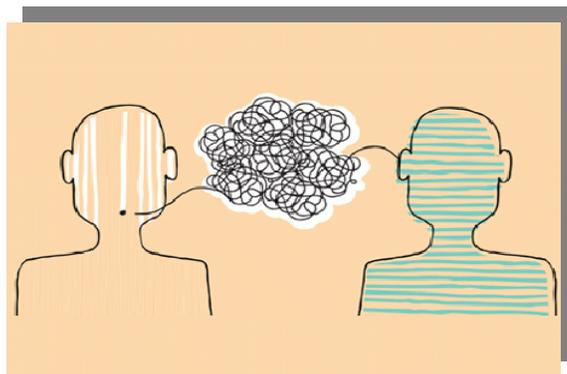


# Council Chat

The Quarterly Newsletter of the New Hampshire  
Family Support Councils



February 2015-April 2015

The **Council Chat** is a newsletter for New Hampshire Family Support Council Members. The newsletter is distributed to all Family Support Council members, Family Support Coordinators, and Area Agency Executive Directors statewide.

If you would like to provide information or photographs for a future newsletter please send your ideas or articles to:

*Council Chat*

Linda Graham

Linda.graham@dhhs.state.nh.us

**BDS** — New Hampshire Humanities Council discussion "Beyond Words" will take place at the April meeting-

***"Beyond Words: Conversations about language, inclusion, and disability"*** is a pilot series that offers civic reflection to four groups directly supporting the developmentally disabled community in New Hampshire. In early 2014, nine New Hampshire families produced short, powerful films about living with a developmentally disabled family member. The challenging questions these stories raise about inclusion, communication, and difference will be explored in conversation, and through the lens of selected evocative images and short texts. Through shared reflection, caregivers and support staff can step back from their urgent daily tasks to refresh their values, ask new questions, and reframe complex issues surrounding disability and society. The new questions and insights these groups articulate can provide a good foundation for broadening the project into wider civic life, and engage the public more meaningfully."

Further BDS updates will follow separately.

**DD Council-** The New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities would like to invite you to a Legislative Breakfast event showcasing the importance of employing people with developmental disabilities. This breakfast will be held on Wednesday February 18th from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the state house cafeteria.

We are sponsoring this breakfast to highlight success stories from across the state for both employers and employees. You will have a chance to meet with state legislators and talk about how your organizations and businesses work with employers and employees to successfully place persons with disabilities in competitive wage jobs. There will be space in the cafeteria for display tables and chances to hand out pamphlets to attendees.

The breakfast will also be a good opportunity to educate legislators that the payment of subminimum wages is both discriminatory and unnecessary in New Hampshire. Encouraging house and senate members to vote yes on HB 411 and SB 47 will help ensure that our state pays all people regardless of disability status at least the minimum wage.

Please contact Mike Tappen or Chris Rueggeberg about whether you will be participating in the Legislative Breakfast.

Mike Tappen Contact Information: 631-428-2104 or  
mt317158@gmail.com<mailto:mt317158@gmail.com>

Chris Rueggeberg Contact Information: 603-724-7113 or  
robert.rueggeberg@ddc.nh.gov<mailto:robert.rueggeberg@ddc.nh.gov>

The announcement is in the January 30th house calendar on page 18, here is the link.  
[http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljourns/calendars/2015/HC\\_10.pdf](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljourns/calendars/2015/HC_10.pdf)

**Quality Council** - The Quality Council just completed recommendations for Managed Care, and they have been distributed. The Council is looking at the sub committees. Each member is expected to be on a subcommittee and members of the public can join these subcommittees as well. The current subcommittees are: Managed Care, Domains, transparency, Workforce Training. At the January QC Meeting, Deb Fournier presented information about the proposed DHHS Transition Plan to be submitted to DHHS. We were also presented data regarding Complaint Investigation Follow Up Review by Melissa Nemeth.

**Region 1**- In December our FS Council along with Partners In Health hosted a family movie day at the Rialto Theatre in Lancaster. We showed Frozen. It was a great event and fun was had by all. Wendy Stuart is working with Vendors for a Cause and will be having a quarter auction fundraiser on March 8th in Lancaster. We have had two new members join in the past two months and have been actively recruiting more new members.  
 -Jenn Pineo

**Region 3**- March 13th we will be having 21 & over community dance at Fosters boiler room from 6-8.  
 April 9th we will be having our annual meeting, celebrating over 40th anniversary! Dan Habib will be a guest speaker.  
 May 17th we will be having our 5th annual Autism Center Walkathon. The walk begins and ends at our main office in downtown Laconia. It is from 10am-1pm. Its an approximately 3.2 mile family friendly walk on the WOW trail. If you would like more information contact Joanne Piper Lang at 524-8811.  
 Employment:

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In 6 months time the council supported 2 new business including The Green Tangerine, LRCS' newest agency-owned business. It offers a wide variety of jewelry, candles and many gifts. It opened in December and is located at 569B Main St. Laconia.  
 Staffworks of LRCS works within the community to assist and support individuals who experience a disability achieve their personal and career goals.  
 -Denise Colby

**Region 4**- The Family Support Council continues to offer a number of educational activities and fun events for families. The Council and Granite State Independent Living have a formal agreement to provide benefits counseling to individuals and families connected to Community Bridges. They also provide informational sessions on programs such as MEAD and IRWE's. This contract provides services through September 2015.  
 The Council is hosting a Beat the Winter Blues family night on Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup>. This activity offers dinner for families as well as activities designed around Valentine's Day. New Family Orientation is available for all families who have just connected to Community Bridges. Orientation is held on the second Tuesday of each month and focuses on helping families connect to the programs and activities provided by the Council and Community Bridges. SibShop continues to support the siblings of kids who experience a disability. Held on the third Saturday of each month, this program provides four hours of fun activities and opportunities to make new friends. This program is free of charge. Our Autism Resource Team is planning two events for the upcoming quarter. The first event is a music therapy series for kids who experience autism and the second is an educational event for parents who have a child who experiences autism.  
 -Terri Warren

**Region 6**- Gateways Strategic Plan Update- During our December meeting Gateways President/CEO Sandra Pelletier presented The Gateways Strategic Plan update. She began with a

brief history of how she began with Gateways and the role she has played from its beginning to where we are now. Sandy presented on the process and theories behind strategic planning. She talked about the bigger picture of where we stand on the legislative side of managed care options and continuum of care. We also heard about the new needs that Gateways is seeing with regards to mental health disabilities and the challenges that presents. We also heard about several different programs that are going on within Gateways that ranged from birth to seniors.

**Community Services LLC** - In an ongoing desire to learn more about vendors in our community and what they have to offer, Laura Frangipane, Executive Director of Community Services, LLC, based in Manchester presented on an array of programs they offer to work with individuals with disabilities that help them learn life management skills which include but are not limited to, budgeting, cooking, art, movement and other programs. As a result of our meeting, we're looking at the possibility of adding a social group to our region that would be implemented by Community services, LLC. We are in the process of surveying families for their interest.

**Holiday Party** - We held our annual Holiday party on December 13<sup>th</sup>. We had 117 people attend and as usual it's a very popular event. We had several different craft stations, cookie decorating, a photo booth and much more.

**Chunky's** - We sponsored our second movie event at Chunky's in Nashua on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Over 78 people attended and saw the movie, Paddington. It was a very funny movie. The attendees were treated to popcorn and a good time was had by all. Based on the success we had, we've been asked by several attendees to be sure we had more movies in the future.

Our January meeting was cancelled due to the snowstorm.

As we plan ahead, we will continue a focus on employment and other programs and will be hearing from the Plus Company and Early Supports and Services. We're also looking to add a Participant Voice on Council. We're looking at a

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recreational fair which will bring vendors together for a night to make everybody aware of the services they offer. Council had sponsored a recreational fair some time back and it was very successful. I would like to welcome three additional new members to our Council and looks forward hearing their new ideas and how we can better serve our clients.

-Mike Poulin

**Region 9** – We are all surprised with the pace of pushing long term care and supports through to managed care so soon, and do not believe the bugs or problems have even been addressed with the insurance companies as the state does not always hear of the day to day problems families are experiencing with the two insurance companies, hospitals and providers have not been paid and families are having difficulty with getting their child's medications, etc. the problems are not being forwarded to the centers for Medicaid and Medicare so the Feds don't know of the problems NH is having with this whole system of managed care is for our families that have persons with disabilities. Please put this in the newsletter because we are sure we are not the only region having difficulties with the managed care companies the state contracted with. We knew this would not be a money saving plan for the state of nh and now the Feds are asking where the savings are. It only takes a bit of common sense to see that when you add another layer or middleman to the equation, they also need a cut of the pie, therefore of course it will cost more, not save anything.

Other than that, our region is continuing to support a few high school students through employment, we had a Hugh turnout for the fall hayride, we served several hundreds of families with our food drive and Christmas help for families, without costing from our budget, we continue to offer PIC trainings, have a family in NH Leadership this year and one in the LEND program.

-Karen Salter

**Region 10-** First Saturday in December, we hosted another successful Soundscapers' event at Sarah Care in Hampstead. It was well attended, several first-time families joined us. On December 10th, we had a successful fundraiser at Margarita's in Salem. Our Agency's staff, Board, family, and friends supported us! We've been invited back any time and have been added to their list for a future Full Moon Madness Night, when they promote a community, nonprofit organization. These funds are going towards our family activities and trainings.

Instead of a December meeting, Council members were invited to a Public Policy training with Gamaliel community organizer/trainer John Norton. Our first six-week group music therapy session ended and was very successful! A new session will start in January.

January meeting was used to plan our next six-month meetings, presenters, and activities. And we enjoyed a "social time" sharing favorite foods and a Yankee gift swap - post-holiday celebration!

Please see our website for more information.  
[www.communitycrossroadsnh.org](http://www.communitycrossroadsnh.org)

## Bureau of Developmental Services

### New Members welcome!

The Family Support Conference Planning committee begins planning next year's conference May 2015. **Please join us.** Meetings are the Third Wednesday of the month at NH Hospital from 6-8PM. Please let Peggy Sue Greenwood know of your interest.  
[pgreenwood@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:pgreenwood@dhhs.state.nh.us)



### State Family Support Council

**Next Meeting:**

**April 6, 2015**

**Meeting Location:**

New Hampshire Hospital Conference Room C  
36 Clinton Street  
Concord, NH

**Meetings start at 6:00pm and end at 8:30pm.**

**THE COUNCIL CHAT IS NOW BEING  
PUBLISHED ON A  
QUARTERLY BASIS  
NEXT CHAT DEADLINE:**

**Week of April 6, 2015**

Information for the Council Chat can be sent by the following methods:

via E-mail to:

[Linda.graham@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:Linda.graham@dhhs.state.nh.us)

or

Via Fax: 271-5166

Via Mail: Linda Graham

Bureau of Developmental Services

105 Pleasant Street

Concord, NH 03301

**Please call with questions: 603 271 5036**  
**The Council Chat can now be accessed online from the Bureau of Developmental Services Website. You can find it by going to the Bureau of Developmental Services' website at:**

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/bds/family.htm>