

## New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities

# THE COUNCIL CORNER

Spring 2017



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### THE 5 YEAR PLAN: FY17-FY21

The New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities develops and follows a State Plan every five years to establish specific goals, objectives and strategies to address the most important issues affecting people with developmental disabilities in New Hampshire. In the next five years, the Council plans to focus primarily on: children's issues, quality of life, personal choice, and access to quality services. The overarching goal is always to remove barriers and promote opportunities in all areas of life for people with developmental disabilities.

[Download the Full 5 Year Plan](#)

[Download the 5 Year Plan Summary](#)

Children's Issues	Quality of Life	Personal Choice	Access to Quality Services
Laws — Policies — Practices — Support and Education	Vocational Training — Employment — Community Life — Relationships	Self-Advocacy — Peer Mentoring — Training — Targeted Disparity	Outcome Measures — Evaluation Methods — Workforce — Medicaid Managed Care

### COUNCIL ELECTIONS

In October 2016, the Council held an election to select the Chair and Vice Chair, and to vote on three new Council Members. To date, there are two remaining vacancies on the Council, both designated for people with developmental disabilities. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer as a self-advocating Council Member, please contact us with any questions. In October, 2017 there will also be four openings for parent/guardian seats on the Council. Visit the Council's website at [www.nhcdd.org](http://www.nhcdd.org) for more information.



*Vice Chair: Katherine Epstein*

Katie Epstein holds on to her position as Vice-Chair of the Council. Katie has been a self-advocating Council Member since 2012, and sits on the Policy Committee, Program & Planning Committee, and the Executive Committee, serving as Co-Chair of the latter.

#### New Members

*Parent / Guardian Seat: Déodonné P. Bhattarai*

Déodonné P. Bhattarai joined the Council this fall and was recently appointed Co-Chair of the Policy Committee. She is the parent of a young child with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA - Type II). Déodonné is a stay-at-home mom who volunteers with the Disability Rights Center. She is a recent NH Leadership graduate and a member of the Institute on Disability's Consumer Advisory Council.

*Self-Advocate Seat: Nathanael Webb*

Nate Webb works at Concord Hospital and the Institute on Disability/UNH, and is a NH Leadership graduate. He is active with the Advocate NH self-advocacy and conference planning group, has a great sense of humor, and enjoys being around other people and advocating. Nate is not afraid to speak up for people with disabilities.

*Private Org. / Non-Profit Seat: Jennifer Pineo*

Jennifer Pineo joins the Council as a representative of New Hampshire Family Voices. This marks the first time that New Hampshire Family Voices has had a seat on the Council, though the two organizations have spent years working together on important issues that affect families who experience I/DD. Jenn is also a parent of two children with Autism.

#### Elected Positions

*Chairperson: Karen Blake*

Karen Blake replaces Kristen McGraw as Council Chair. Karen lives in the White Mountains of NH with her husband and their son, who experiences Autism and ADHD. Karen is a Volunteer Advocate for NH Parent Information Center, sits on the Family Support Council for Northern Human Services, and is a graduate of NH Leadership Series and the UNH LEND program. She works as a Legislative Liaison and a Certified Support Intensity Scale Interviewer, as well as Family Support Coordinator for Adam's Camp New England.

### POLICY UPDATES

#### EVENTS:

##### Bottom Dollar

In December 2016 Policy Director Chris Rueggeberg participated in the One Sky Area Agency panel discussion on the documentary Bottom Dollars. The film was produced by Rooted in Rights, and focuses on nationwide interviews with persons with disabilities who work at subminimum and competitive wage jobs. Following a screening of the Film, Rueggeberg sat alongside representatives of One Sky Area Agency, Bureau of Developmental Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Rooted in Rights Media Organization.

[Watch the trailer for Bottom Dollars](#)

##### The Exchange: "The Waitlist for Services for Adults with Developmental Disabilities"

In January 2017 Jennifer Bertrand, Chair of the Policy Committee, represented the Council on NHPR's call-in talk show, The Exchange. The episode was focused on the waiting list for services pertaining to developmental disabilities, and highlighted the bill that would give a 2% raise to direct support professionals in New Hampshire. This bill aimed to diminish the workforce shortage, thus improving access to services. Unfortunately, the bill failed by a narrow margin in the House. Listen: ["The Waitlist for Services for Adults with Developmental Disabilities"](#)

#### HOUSE LEGISLATION:

##### HB 648-FN: Relative to van parking for persons with disabilities.

The Council took the lead in introducing and supporting HB 648, which will improve accessibility by adding one van-only parking space to parking lots with 150+ spaces. In February, two Council Members and a Council LEND Trainee testified in favor of the bill. The Transportation Committee responded positively to the testimony overwhelmingly in favor of increasing community accessibility for persons who use wheelchairs and vans, recommending ought to pass in a 10-4 vote. This is a law that NH can be especially proud of, should it pass, for its first in the nation status. HB 648 was tabled on March 9th; the next step is to reintroduce the bill for the 2018 session with a possible compromise amendment.

##### HB 633-FN: Allowing health insurance policies to be sold without mandates.

The Council opposes HB 633 and its companion bill, SB 149. Co-Chair of the Council's Policy Committee, Déodonné Bhattarai, testified in opposition of both bills. The bipartisan majority of the House Commerce Committee agreed that it is not a good idea to support a wholesale repeal of all health care insurance mandates. If all NH mandates were repealed, then things like 'newborn children covered from birth under family plan,' 'diabetes services and supplies', and 'prosthetic devices' would not be required in our coverage policies. On March 8th, the House voted to kill HB 633.

##### HB 387-FN-A: Making an appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services for the developmental services systems.

The Council supports HB 387, which aims to attract and retain "qualified and committed providers for persons with developmental and acquired disabilities" by increasing the compensation of such providers by 2% in 2018, and again in 2019. Unfortunately, on March 9th, the bill was killed in a vote of 182-181, despite a motion to reconsider, which failed 179-187. The Council supports plans to make this funding a line item in the state budget.

##### HB 620: Relative to compliance with state and federal education mandates.

The Council opposes the HB 620; the bill seeks to make it difficult to exceed federal minimum requirements. On March 8th, the bill passed in the House with a refreshingly vague amendment, requiring only that the "fiscal impact on the local school district" is taken into consideration. As amended, HB 620 preserves the ability of the state board of education to adopt rules that exceed minimum federal law requirements.

#### SENATE LEGISLATION:

##### SB 149: An act authorizing individuals and certain businesses to purchase health insurance from out-of-state companies.

The Council opposes this bill, which hopes to allow NH residents and employers with less than 100 employees to purchase health insurance from out-of-state health insurance carriers. These out-of-state insurers will not be required to "offer or provide state-mandated health benefits required by New Hampshire law or rules in health insurance policies sold to New Hampshire residents." On March 16th, the Senate passed an amendment to preserve NH benefits in the event that the Affordable Care Act is repealed. SB 149 was then tabled pending events in Washington.

##### SB 155: Relative to implementation of the Medicaid managed care program.

The Council supports SB 155, which proposes that step 2 of the Medicaid managed care program will not be implemented before July 1, 2019. On March 30th, the Senate voted to pass the bill with amendments stating that two of the remaining unimplemented phases of the Medicaid managed care program will be incorporated in January 2019, but the others—including services provided under the developmental disabilities waiver—shall not be implemented before July 1, 2019.

##### SB 153-FN-A: Making an appropriation for early childhood intervention services.

The Council supports SB 153, a bill aiming to "mitigate, improve, and often cure [disabilities and delays] at a critical age, forestalling more extensive and expensive medical or educational intervention at a later age, and best prepare a child for entering school." This will be done by providing funds to the department of health and human services for early childhood intervention services. SB 153 was tabled on March 9th, preserving it as a funding source in the event that the House does not include ESS in their budget.

##### SB 553: Relative to implementation of the Medicaid managed care program.

With the passing of SB 553 (June 6, 2016), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is required to develop a plan for implementing the remaining phases of the Medicaid managed care program as established in RSA 126-A:5, XIX. In response to this new law, a new group has formed: SB 553 Working Group on the Implementation Planning for the Incorporation of Nursing and Choices for Independence Waiver Services into the New Hampshire Medicaid Care Management Program. Two Council members are members of this working group. To contact the group, please email: [SB553ManagedCarePlanning@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:SB553ManagedCarePlanning@dhhs.nh.gov).

### A YEAR IN EVENTS

#### Legislative Breakfast



On February 7th, 2017, the Council hosted a Legislative Breakfast at the NH State House. Several of the Council Members and staff were present to explain the significance of the Council's work, and to discuss upcoming legislation that is important to the disability community.

#### Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Conference



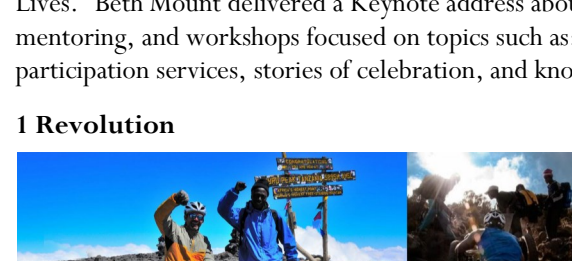
This conference is a training and learning opportunity, as well as a time to recognize excellence in the DSP field. The theme was "Celebrating Valued Lives." Beth Mount delivered a Keynote address about revolutionary mentoring, and workshops focused on topics such as: community participation services, stories of celebration, and knowledge as power.

#### Holiday Awards Ceremony



The Council held its annual Holiday Awards Ceremony on December 1st, 2016. The Virginia Bowden Advocate of the Year award was presented to Jan Skoby; Senator Jeanie Forrester and Representative Frank Kotowski were recognized with the Outstanding Legislator Award.

#### 1 Revolution



The Council and Adam's Camp New England joined forces to present *1 Revolution*, a documentary film that tells the story of Chris Waddell's 19,340-foot ascent up Mount Kilimanjaro - using a handcycle. The screening was held at Red River Theatres on October 4th, 2016.

#### Caregivers Conference



The 9th Annual Caregiver's Conference drew in more than 200 attendees. Michael Bloom's Keynote speech focused on wellbeing of caregivers, and the conference offered workshops on topics such as: caregiver burnout, stress reduction, and recognizing and valuing family as unpaid caregivers.

#### Yellow Flag DSP Appreciation Day



This event is held each year to elevate the awareness and importance of the direct support profession. There were 1,000+ yellow flags representing the many dedicated and committed DSPs who proudly serve citizens with disabilities in New Hampshire.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### 2017 Family Support Conference

Friday, April 28 - Sunday, April 30, 2017  
 The Omni Mount Washington Resort  
 Bretton Woods, NH

The 31st annual Family Support Conference of New Hampshire offers families and caregivers the opportunity to learn about the possibilities and choices for their family member with a disability, to meet others, and to share experiences.

View the FSC at [www.fscnh.com/index.html](http://www.fscnh.com/index.html)

Download the [informational flyer](#)

#### Yellow Flag DSP Appreciation Day

September, 2017  
 State House Lawn  
 Concord, NH

#### Employment Leadership Award Recognition Ceremony

Thursday, September 21, 2017  
 Currier Museum of Art  
 Manchester, NH

#### Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Conference

Friday, November 3 - Saturday, November 4, 2017  
 Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel  
 Portsmouth, NH

#### The 11th Annual Statewide Caregiver's Conference

Wednesday, November 15, 2017  
 Currier Museum of Art, Grappone Conference Center  
 Concord, NH

#### 5th Annual Learn It! Live It! Love It! Self-Advocacy Conference

Friday, May 5, 2017  
 The Grappone Conference Center  
 Concord, NH

The theme of the 2017 conference, High Five!, represents a celebration of five years of advocates around the state and region coming together and learning strategies to live a full and productive life.

To view an informational flyer, [click here](#)

For more information, [click here](#) to view the Facebook event page

[www.nhcdd.org](http://www.nhcdd.org)

### STAY INFORMED

If this electronic newsletter was forwarded to you and you are interested in receiving our newsletter directly in the future, or you would like more information on other topics (e.g. DSP related, legislative activities or other Council publications), please follow the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NHCDD-Information>

You may also contact our Outreach VISTA, Mikayla Collins. She will add you to our mailing list and provide additional information as requested.

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