



Stephanie Patrick, Chair  
*Disability Rights Center - NH*

Carrie Duran, Vice-Chair  
*Family Support Council Member*

Members

Lisa Beaudoin  
*ABLE New Hampshire*

Linda Bimbo  
*Institute on Disability*

Karen Blake  
*Family Support Council Member*

Adrienne Evans  
*NH Council on ASD Member*

Sandy Hunt  
*Bureau of Developmental Services*

Liz Pryor  
*Brain Injury Association of NH*

Emily Manire  
*Private Provider Network*

Tammy Mills  
*People First of New Hampshire*

Deb Opramolla  
*Family Support Council Member*

Debra Ormen  
*Direct Support Provider*

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*NH Council on Developmental Disabilities*

Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre  
*NH Council on Developmental Disabilities*

Jonathan Routhier  
*Community Support Network, Inc*

Maria Sieper  
*Area Agency Board Member*

Cathy Spinney  
*Area Agency Board Member*

Date: September 15, 2021

To: Lori Shibnitte, Commissioner, NH Department of Health and Human Services  
Nancy Rollins, Interim Director, Division of Long Term Supports and Services, NH Department of Health and Human Services  
Sandy Hunt, Director, Bureau of Developmental Services, NH Department of Health and Human Services

Re: Recommendations for Stakeholder Engagement on A&M Report Implementation

The NH Developmental Services Quality Council appreciates the opportunity to make recommendations for stakeholder involvement as the Department considers significant changes to the developmental disabilities services system as outlined in the A&M report which may impact services for decades.

Stakeholder engagement is critical to a successful outcome of this process. A strong system of developmental disabilities services depends on people with disabilities, family members and other community members. Without their involvement in the process, it is unlikely to be successful.

The Quality Council has been disappointed with the roll-out of this process as it does not appear that committee information was shared widely and to all the important stakeholders. However, we appreciate your willingness to modify the process after the discussion of the gaps at the Quality Council meeting on August 18, 2021 and we hope you will continue to be flexible throughout this process.

The Quality Council is making the following recommendations:

- It is imperative that the following organizations have the opportunity to participate on the steering committee- New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities, New Hampshire Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders, New Hampshire Developmental Services Quality Council, the Disability Rights Center - NH, People First of New Hampshire/Self Advocacy Leadership Team (SALT) and ABLE New Hampshire.

- It is equally important that BDS provides accommodations to ensure participation of self advocates throughout the process for both in-person and online meetings. At minimum, this should include remote/online access to meetings, accessible/modified meeting materials, transportation assistance, and funding for personal support if needed for participation. In addition, BDS must be prepared to provide other accommodations to participants with disabilities and have a process to respond to such accommodation requests quickly.

- Communication with people with disabilities and family members is critical. We encourage you to utilize social media and partner organization mailing lists, especially Family Support Council mailing lists to reach self advocates and caregivers who do not typically participate in stakeholder involvement initiatives.

- Some people with disabilities and family members will not be able to attend regular steering committee meetings. BDS must regularly host virtual Town Hall meetings to provide updates to the greater disability community and answer questions about the process and the implementation of the recommendations in the A&M report.

In addition, we are concerned about the process of selecting members of the steering committee and subcommittees. Please provide a timeline and the process that was used to select committee members, in addition to a list of members.

We would appreciate a response to these recommendations and we also welcome the opportunity for you to meet with the council to discuss the recommendations.

Warm Regards,

DocuSigned by:  
*Stephanie Patrick*  
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*Stephanie Patrick, Chair*

DocuSigned by:  
*Carrie Duran*  
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*Carrie Duran, Vice Chair*