

Stronger Connection to Regional Public Health Networks Promotes More Accessible and Inclusive Public Health

New Hampshire's 13 Regional Public Health Networks (PHNs) encompass the state's cities and towns. Each PHN has a Community Health Improvement Plan and is advised by a Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC). The long-term goal of the PHNs and their PHACs is to collectively develop a performance-based public health delivery system that provides all [10 Essential Public Health Services](#) in their regions.

The New Hampshire Disability & Public Health Project (NH DPH) is contributing to this goal by increasing the effectiveness and accessibility of personal and population-based health services. This year, NH DPH staff successfully met with all 13 PHNs in order to gather important information about how they function, what their priorities are, and where they might benefit from assistance.

As a result of our outreach to the 13 Regional Public Health Networks (PHN), NH DPH staff member, [Kathy Bates](#), was invited to participate on the Public Health Advisory Councils (PHAC) of two regions, Strafford County and Seacoast. Congratulations to these two PHNs for a big step forward in committing to accessible public health! An expert advocate and self-advocate, Kathy's presence will provide experience, technical assistance and a crucial voice for the disability community.

- NH DPH learned that most PHNs would like more access to education and training on inclusion practices ranging from the design of accessible public documents to general guidance on cultural competence for disability and accessibility.
- In response to this finding, NH DPH prepared and will deliver a new training, *Cultural Competence with Disability*, to PHN staff and their partners throughout the state. Trainings are already scheduled with five regions.
- A follow up training, *Accessible Content & Dissemination*, will focus on the creation of accessible online documents and electronic health promotion materials. Participants will also learn how to disseminate information in accessible and inclusive formats both online and using social media.

These in-person trainings will further advance relationships between NH DPH and the PHNs, increasing the number of New Hampshire residents with disabilities who will benefit from more accessible and inclusive public health.

NH DPH is supported by cooperative agreement #NU59DD000954-04-00 from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). Its contents are the responsibility of NH DPH and do not necessarily represent the views of CDC. Alternative formats available on request.