

NEHA NEWS

NEHA Launches Online Community

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) understands how important it is for you to be able to connect, collaborate, and learn from your peers. To help meet this need, we are thrilled to introduce our new and official NEHA online Community that is exclusively for NEHA members to engage in discussions with and learn from peers around the world at any time.

You might be wondering, “What is Community and what exactly can I do in this online space?” Here are just a few of the ways you can participate:

- **Learn from your peers:** Start discussions with fellow members by creating posts that your peers can provide their thoughts on.
- **Share important resources:** Upload a document that you think others might benefit from.
- **Get and give answers:** Use Community to provide your thoughts by posting questions, answering questions, and replying to posts.
- **Find other members:** Use the Community directory to search for fellow members by name or location.

NEHA members were sent an email invitation to Community at the end of October 2022. If you did not get that email or have not joined, you can access Community by logging in to MyNEHA and clicking on Community Site under Membership on the top toolbar. You can also access the site directly at <https://community.neha.org>. You will use your MyNEHA login for Community and you can follow the prompts to activate and set up your account. You can update your profile information, add a description about yourself, upload a photo, and edit your privacy and notification settings. Community is set by default to email you a digest of conversations daily. You can change that to weekly, real-time, or turn off any future notifications. Finally, make sure to bookmark the Community link so you can easily access the site in the future.

Log in to Community to explore this exciting new platform and start connecting with your peers today! And if you are not a NEHA member, join now at www.neha.org/membership to gain access to this new resource. We look forward to seeing you in Community!

NEHA Introduces Spark!

Spark! is an ongoing series of member-only webinars available through our new Community platform that is designed to build skills in short 1/2-hr segments. Each webinar provides 0.5 continuing education contact hours toward a NEHA credential.

The focus of the current Spark! series is on leadership. Leadership is an important skill for environmental health professionals at all levels of their careers. Possessing the essential skills to handle and adapt to a wide range of situations and demonstrate leadership ability and aptitude can help you be even more successful in your career.

Here are the upcoming Spark! webinars:

- January 25: Conversational Leadership
- February 22: Thought Leadership
- March 29: Caring Leadership

All webinars are held at 12 p.m. ET and can be accessed by NEHA members in Community at <https://community.neha.org>.

InFORM Regional Meetings

In partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we are hosting a series of Integrated Foodborne Outbreak Response and Management (InFORM) Regional Meetings in early 2023. The InFORM Regional Meetings are held on the intervening years of the larger, national InFORM Conference.

The meetings will encompass joint and discipline-specific sessions for environmental health specialists, epidemiologists, laboratory scientists, health communicators, and other federal, state, and local public health officials involved with foodborne and enteric disease outbreak response. Attendees will have the opportunity to network and share knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned with other public health professionals in their region.

The InFORM Regional Meetings support efforts to improve public health through the prevention and control of disease, disability, and death caused by foodborne, waterborne, and environmentally transmitted infections. The meetings will also facilitate the discussion on strategic goals and encourage the exchange of expertise about improving surveillance systems and practices for detecting, investigating, and controlling enteric disease outbreaks.

Three InFORM Regional Meetings will be held in January and February 2023:

- East Regional Meeting in Greenville, South Carolina, on January 24–25
- West Regional Meeting in San Diego, California, on January 31–February 1
- Central Regional Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, on February 14–15

To learn more about the InFORM Regional Meetings and to register, visit www.neha.org/inform.

NEHA Staff Profiles

As part of tradition, we feature new staff members in the *Journal* around the time of their 1-year anniversary. These profiles give you an opportunity to get to know our staff better and to learn more about the great programs and activities going on in your association. This month we are pleased to introduce you to three NEHA staff members. Contact information for all NEHA staff can be found on pages 38 and 39.

**Kate Beasley**

I joined NEHA in February 2022 as the digital communications strategist within the Marketing and Communications department. I am primarily responsible for managing NEHA's social media channels and website. My role also includes graphic design, tracking digital analytics, and supporting specific marketing initiatives.

My first year at NEHA has been focused on building the new website in support of the rebranding effort. Through this work, I have gotten to dig into all NEHA has to offer our members and work with people across our departments. Now that the new site has launched, I am looking forward to helping our new brand flourish by elevating our social media channels, finding creative ways to share the amazing resources our teams develop with a wider audience, and ensuring consistency across all communications.

Before joining NEHA, I worked on the COVID-19 response communications team at Tri-County Health Department in the Denver metropolitan area. Prior to that I worked in political communications after graduating from Drake University with a bachelor of arts. I enjoy spending my time training my recently rescued shelter dog, following the latest social media trends, and skiing in the winter or golfing in the summer.



Julianne Manchester

I am the senior research and evaluation specialist for the NEHA-FDA Retail Flexible Funding Model (RFFM) Grant Program. I support the program by identifying training gaps across the retail food regulatory workforce and enjoy working with NEHA colleagues to build evaluation capacity in support of process improvement and outcomes measurement.

I am a professionally trained evaluator and process improvement expert with a doctor of philosophy (PhD) degree earned in 2007 from The Ohio State University in quantitative research, evaluation, and measurement in education. I hold master's degrees in industrial/organizational psychology and educational policy and leadership. I earned a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt. I also have been the lead author of peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *Military Medicine*, *Evaluation and Program Planning*, and *Performance Improvement*.

Over my career I have trained educators, health professionals, medical faculty, and the prevention workforce on building their processes and capacity to improve effectiveness demonstrations in health and behavioral health settings. My past leadership roles include principal investigator, program manager, and evaluation scientist on federal (Health Resources and Services Administration and Office of Minority Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Defense Health Agency within the U.S. Department of Defense) and state agreements (Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio Commission on Minority Health).

As a facilitator of evaluation knowledge for clients, colleagues, and stakeholders, I work to strengthen prevention policy, provide capacity support to workforce development programs (e.g., employee assistance, substance abuse, risk reduction, suicide

prevention, retail food protection) through logic modeling and strategy development, create needs assessments and analyze gaps and redundancies in support of the prevention workforce, and facilitate discussions on suicide prevention planning resources with stakeholders.

I bring real world, applied experience spanning over 21 years in program management, evaluation, and research in public health (health disparities, suicide prevention, alcohol and drug prevention, coalition building), health (traumatic brain injury, psychological health, delirium, dementia, diabetes, depression, palliative care), K-12 (school safety), and criminal justice sectors. I am an active member of the American Evaluation Association, Maryland Writers' Association, and Virginia Writers Club.



Nick Ogg

I joined NEHA as the media specialist within the Entrepreneurial Zone (EZ) department in February 2022. Growing up with two parents actively involved in the field of education, I always found it fun to see the "behind the scenes" of educational environments and seeing the results of all the efforts my parents put into their classrooms and curriculum.

So, after a long and winding detour that first led me into a career managing various restaurant concepts, I found myself moving to Denver and obtaining my bachelor's degree in video production from Metropolitan State University (MSU) of Denver in 2019. After completion of my degree, I started working for MSU Denver as an instructional media designer where I improved the skills that I brought to NEHA in creating educational media that includes interviews, animations, and interactive videos.

Working at NEHA for this first year has been an incredibly rewarding experience. NEHA and the EZ department have not only shown themselves to be a group of upstanding individuals but also demonstrate repeatedly their ability to create exceptional products through enthusiastic passion and a great collaborative culture. I love how we allow and support each other to explore outside our comfort zones and push ourselves to continue to create engaging, inventive courses throughout the field of environmental health.

When not working, I enjoy studying film and television, cooking with my wife Jennifer, and convincing anyone willing to join me in a Denver happy hour! ❁