

Systems Changes at New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

The New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services recently revised its organizational mission statement. From a disability perspective, the new mission is a welcome improvement.

Former Mission Statement

To protect and promote physical, mental, and environmental health and prevent disease, injury, and disability.

Current Mission Statement

The Division is a responsive, expert leadership organization that promotes optimal health and well-being for all people in New Hampshire and protects them from illness and injury.

This change was achieved, in part, by the Public Health Services Improvement Council. Dr. Kimberly Phillips, NH DPH Principal Investigator, led a discussion with the group about different models of disability (e.g., medical and social) and challenged the members to reconsider the mission, which previously reflected the medical model. In the new, more inclusive mission statement, disability is no longer synonymous with disease, illness, or injury.

Promoting the Health of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

NH DPH helped to update the New Hampshire Bureau of Developmental Services' required medication administration training for direct support professionals and home providers. NH DPH contributed new content that emphasizes health equity and health promotion for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Last year, more than 290 people received the new training content:

- data on health disparities among adults with and without disabilities;
- the importance of modeling and encouraging healthy behaviors; and
- video clips from the NH DPH healthcare provider training, *Responsive Practice: Providing Health Care & Screenings to Individuals with Disabilities*.

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