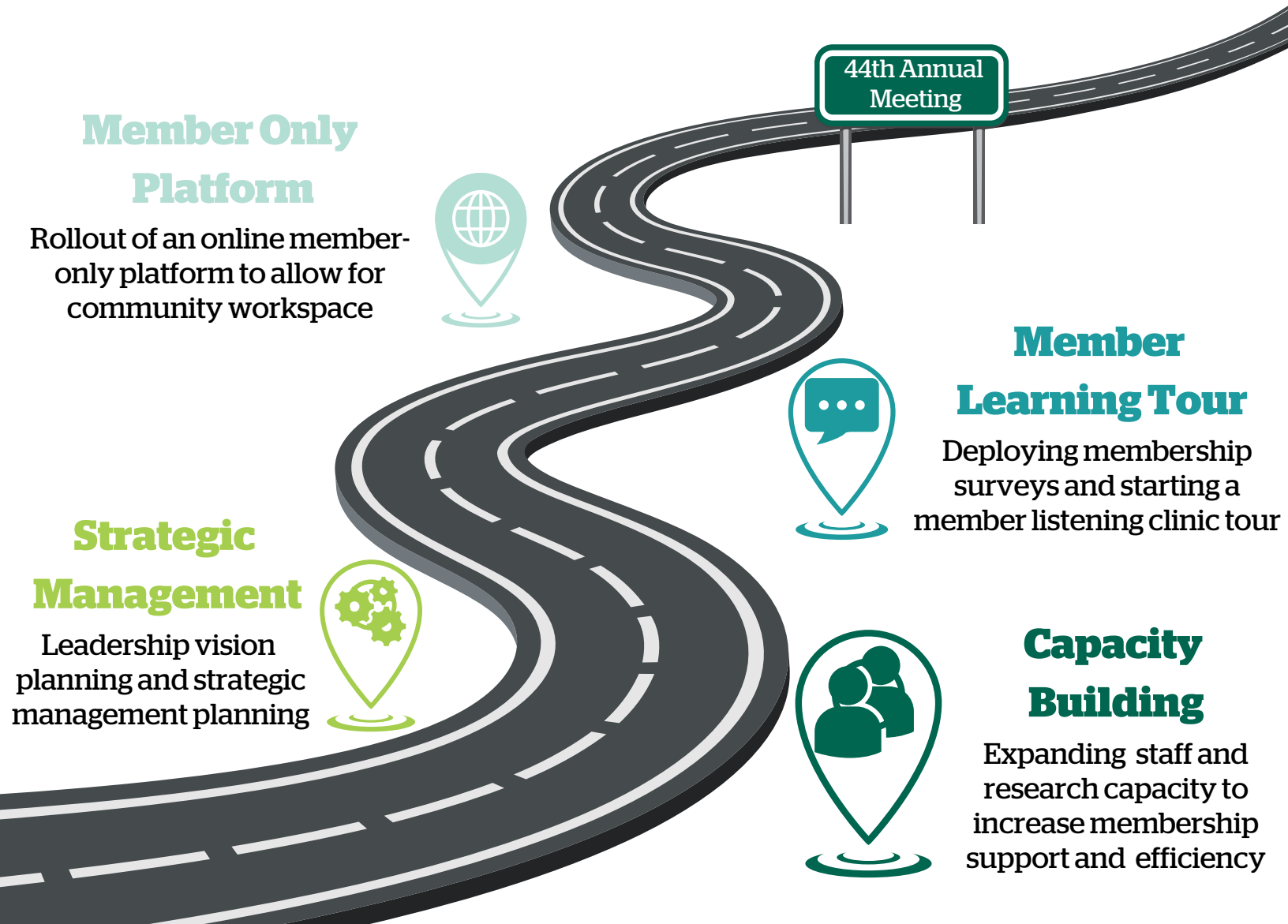
The CO-OP has staff engaged in various workgroups across the Northeast as a way to increase continued learning and be aware of opportunities available through partner organizations. This helps us to provide more members with additional resources and networking opportunities.

Here is a list of upcoming seminars and talks provided by those partnering organizations:

- **May 11, 2:00 PM (EST),** The Lancet Webinar. Public Policy & Health in the USA, "Revitalizing Primary Care: A Health Justice Imperative", Virtual
- **May 13, 7:00-5:00 PM (EST),** VT Nurse Practitioner's Association, "2023 PCE Primary Care Symposia", Virtual
- **July 20, 6:00-7:00 PM (EST),** NH Healthcare Workers for Climate Action, "Climate Change and the Psychiatrist" by Dr. Robert Feder, Virtual
- **September 18, 5:30-7:00 PM (EST),** Schumann Lecture, "Venture out Project" by Perry Cohen

ROAD TO 2024

In addition to currently active research, the NNE CO-OP PCBRN has many events and activities to look forward to before our next Annual Meeting in 2024. You can expect new research project announcements, continued support for research workgroups, additional presentations of CO-OP research across the nation, and the expansion of our network's capabilities and membership benefits. The map below highlights some of our largest goals for the year.



Northern New England CO-OP Practice & Community Based Research Network

Department of Community and Family Medicine at Dartmouth Health and Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, in collaboration with Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont and MaineHealth