

A New Strategic Objective Developed by the New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities

The New Hampshire Disability and Public Health Project (NH DPH) completed analysis of NH Medicaid data which provided guidance for the New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities (NHCDD) to develop a new strategic objective.

The NHCDD Director requested technical assistance from the NH DPH to help fulfill a new requirement for their 2017-2021 State Strategic Plan. The NHCDD needed to describe a subpopulation of people with developmental disabilities in New Hampshire (NH) that is particularly vulnerable to a disparity (e.g., health, education, housing, employment) and identify a strategy to reduce the disparity.

NH DPH used pooled Medicaid data from 2010-2014 to provide NHCDD with information about the prevalence of diabetes and obesity among people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) living in rural and non-rural NH counties. The data showed that individuals with IDD in the rural North Country of NH had a significantly higher prevalence of both diabetes and obesity than people with IDD living in other areas of the state. Based on these analyses, NHCDD created the following strategic objective:

“In collaboration with disability, aging, and other organizations, the Council will work to increase awareness about, and access to, health education, nutrition and physical activity initiatives for adults with developmental disabilities living in the rural counties of Belknap, Carroll and Coos New Hampshire.”

To achieve this objective, NHCDD will join forces with key partners, including NH DPH, to increase access to support and training opportunities related to health and wellness for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in areas of the state with the greatest need. NH DPH will continue to provide technical assistance and resources to help ensure that activities with a specific focus on health education, nutrition and physical activity achieve the greatest possible reach and are monitored and evaluated for maximum effectiveness.

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Institute on Disability/UCED

