



## NHDSQC Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2024

Hybrid Meeting and In-Person. In-Person Meeting Location: UNH IOD Conference Room, 5  
Chenell Drive, #301, Concord, NH 03894

### AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Call for Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair (VOTE)
- Review and Approval of Minutes: August (VOTE)
- Self-Advocacy Groups Update (Kelly Ehrhart, Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre)
  - Letter to BDS (VOTE)
- BDS Update (Jessica Gorton)
  - SB 409 Recreational Funds Roll out
  - 18-21 Pilot Program Update
- Review of Intensive Treatment Services: Josh Gehling, Clinical Administrator, BDS
- Update of Review of Larger Settings Update, Mary St. Jacques, IOD
- Committee Updates:
  - Data (Chair, Emily Manire) (no update)
  - Rules and Regulations (Chair, Stephanie Patrick) (VOTE, HEM 1201 Comments)
  - CIS/Recreation (Chair, Karen Hatch)
  - Housing (Chair, Marissa Berg) (on hold until 11/24)
  - Person Centered Planning (on hold until 1/25)
  - Membership Committee (Chair, Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre)  
(VOTE on new procedure)
  - Vision and Goals Committee (Cathy Spinney)
- Election results for Chair and Vice Chair Position
- Other Business and Announcements
  - Gubernatorial Town Hall partnership (VOTE)
  - Planning the October meeting
- Public Comment
- Other Business and Announcements
  - Chair/Vice Chair Position (Call for Nominations)
  - Planning the September meeting and Public Comment

## Members and Attendance

Quality Council Members Meeting Status		
Name	Organization/Representing	Meeting Status
Jessica Gorton	Bureau of Developmental Services	Present In-Person
Abigail Conger (Alternate)	Bureau of Developmental Services	Present Virtual
Tammy Mills *	People First of New Hampshire	Present In-Person
Roseann Tardiff * (Alternate)	People First of New Hampshire	Present Virtual
Krysten Evans (Alternate)	ABLE NH	Not Present
Louis Esposito	ABLE NH	Present Virtual
TBD	Autism Council	n/a
Adam Schrier	Brain Injury Association, BIA	Present Virtual
Krystal Chase (Alternate)	Brain Injury Association, BIA	Not Present
Isadora Rodriguez- Legendre QC Vice Chairperson and Chair of Membership Committee	NH Council on Developmental Disabilities (NHCDD)	Present Virtual
Jim Piet *	NH Council on Developmental Disabilities (NHCDD)	Not Present
Lisa Steadman *	State Family Support Council	Present In-Person
Karen Hatch * Chair of Recreation Committee	State Family Support Council	Present Virtual
Debra Opramolla *	State Family Support Council	Present Virtual
Donna Corriveau	Direct Support Provider	Present In-Person
Rich Crocker	Area Agency Board, Lakes Region Community Services	Present Virtual
Cathy Spinney * Chair Vision Committee	Area Agency Board, Community Crossroads	Present Virtual
Ann Sanok *	Area Agency Board, One Sky	Present Virtual
Marissa Berg Housing Committee Chair	Community Support Network Inc. (CSNI)	Present In Person
Emily Manire Data Committee Chair	Private Provider Network	Present Virtual
Mary St. Jacques	UNH Institute on Disability, IOD	Not Present
Jen Sulewski (Alternate)	UNH Institute on Disability, IOD	Present Virtual
Stephanie Patrick QC Chairperson	Disability Rights Center (DRC)	Present In-Person

Kelly Ehrhart *	At Large Member Self-Advocate	Present Virtual
<b>A QUORUM WAS REACHED</b>		
(*) delineates family member of/or individual with a disability which counts toward an in-person quorum.		
<b>Guests or Members of the Public</b>		
Julie Lago	Nominated for At- Large Member Seat Submitted for gubernatorial appointment on 7/16/24	Present In- Person
Samantha Lylis	Nominated for At-Large Member Seat Submitted for gubernatorial appointment on 7/16/24	Virtual
Jennifer Bertrand	Nominated for At-Large Member Seat Submitted for gubernatorial appointment on 7/16/24	Virtual
Tracy Walbridge	Member of the Public	Virtual
Irene Tyler	Member of the Public	Virtual
Rebecca Tollefson	Member of the Public	Virtual
Karen Blake	Member of the Public	Virtual
Lisa Beaudin	Member of the Public	Virtual

## Welcome, Introductions

All Council members and guests introduced themselves.

## Nominations for Quality Council Chair and Vice Chair

- Stephanie Patrick (Chair) explained the nomination and voting procedure.
- Stephanie Patrick nominated Emily Manire for Chair. Emily accepted the nomination.
- Stephanie Patrick nominated Lisa Steadman for Vice Chair, Lisa accepted the nomination.

## Approval of Minutes

### Approval of August 2024 Meeting Minutes.

Discussion: Motion: Lisa Steadman makes a motion to approve Jim Piet seconds the motion. Further Discussion:

Present QC Voting Member Name	
Jessica Gorton	Yes
Tammy Mills	Yes
Louis Esposito	Yes
Adam Schier	Abstain
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre	Yes
Jim Piet	Yes
Lisa Steadman	Yes
Debra Opramolla	
Karen Hatch	Yes
Cathy Spinney	Yes
Ann Sanok	Yes
Rich Crocker	Yes
Donna Corriveau	Yes
Ann Sanok	Yes
Rich Crocker	Yes
Marissa Berg	Yes
Emily Manire	Yes
Mary St. Jacques	Abstain
Kelly Ehrhart	Yes

Motion passes.

## Self-Advocacy Groups Update

### Kelly Ehrhart and Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre

- Reviewed the RSA 171-A rules for self-advocacy groups
- Asking BDS to clarify what the rules are and who is monitoring
- 503, 504 and 505 – Agencies are required to have a list of groups self-advocates can be involved in and disperse to individuals.
- Kelly and Isadora have connected with many area agencies to discuss how to support self-advocacy groups and get them scheduled.
- Developed a letter to BDS to help clarify the rule and responsibilities for Self-Advocacy groups and opportunities.
- Concern about Area Agencies needing funding and additional staff to facilitate an effective advocacy group.
- Funding: how do area agencies plan events, training and education without funding?
- Kelly Ehrhart made a motion to send the letter to BDS. Louis Esposito seconded the motion.
- Discussion: Jessica Gorton asked for more clarification about the purpose and goals for self-advocate groups. What does Self-advocacy look like in New Hampshire? We need to know what the expectations and potential barriers can be.
- Amendment to the letter: Including funding to support the efforts, provide facilitator training and discuss how individuals are informed on advocacy rights and responsibilities.
- Develop a committee to discuss how to achieve this and look for recommendations how to form a fully developed and effective self-advocacy group. Open it for recommendations on how to facilitate self-advocacy groups.
  - Concern expressed by Cathy Spinney regarding asking volunteers to give their time and not be reimbursed for their efforts.
  - Jim Piet: We need to reach out to high school students for input
  - Stephanie Patrick: Area agency contracts are happening now. It is important to have this requirement in the contracts with funding attached.
  - Deborah Opramolla: We need to reach out to self-advocates who need higher support needs. Broaden definition of self-advocates.

### Vote on a Self-Advocacy Letter

Present QC Voting Member Name	
Jessica Gorton	Yes
Tammy Mills	Yes
Louis Esposito	Yes
Adam Schier	Abstain
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre	Yes
Jim Piet	Yes
Lisa Steadman	Yes
Debra Opramolla	Yes
Karen Hatch	Yes

Cathy Spinney	Yes
Ann Sanok	Yes
Rich Crocker	Yes
Donna Corriveau	Yes
Marissa Berg	Yes
Emily Manire	Yes
Mary St. Jacques	Yes
Kelly Ehrhart	Yes

Motion Passes.

## Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Update

Jessica Gorton, BDS

- 18-21 Pilot Program Update
  - Review of how many individuals have used the funding and program assistance.
    - Report submitted with meeting materials.
    - 4 individuals receiving services
  - Approved funding \$750,000 – 8/24 spent \$265,000
  - Stephanie Patrick expressed concern about the low number of participants and inquired about what BDS is doing to ensure individuals and families know about the program.
  - Jessica indicated it is discussed during the ISA process.
  - Reviewed how individuals become eligible for these dollars.
  - Karen Blake: Is an individual who is attending college eligible for 18-21 Pilot program?
    - Jessica: There are services available if not the pilot program.
  - If any families, individuals have questions, please discuss with coordinator or BDS/agency liaison.
- Recreational Funding SB 409
  - Planning informational forums and materials for service coordinators.
  - All adults receiving services can ask for funding through service coordinators.
  - Access: Important to share information to all individuals and families
  - Individuals can access \$600.
  - RFP still out to find a fiscal agent to distribute funds.
  - Karen Hatch: Should families start requesting funds now?
  - What training has been provided: Service Coordination training will be developed, and further outreach is important. The word will get out to families.
  - Mary St. Jacques: Perfect topic for Self-Advocate Groups at area agencies.
  - BDS asks for partners to share the SB 409 information.
- Intensive Treatment Services (ITS)
  - Josh Gehring, Clinical Administrator attended last Data Committee
    - Gave a review of ITS in NH
    - Community of Practice available in NH
    - Josh will be attending Full Quality Council Meeting in November
    - 20 homes in NH treating 60 people, capacity of 71 individuals

- 9 new homes being funded with AARPA funds in NH.
  - Goal to bring individuals being served out of state back to NH, 49 people out of state currently.
  - Ongoing waitlist of 50-60 people

## Committee Updates

Stephanie Patrick: Review of committee guidelines. Open to the public, and public members can participate. We can add, delete or change any of the committees at any time.

### Data (Chair, Emily Manire)

- No Update

### Membership Committee (Chair, Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre)

- No response from the Governor’s office as to the status of our nominations submitted in July.
- The new committee procedure At-Large Members: Vote.

Motion was made by Lisa Steadman to vote on the new procedure. Seconded by Jim Piet.

Present QC Voting Member Name	
Jessica Gorton	Yes
Tammy Mills	Yes
Louis Esposito	Yes
Adam Schier	Abstain
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre	Yes
Jim Piet	Yes
Lisa Steadman	Yes
Debra Opramolla	Yes
Karen Hatch	Yes
Cathy Spinney	Yes
Ann Sanok	Yes
Rich Crocker	Yes

Donna Corriveau	Yes
Marissa Berg	Yes
Emily Manire	Yes
Mary St. Jacques	Yes
Kelly Ehrhart	Yes

Motion Passes.

**Rules and Regulations (Chair, Stephanie Patrick)**

Vote on He-M – 521 comments letter.

Motion to accept the letter made by: Lisa Steadman Motion seconded by: Jim Piet

Present QC Voting Member Name	
Jessica Gorton	Yes
Tammy Mills	Yes
Louis Esposito	Yes
Adam Schier	Abstain
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre	Yes
Jim Piet	Yes
Lisa Steadman	Yes
Debra Opramolla	Yes
Karen Hatch	Yes
Cathy Spinney	Yes
Ann Sanok	Yes
Rich Crocker	Yes
Donna Corriveau	Yes
Marissa Berg	Abstain
Emily Manire	Yes
Mary St. Jacques	Yes
Kelly Ehrhart	Yes

Motion Passes.

**Person Centered Planning (Chair, Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre)**

- PCP Committee is on pause as this work continues.
- Look forward to further BDS updates on the PCP training.

**CIS/Recreation (Chair, Karen Hatch)**



- SB 409 – Waiting for the governor to sign it.
- Work with BDS to incorporate it into the budget once signed.

**Housing (Chair, Marissa Berg)**

- HB 1168 Evaluating the Disability Housing Crisis Committee begins in August. Committee report due in November.
- QC Housing Committee will pause until December.

**Mission and Vision Committee (Chair, Cathy Spinney)**

- Quality Council asked to work with the Bureau of Developmental Services for a vision for the bureau.
- Have not met due to lack of availability of members.
- All members are invited to join this committee.
- 

**Other Business**

- Results of vote for Chair or Vice Chair:
  - New Vice Chair, Lisa Steadman
  - New Chair, Emily Manire
- Vote on partnership with Gubernatorial Town Hall
  - Louis Esposito made a motion for the Quality Council to partner with the Gubernatorial Town Hall, Lisa Steadman seconded the motion. No discussion.

Present QC Voting Member Name	
Jessica Gorton	Yes
Tammy Mills	Yes
Louis Esposito	Yes
Adam Schier	Yes
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre	Yes
Jim Piet	Yes
Lisa Steadman	Yes
Debra Opramolla	Yes
Karen Hatch	Yes
Cathy Spinney	Yes
Ann Sanok	Yes
Rich Crocker	Not present
Donna Corriveau	Abstain
Marissa Berg	Yes
Emily Manire	Yes

Mary St. Jacques	Yes	
Kelly Ehrhart	Yes	
Motion Passes.		
<b>Public Comments</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sam Lylis made some recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ telehealth services be available for day program.</li> <li>○ Staff be offered mental health check ins and wellness checks</li> <li>○ We need to ensure interpreter services for home care provider training.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>		
<p><i>Jim Piet made the motion to adjourn. Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre seconded the motion The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.</i></p>		

*Minutes Respectfully submitted by: Carrie Duran, Council Administrator, [nhcasqc@gmail.com](mailto:nhcasqc@gmail.com)  
nhqualitycouncil.org*

DRAFT