



NHDSQC Meeting Minutes for July 16, 2025

Hybrid Meeting and In-Person.

Agenda:

Welcome and introduction (Emily Manire, Chair)

Chair Update & Announcements (Emily Manire, Chair)

Bureau of Developmental Services Update (Jessica Gorton)

New Administrative Support Person Update (Emily Manire)

CMS Settings Review Update (Mary St. Jacques)

Committee Updates:

- Strategic Planning Committee
- Date (Chair, Emily Manire)
- Rules & Regulations (Chair, Stephanie Patrick)
- Housing (Chair, Marissa Berg)
- Person Centered Planning (Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre)
- Self-Advocacy Groups (Kelly Ehrhart, Isadora Rodriguez- Legendre)
- Membership Committee (Chair, Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre)

Other Business & Announcements:

- Planning the August Meeting

Public Comment

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Quality Council Members and Attendance:

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	Not Present
Roseann Tardiff * (Alternate)	People First of New Hampshire	Not Present
Krysten Evans (Alternate)	ABLE NH	Not Present
Louis Esposito *	ABLE NH	Present In-Person
Gina Cannon	NH Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders	Present In-Person
Adam Schrier	Brain Injury Association, BIA	Present In-Person
Krystal Chase (Alternate)	Brain Injury Association, BIA	Not Present
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre Chair of Membership Committee	NH Council on Developmental Disabilities (NHCDD)	Present In-Person
Jim Piet *	NH Council on Developmental Disabilities (NHCDD)	Not Present
Lisa Steadman * QC Vice Chair	State Family Support Council	Not Present
Karen Hatch * Chair of Recreation Committee	State Family Support Council	Not Present
Karen Blake*	State Family Support Council	Present Virtual
Donna Corriveau	Direct Support Provider	Present Virtual
Rich Crocker	Area Agency Board, Lakes Region Community Services	Not Present
VACANT	Area Agency Board	Position VACANT
Ann Sanok *	Area Agency Board, One Sky	Not Present
Marissa Berg Housing Committee Chair	Community Support Network Inc. (CSNI)	Present In-Person
Emily Manire QC Chair & Data Committee Chair	Private Provider Network	Present In-Person
Kenda Howell (Alternate)	Private Provider Network	Not Present
Mary St. Jacques	UNH Institute on Disability, IOD	Present In-Person
Jen Sulewski (Alternate)	UNH Institute on Disability, IOD	Not Present
Stephanie Patrick	Disability Rights Center (DRC)	Present In-Person
Kelly Ehrhart *	At Large Member Self-Advocate	Present Virtual

A Quorum was reached.

(*) Delineates family member of/or individual with a disability which counts toward an in-person quorum.



Guests or Members of the Public:

Julie Lago	Nominated for At-Large Member Seat Submitted for gubernatorial appointment on 7/16/24	Not Present
Jennifer Bertrand	Nominated for At-Large Member Seat Submitted for gubernatorial appointment on 7/16/24	Not Present

Welcome, Introductions:

All Council members and guests introduced themselves.

Chair Update- Emily Manire

- Contract has changed fiscal agent from Community Partners to Community Crossroads for both Quality Council and Autism Council. Still working out some logistics like; zoom account, laptop, Carrie's contract, stipends and moving to a new Admin person.
- For Committee meetings Emily suggested the chair of committees to set the meeting and use their zoom link.

Bureau of Developmental Services Update – Jessica Gorton

- Budget passed
 - Waitlist was fully funded, we can continue to focus on those who are funded, while we work on provider capacity and access to services.
 - Received room and board funding- \$10 million over two years. Need to get the funding into contract for the current fiscal intermediary for room and board, amendment will go forward and has already started. Policy and updates will be going out to the provider agencies, so they can start collecting the additional room and board.
 - Meet with provider agencies and Area Agencies.
- Vision statement was sent forward and commissioner was here last month and shared with us the roadmap she is crafting for this next year. This will be provided on the DHHS website.
- In Home Support waiver public comment closed. Lindsay and her group are working though the information and to put it in the waiver application then we are hoping for the waiver to be submitted in early August. They will have 90 days to review; with every time it is sent back with questions the clock stops.
- Need to continue to work on our IT development, strong utilization management, utilization review and getting funds out to people. Making sure there are tools, information, resources and what services are available.
 - Waiver services are on the website



Questions –

- Now that BDS is in the process of submitting the In Home Support Waiver, what is the timeline on submitting the DD Waiver? We want to make sure the Quality Council has as much of an opportunity to be involved as much as they were with IHS.
 - The DD Waiver listening sessions, not public comments will be this fall. Dates are not out, however they should be soon.
- Medicaid co-pays will be going into effect for Granted Advantage and Chip People
 - There are couple hundred in the DD system that are on these insurances. Right now, the Division of Medicaid Services is leading the charge regarding co-pays and working with the policy unit to determine what next steps are. BDS will be working with Service Coordinators to work on next steps.
- When referring to the rates and the need for additional funding what sources are you anticipating will provide additional funding?
 - There was a prioritized need request for funding in the budget cycle, and it was not funded, at this point there is no anticipation for additional resources for this.
 - Rates will stay the same, nothing was reduced or cut, due to the show of advocacy from everyone around the state to not reduce Medicaid.
- Should we invite someone from Medicaid to do a presentation for the August meeting and who should that be?
 - Olivia or David Charney would be the people to reach out to do a presentation.

Concerns –

- Communication from the MAC (Medicaid Advisory Committee) they will be meeting quarterly due to federal changes. Gap between communication with Medicaid to the individual and service providers.
- Area Agencies will be sending out letters to let families know that they have been approved for 171A, the Waiver but they are waiting for their Medicaid eligibility.
- Retroactive payments are going from 90 days to 30 days for Medicaid payments.

Shared resources -

- NHFPI – New Hampshire Fiscal Policy institute has a tool on their website where you can see how many are on each type of Medicaid in the area/town.
- Statewide Medicaid Advisory Committee – 5-year map of the dates and times for HR1 (Federal Bill) and HV2, starts with current and goes through 2029. This gives a comprehensive look at both State and Federal changes and when they will be taking place. – Marrisa/Carrie will share.



New Administrative Support Person Update -Emily Manire

- The council was able to retain some additional funds from the previous FY budget; this will allow Carrie to work on a training manual for a new admin person who will be coming on. Carrie's last day is July 31.
 - Katie at Community Crossroads has received several applicants, dates have been set up to meet with candidates.
 - Isadora sent information for 91A training and potential training.

CMS Settings Review Update – Mary St. Jacques

- Work being done around the IOB on settings reviews. A power point: Final Settings Rule Work was shared. It started back in 2015 and is a federal law that was created by CMS. This law is to ensure that anybody who is living in a home and community-based setting that receives Medicaid funding, be able to provide those services can meet certain expectations. They focus on individual choice, control over their lives, individuals being able to access the community on a regular basis and be treated with dignity and respect. To choose the services they receive and to be able to work if they choose.
 - There is a one page that outlines all the expectations from CMS that can be sent to the group.
 - Much of what CMS was referencing, we started focusing on when we closed the state school.
 - A statewide transition plan was created in 2016 that stated how the state was going to become compliant with the final settings rule. From there, we went into ongoing monitoring, with on-site visits.
 - Expectations were added to the certification process to that thought the certification process we are to ensure compliance with the final rule setting.
 - Residency agreement was created, individuals who are receiving services in a residential setting need to have the same expectations as our state's tenancy law.
 - On site visits will be completed at shared family homes, staffed residences and day services. Settings will be chosen from new settings being certified, settings where concerns have been identified and random selection. By a two person team.



Committee Updates:

- Strategic Planning Committee
 - Emily will work with Carrie to coordinate before the next meeting to talk about what are other ways we can accomplish goal.
- Data (Chair, Emily Manire)
 - Have not met.
 - Data point for this meeting, with Mary coming with the presentation and giving settings.
 - Next month there would be human rights complaints, although it is felt that with the conversation around Medicaid, this should be a priority due to time sensitivity.
- Rules & Regulations (Chair, Stephanie Patrick)
 - Area of focus is going to be on the DRF roles. A series of roles that have to do with designated receiving facilities.
 - Plan to do a series of meetings about DRFs to try to set a stage for comments on the rules instead of making specific comments on the rules. (171B involuntary admissions)
 - There is a meeting on the results of the PDMS listening session.
 - Do need to add a few more people from the rules committee.
 - Next meeting August 5. Different day then the regular meeting date.
- Housing (Chair, Marissa Berg)
 - Is on pause. Lost most of the people who were attending and waiting on legislative conversation.
 - Feel as though this can be taken off.
- Person Centered Planning (Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre)
 - Have not met.
 - Isadora did sign up for the service coordinator training. Not sure what the next steps will be.
- Self-Advocacy Groups (Kelly Ehrhart, Isadora Rodriguez- Legendre)
 - Working with other groups to set some expectations, training and information that would help other advocacy groups decide if they are an advocacy group or if they are a social group.
 - What are some ways we can support younger people get involved in advocacy.
 - Louis offered to replace Isadora, Kelly agreed.
- Membership Committee (Chair, Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre)
 - Kelly's term is coming up – Isadora has a meeting coming up with the current governor.
 - Working to update the membership process to include members that are coming up for renewal.



Training coming up

Listening sessions this week with the Transportation Task Force this is in collaboration with Aging and their broad transportation survey.

ABLE is partnering with Connections Always and Delaware Disability Council, this will be in part of the Mental health task force.

Disability Pride Parade is July 26th.

Louise motioned to adjourn the meeting with Isadora second.

Minutes approved at the August 20th meeting.