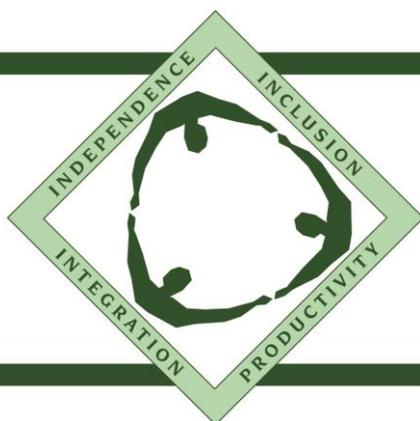
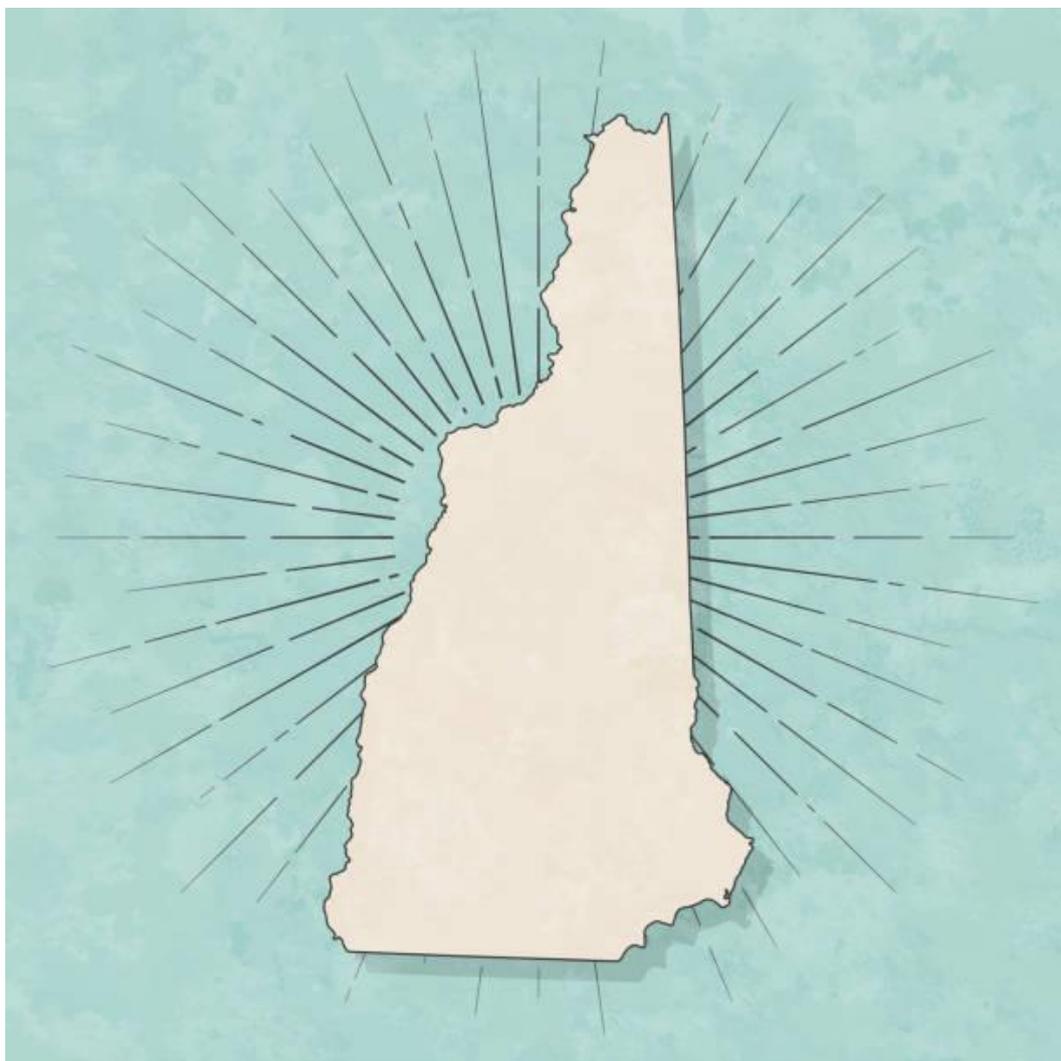


The NH Council on Developmental Disabilities Annual Report 2020-2021



NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL ON
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL ON
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

We are committed to
dignity

full rights of citizenship

cultural diversity

equal opportunity

full participation

for all New Hampshire citizens with developmental disabilities.

2 ½ Beacon St., Suite 10

Concord, NH 03301

www.NHCDD.NH.gov

603-271-3236 TDD 1-800-735-2964

DD Council projects are funded through grant number 2001NHSCDD, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.



2020-2021 Council Members

- **Arielle Van De Water**, Vice Chair
- **Forrest Beaudoin-Friede**
- **Shawna Bowman**, *Policy Co-Chair*
- **Carrie Duran**, *Policy Co-Chair*
- **Krista Gilbert**
- **Karen Hatch**
- **Tim Houle**
- **Joshua Madison**
- **Tammy Mills**
- **Deborah Opramolla**
- **Michael Phillips**
- **Nate Webb**
- **Frank Vinceguerra**



Required representation per the DD Act

- **Jim Piet**, Chair, NH Voc. Rehab.
- **Jean Crouch**, NH BEAS
- **Joanne DeBello**, NH DOE, Spec. Ed.
- **Sarah Menard**, Crotched Mountain
- **Stephanie Patrick**, DRC-NH
- **Jennifer Pineo**, *Program & Planning Chair*, NH Family Voices/Title V
- **Joy Sabolevski**, *Membership Chair*
- **Mary Schuh**, IOD
- **Jan Skoby**, *Membership Chair*, NH BDS



2020-2021 Council Staff

Executive Director

Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre

Policy and Planning Director

Ronnieann Rakoski

Project Manager

Vanessa Blais

Senior Account Tech

Mary Lawson

Administrative Assistant

Patricia Vincent-Piet

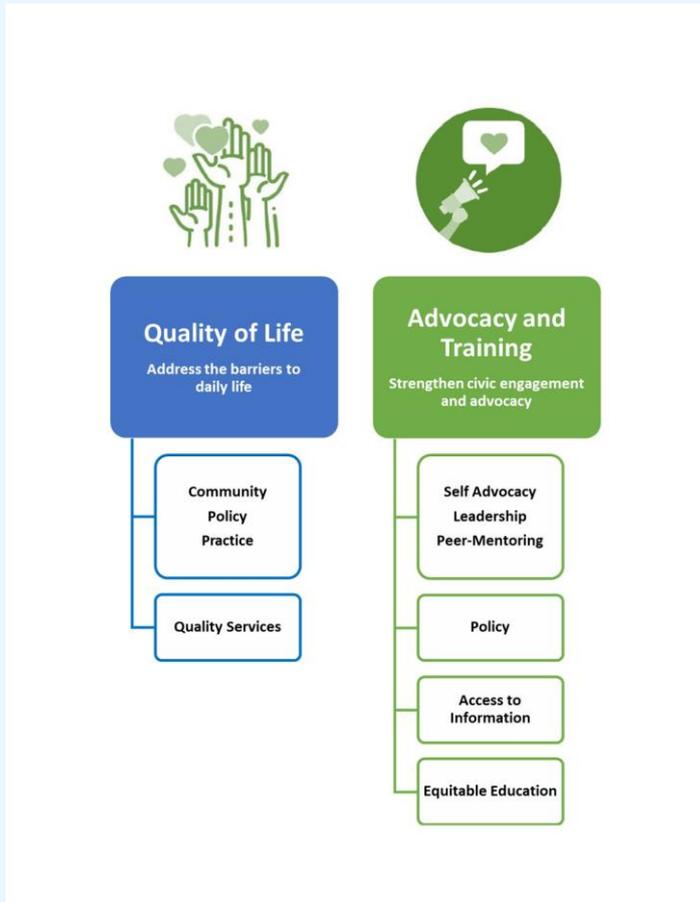
AmeriCorps Vista

Sierra Lubahn

Office Clerk

Miles Trier

5-Year Plan Development 2021-2026



The NHCDD creates and follows a State Plan every five years to set goals to address the most important issues affecting people with developmental disabilities in New Hampshire.

We work to remove barriers and promote opportunities in all areas of life.

In the next five years, the Council plans to focus on **quality of life** and **advocacy and training**.

The DD Council worked with Kuroshio Consulting to facilitate Council discussion and help with direction of annual work plan.

- Member input
- Surveys
- Feedback sessions
- One on one interviews

More information about the NHCDD five-year plan can be viewed at: <https://www.nhcd.d.nh.gov/about-us/5-year-plan>.

The DD Council Policy Committee

We work to be a source of information and to educate legislators and people who make decisions about policies.

We work to help identify and evaluate the possible ways for meeting the needs of people with ID/DD.

- Build strong relationships with policy makers by engaging in legislative and administrative education.
- Provide training and information in best practices to inform policies that have an impact on the lives of all individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families across the lifespan.

- Identify important bills that may have impact on the lives of people with developmental disabilities.
- Support advocates in testifying about their lived experiences and how policy could affect their lives.

- Support the **Bi-Partisan Disability Caucus***

*a group of legislators from both parties who believe in ensuring that the disability community is represented when discussing proposed legislation.

2021 Legislative Successes



We want to be a source of information and educate legislators and other policymakers to identify and evaluate the available options for meeting the needs of people with ID/DD.

Supported Decision Making as an Alternative to Guardianship

This law states that supported decision making is an alternative to guardianship. It requires that people with disabilities are made aware of that right and get the resources needed to make this choice.

Oral Health Care

This law requires the commissioner of the department of health and human services to contract with dental managed care organizations to provide dental care to people under the Medicaid managed care program.

Burden of Proof in Special Education

This law states that the burden of proving the appropriateness of a child's special education placement or program is on the school district or other public agency.



2021 Priority Bills

HB 103-An Act establishing a dental benefit under the state Medicaid program

HB 104-An Act establishing a committee to study the feasibility of personal rapid transit systems and unconventional public transit methods

HB 185-FN - An Act removing the work requirement of the New Hampshire granite advantage health care program

HB 242 - An Act relative to the content of an adequate education

HB 540 - An Act relative to supported decision making as an alternative to guardianship

HB 581 - An Act relative to the burden of proof in special education hearings

HB 613 FN - An Act relative to state aid to school districts with special education pupils



NH Suicide Prevention Conference



Active Bystander Training w/GSOP



Transition Collaborative Night



Caregiver's Conference



Queen City Pride

Small Grants for Community Projects and Educational Programs

- **UNH/IOD NH Leadership Series** registrations
 - Health Equity
 - Transition to College
 - Intersectionality
 - Inclusive Equity-Based Education
- **One Sky Community Services** client-centric communication network
- **ABLE NH** intersectional panel speakers

Accessibility Grants



to support accessibility for community projects or educational programs.

- **American Sign Language and/or CART Services**
- **Closed Captioning**
- **Voice over audio**
- **Website and materials auditing for accessibility improvement**
- **Training in how to make your print and digital presence more accessible**

Demonstration Grants



The NHCDD funds initiatives that are innovative and serve the needs of people with ID/DD using best practices. These grants are to support systems change throughout the state.

Center for Life Management and Community Crossroads

To implement a holistic, person-centered approach to meeting the needs of people with ID/DD and mental health challenges.



UNH 4U

To aid in the development and implementation of full inclusion in the college experience for students with ID/DD.

Refurbished Equipment Marketplace

To assist in obtaining and maintaining necessary devices and equipment to further independence, community inclusion, and quality of life.

Personal Grants



Employment and Post-Secondary

For resources needed to pursue integrated employment or post-secondary education.

For Youth and Young Adults

To make their schools or communities more welcoming to people of all disabilities through the implementation of inclusive activities.



Personal Education/Leadership

To increase understanding of disability, develop leadership and self-advocacy skills, and learn strategies to lead more inclusive, self-directed lives.

Personal Technology

For individuals or families who lack necessary access to technology for education, telehealth and community connection.



Sponsorship Highlights



February 25, 2021

Hearts of Glass Virtual Film Screening and Panel discussion with film creator and Vertical Harvest employees.

This Event kicked off the call for Employment Leadership Awards nominations.

Jennifer Tennican's *Hearts of Glass*, follows the first 15 months of operation of Vertical Harvest in Jackson, Wyoming. This innovative hydroponic greenhouse takes on the ambitious experiment of providing year-round produce to a mountain town, while creating meaningful employment opportunities for community members with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

April 1, 2021

Sex and Disability

A virtual event moderated by Jules Good, Neighborhood Access making space for conversation about sex and disability.

SEX AND DISABILITY

A Panel Discussion
Moderated by Jules Good,
Neighborhood Access

**April 21st, 7-8PM EST
on Zoom**

Bianca I. Laureano,
PhD, MA, CSE, CSES

Robin Wilson-Beattie

Riley Dwight

Neighborhood Access
accessibility made easy

Generously Sponsored By: NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

- Bianca I. Laureano, PHD, is an award-winning educator, curriculum writer and sexologist.
- Riley Dwight is the founder of Approaching Access
- Robin Wilson Beattie is a disability and sexuality educator, speaker, writer, and anthropologist

Dream Big! Training

DREAM BIG!

TOOLS FOR SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL CHOICE
&
A ROBUST COMMUNITY-BASED LIFE
A WORKSHOP FOR DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

DEVELOPED BY: THE NH COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, PEOPLE FIRST OF NH & ABLE NH

This virtual workshop was presented throughout 2020-2021 in collaboration with the NHCDD, People First of NH and ABLE NH. It is a part of the Living Well NH Quality Frameworks grant, IOD-UNH.

This online, interactive workshop focused on:

- why it is important to support people with disabilities to make their own choices
- how your values can either enhance or suppress the decision-making capacity of the clients you support
- provides tools to empower the clients DSPs support to make their own choices
- increases understanding of what “choice” really is for persons with disabilities in 6 life domains:
 - Daily Life and Employment
 - Community Living
 - Safety and Security
 - Healthy Living
 - Social and Spirituality
 - Citizenship and Advocacy

The Disability RAPP



Spring 2021

The Disability RAPP continues to achieve its mission to inform and support people with disabilities in breaking barriers and challenging traditional ideas of what it means to live with a disability.

In Collaboration with the Disability Rights Center – NH and the Institute on Disability.

Theme:

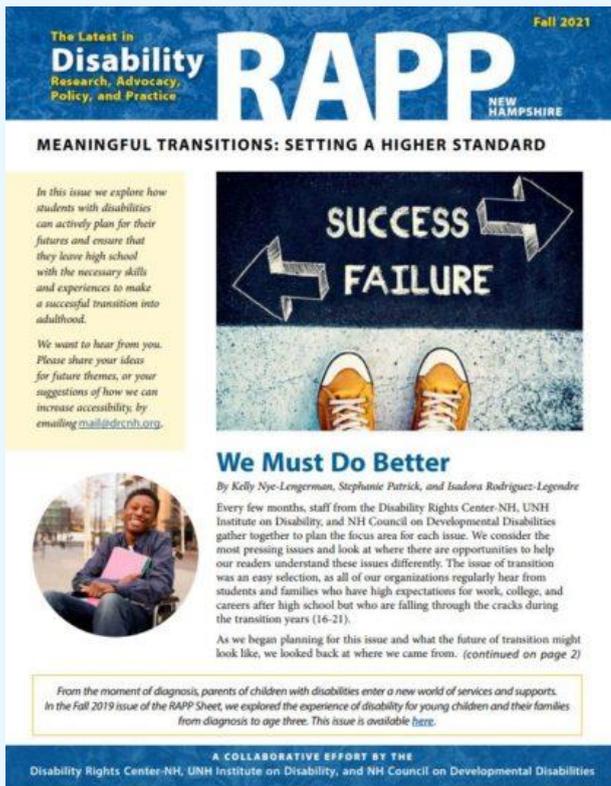
- This issue looks at how the pandemic has impacted people with ID/DD through the lens of assistive technology, health care, and higher education.
- It explores how COVID-19 has both challenged the disability community and hopes to inspire lasting innovation.

Link to digital version:

<https://drcnh.org/edition/spring-2021-disability-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>

- Lighting the Fire of Innovation
- What I've Learned as a Disabled Person from the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Staying Healthy at Home with Telehealth
- The COVID-19 Health Care Reality/ Communication Rights in a Healthcare Setting
- Remote Higher Education 4 All
- Adults with Disabilities Need Accessible and Responsive Telehealth Care
- Navigating a Learning Disability in a Pandemic

The Disability RAPP



Fall 2021

The DD Council joined the Disability Rights Center – NH and the Institute on Disability in developing the future of the D RAPP. Readers should expect to hear from new voices discussing current topics that have an impact on people with disabilities across locally and across the nation.

Theme:

- This issue explores how students with disabilities can actively plan for their futures and ensure that they leave high school with the necessary skills and experiences to make a successful transition into adulthood.
- This issue revisited the theme of the first issue of RAPP and how little has changed since then.

Link to digital version:

<https://drcnh.org/edition/fall-2021-meaningful-transitions/>

- Rites of Passage, Transitions for Students with Disabilities
- The Student Directed Transition Planning Checklist
- A Life Renewed
- Choosing the Best Path to Decision Making
- System-Based Opportunities for Improving Transition Services
- We Must Do Better
- What is Supported Decision-Making?
- Engaging with your Area Agency

Self Advocacy Leadership Team (SALT)



SALT members are talented citizens who want to effect positive change in New Hampshire. They are committed to addressing the needs of people who experience disabilities by tackling big issues that support meaningful and quality living in the community.

During 2020-2021 SALT was able to fulfill the goal of becoming a self-sufficient advocacy group. They did this with the assistance of a consultant, hired through the collaboration of the NHCDD, DRC-NH and the IOD.

SALT worked with **People First of NH** to become a leadership committee of PFNH, while operating as a separate fiscal entity.

The DD Council has moved to a supportive role for SALT. They, along with other advocacy supports, will be providing grant funding for a minimum of two years in order to help carry out their mission.

People First of NH



State-wide non-profit
advocacy organization

Directed by citizens
who experience
disabilities



Serve as consultants
to projects and
legislation

PeopleFirstofNH.org

NH Leadership Series



Training series using the
Partners in Policy model

A leadership program
offered by the Institute on
Disability/UCED



Helps advocates to
develop, strengthen,
and use their skills

Bringing together people
who are passionate about
supporting their
communities



Our Key Partners

