



Foundation *for*
Healthy Communities

2025 Granite State Health Care Coalition General Membership Virtual Meeting Executive Summary

November 5, 2025

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The 2025 Granite State Health Care Coalition (GSHCC) General Membership Virtual Meeting was hosted virtually and provided over ninety partners from ambulatory surgical centers, assisted living facilities, association organizations, dialysis, emergency management, emergency medical services, home health care, hospice care, and palliative care, hospitals, long-term care, mental and behavioral health care, non-profit organizations, public health, regional partners, skilled nursing facilities, state government agencies, and urgent care with the opportunity to hear about past and upcoming GSHCC and New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health (DPH), Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (EPRR) activities and participate in timely and relevant educational sessions on lessons learned from the American Cross response to the Lewiston, Maine shooting, lessons learned from the Granite Ledges evacuation, and best practices and forecasting in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare.

GSHCC Welcome

Scott Nichols, Senior Director, GSHCC

Attendees were welcomed to the 2025 Granite State Health Care Coalition General Membership Virtual Meeting and provided a brief introduction to the GSHCC. For additional information on GSHCC activities, see the [GSHCC 2024-2025 Year in Review](#).

NH DHHS, DPH, Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Update

Stephanie Locke, Chief, Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (EPRR)

Stephanie provided an update on EPRR activities including administrative preparedness, planning updates, and an overview of ESF-8 real-world response activities.

Red Cross Response to Mass Casualty Incidents

John Montes, Regional Disaster Officer, The American Red Cross, Northern New England Region

John provided an overview of lessons learned and best practices from the American Red Cross Northern New England Region's response to the Lewiston, Maine shooting and subsequent manhunt in October 2023. John provided information on the American Red Cross response and processes for setting up a Family Assistance Center and Family Reunification Center. John noted there is a national movement to change the title of "Family Reunification Center" to "Family Notification Center," to reduce false hope of families seeking missing/impacted loved ones during mass casualty events. John spoke about implementing the Maine Resiliency Center and the extraordinary effort of many local, state, and federal agencies, non-profits and the private sector coming together to support the impacted community.

Additional resources:

- American Red Cross, Northern New England Region [Volunteer Inquiry Page](#)
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)- [NFPA 3000 Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response Program](#)

When Chaos Hits and People are at Risk- How the System is Designed to Help You

Matthew Hamilton, Director of Facilities, Granite Ledges of Concord

Mike Melody, System Level Safety /Emergency Prep Officer, Concord Hospital

Stephanie Locke, Chief, NH DHHS, EPRR

Scott Nichols, Senior Director, GSHCC

The panel spoke from the Granite Ledges facility, Concord Hospital, State NH DHHS, ESF-8, and GSHCC perspectives on challenges, lessons learned and best practices from the Granite Ledges long-term care facility evacuation in February, 2025. A fire caused the evacuation of the facility which led to uncertainty around evacuation processes for relocation and repatriation efforts among involved parties. Pre-established partnerships proved vital as the event led to minimal resident injury and zero deaths.

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Future-Proofing Healthcare Coalitions: AI for Cautious People

Natasha Vandeford, ED Charge Nurse, Disaster Preparedness, UCHHealth Colorado

Natasha spoke about AI and forecasting around its potential future impacts on the healthcare system. Healthcare entities may use AI to their advantage but must be cautious about its use. AI allows for greater operational visibility, reduces the need for manual data entry, preserves privacy, and provides for faster situational awareness. Regulations must be implemented to provide parameters around its use as it can be an invaluable tool for organizations.