

NEHA NEWS

The *Food Code* is a model code for safeguarding public health against instances of foodborne illness and is a scientifically sound, technical resource that can be used to regulate the retail segment of the food industry. Increasing the number of state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) regulating bodies that have adopted the two most recent versions of the FDA *Food Code* is one of the primary aims of the Collaborative. Adoption of the latest versions of the *Food Code* is associated with many benefits including assurance that food safety regulations reflect the most current science available and will evolve to reflect new science, knowledge, and emerging technologies.

The Toolkit was developed to provide information and resources to SLTT agencies looking to adopt more recent versions of the FDA *Food Code*. The Toolkit provides background on *Food Code* adoption and features letters of support from six national associations, three industry associations, and four regulatory programs. It also provides a list of resources, places to go for support, and an area to provide additional tools and resources from Toolkit viewers.

The Food Code Adoption Map provides a quick reference for stakeholders to quickly visualize which FDA *Food Code* version has been adopted, as well as easily accessible information on statutory and regulatory citations, most recent effective or amended dates, and agencies with regulatory authority.

View the Food Code Adoption Toolkit and the Food Code Adoption Map on the Collaborative's website at www.retailfood-safetycollaborative.org/tools/national-food-code-adoption-toolkit.

NEHA Staff Profile

As part of tradition, NEHA features new staff members in the *Journal* around the time of their 1-year anniversary. These profiles give you an opportunity to get to know the NEHA 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 one NEHA staff member. Contact information for all NEHA staff can be found on pages 52 and 53.



Becky Labbo

My interests in psychology started at a young age and remained throughout my education. I received my bachelor's degree in psychology and my master's degree in educational psychology. My career path took me down the road of research and evaluation. It was during my first job as a research assistant that I realized I liked that side of programs. I'm simply a very logical, analytical person who always asks

for the facts and data. I want to learn about the reasons and causes of things and use knowledge and information for improvement and to make decisions. My family often jokes that they don't need to read reviews because I have painstakingly researched the pros and cons for just about everything we buy, from cars to laundry detergent.

I have spent the last 20-plus years in program evaluation with about 7 years focused on K-12 education and teacher preparation and the latter 14 years in the realm of school wellness focused on the whole child. When I saw the opportunity with NEHA it felt like an ideal fit. Even though environmental health is new to me, I believe there is an intersection between the health of our environment and personal wellness. One does not happen without the other. My position at NEHA is as evaluation coordinator within the Program and Partnership Development Department. In this role, I will not only work to ensure evaluation is incorporated in all that NEHA does but also use this information to show our successes and to improve our programs to make a positive footprint.

I am a proud Colorado native! True to where I live, I love the mountains. In the summer you will find me hiking, enjoying a good patio, and attending live music at the best music venue in the world, Red Rocks. My family and I are avid skiers so in the winter you will find us at our favorite Colorado ski resorts. And of course, in addition to my husband and two kids, I stay busy trying to tire out our beloved goldendoodle, Cosmo Kramer. 🐶

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