



January 19, 2023

Lori Weaver
Commissioner
Department of Health and Human Services
Brown Building
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Via email: Lori.A.Weaver@dhhs.nh.gov

Melissa Hardy
Director, Division of LTSS
Department of Health and Human Services
Brown Building
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Via email: Melissa.A.Hardy@dhhs.nh.gov

Sandy Feroz
Bureau Chief, Bureau of Developmental Services
NH Department of Health and Human Services
105 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Via email: Sandy.L.Feroz@dhhs.nh.gov

Re: ARPA funding for staff recruitment, retention and training for area agencies

Dear Commissioner Weaver, Director Hardy and Bureau Chief Feroz,

On November 22, 2022, the Quality Council requested information from all area agencies regarding the allocation and distribution of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for staff training, recruitment and retention. The Council was particularly concerned about funding for employees in the Participant Directed and Managed Services program after reports that funding was not made available to the employees of PDMS families in some regions.

On December 21, 2022, the Quality Council met to review the data provided by the area agencies. The reports indicate that some area agencies did not offer funding to the employees of funding for employees in the Participant Directed and Managed Services program.

The Council understands that the Department offered flexibility to the area agencies and some area agencies did not prioritize the PDMS families in their region. While this may have been allowable under the guidance from DHHS, we feel that it is not fair to families in these regions who are facing the same

Stephanie Patrick, Chair
Disability Rights Center - NH

Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre,
Vice Chair
*NH Council on
Developmental Disabilities*

Members

Ellen McCahon
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Rich Crocker
Area Agency Board Member

Carrie Duran
Family Support Council Member

Adrienne Evans
NH Council on ASD Member

Jessica Gorton
Bureau of Developmental Services

Karen Hatch
Family Support Council Member

Emily Manire
Private Provider Network

Tammy Mills
People First of New Hampshire

Deb Opramolla
Family Support Council Member

Jim Piet
*NH Council on
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Liz Prior
Brain Injury Association of NH

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*NH Council on
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Cathy Spinney
Area Agency Board Member

Mary St. Jacques
Institute on Disability

challenges recruiting and retaining staff as the area agencies themselves and provider agencies.

The Quality Council is writing to request that DHHS prioritize the employees of PDMS families if there is any unspent ARPA Funding in this program or other programs administered by DHHS. The Quality Council also wishes to specify that this should include family members who are employed as DSPs in PDMS programs in these regions.

Please respond to this request in writing to nhcasdqc@gmail.com by February 15, 2023. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Patrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Patrick, Chair

cc: Ellen McCahon, Community Support Network Inc Via Email: Emccahon@helmsco.com

Jessica Gorton, HCBS Waiver Administrator III, NH Department of Health and Human Services
Bureau of Developmental Services Via Email: Jessica.D.Gorton@dhhs.nh.gov