



NHCASD Meeting Minutes July 25, 2025  
In Person Concord School District  
The Board Room- 22 Liberty Street -Concord NH 03301

Agenda Welcome and Roll Call Introductions (Admin)

\*Determination of Quorum

Public Comments and/or Announcements

Acceptance of the May and Emergency Meeting Minutes (VOTE)

NH Department of Safety/Blue Envelope Program

Annual Report Discussion

Department of Health and Human Services and Bureau of Developmental Services Update  
(Jessica Gorton and Dee Dunn Tierney)

Advocacy Priorities Discussion

- Consider the development of the following committees:
  - By-laws committee
  - HB 140 – Blue Envelope Committee
  - Resources Committee

Membership Committee Update

August Meeting Planning

ATinNH to present

Financial Reports

Other Business



### Members Attendance

Position/Agency/ Organization	Representative	Meeting Status
(a) The governor, or designee.	VACANT	
(b) The commissioner of the department of education, or designee.	Kate Scheer	Present Virtual
	Alternate: TBD	
(c) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee	Deirdre Dunn Tierney	Present In-Person
	Alternate: Lisa Fontaine Storez	
(d) The director of the division of public health services, department of health and human services, or designee.	Courtney Keen	
	Alternate: Amanda Merrill	Present In-Person
(e) The bureau chief of the bureau of developmental services, department of health and human services, or designee.	Jessica Gorton	Present Virtual
	Alternate: TBD	
(f) The bureau chief of the bureau of behavioral health, department of health and human services, or designee.	Carolyn Lewis	Present In-Person
	Alternate: TBD	
(g) The director of the Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire, or designee.	Lesley Blecharczyk	Present In-Person
	Alternate: Vacant	
(h) A special education director, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Special Education Administrators.	Jane Bergeron-Beaulieu	
	Alternate: Shelly Fagen	Present In-Person
(i) The president of the New Hampshire Medical Society, or designee.	VACANT	
(j) A representative of the New Hampshire Developmental Disabilities Council, appointed by the council.	Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre, Vice Chair	
	Alternate: TBD	
(k) An individual who has an autism spectrum disorder, appointed by the governor.	Amy Frechette	Present In-Person



(l) A family member of a person who has an AUTISM spectrum disorder, appointed by the governor.	<b>VACANT</b>	
(m) A representative of the Community Support Network, Inc., appointed by such organization.	Marissa Berg	Present In-Person
	Alternate: <b>TBD</b>	
(n) A representative of the New Hampshire Psychological Association, appointed by the association.	Michelle Ronayne	
	Alternate: Jena Motolla	
(o) The director of the office of Medicaid business and policy, department of health and human services, or designee.	Vernon Clough	
	Alternate: <b>TBD</b>	
(p) Up to 5 additional members, nominated by the council and appointed by the governor	<b>VACANT</b>	
(q) A person who has an autism spectrum disorder, appointed by the council.	Gina Cannon	Present In-Person
(r) A representative of the New Hampshire Nurses' Association, appointed by the association	Julianne Taylor	
	Alternate: Paula MacKinnon	
(s) A licensed speech-language pathologist, appointed by the New Hampshire Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Inc	Kathryn Greenslade	Present In-Person
	Alternate: <b>TBD</b>	

#### **Guest-**

Steven Ayotte, Angela Fletcher & Kelly Ehrhart

#### **Quorum Confirmation and Attendance**

Carrie Duran facilitated a roll call to confirm attendance and quorum for the meeting, noting that Kelly Ehrhart is not yet a voting member pending her governor's appointment. The council confirmed quorum requirements are met. Quorum met 15 members with 8 in attendance; there were 10 present-in-person.



### **Public Comments and/or Announcements**

Disability Pride Parade this weekend, reach out to ABLE.

Suggestion of holding space for the public comments on each of the agenda items before the vote. This will allow public comment vs discussion.

Next meeting we will hold 5 minutes for review of agenda with for members of the public who may not have seen it, during that time people can ask initial questions, with allocating a few minutes for public comments prior to anything voted upon.

Bill was taken off the table to dismember the Autism Council, nothing has changed with the legislation.

### **Acceptance of the May and Emergency Meeting Minutes (VOTE)**

Marissa moved to approve May minutes as written, providing corrections. Amanda second.

- Duplication of motion made to accept the in-person members and seconded with a vote, under the legislative update.
- Kathryn's name is spelled wrong in several places in both May and June emergency minutes.
  - ✓ Motioned passed with these two corrections, all in favor: Kate Scheer, Marissa Berg, Deirdre Dunn, Amanda Merrill, Carolyn Lewis, Lesley Blecharezyk, Shelly Fagan, Amy Frechette, Gina Cannon, Kathryn Greenslade.
  - Jessica Gorton left early.

Gina moved to accept the June emergency meeting as written, providing corrections. Amy seconded.

- Correction of Kathryn's name.
  - ✓ Motion passed, all in favor: Kate Scheer, Marissa Berg, Amanda Merrill, Carolyn Lewis, Shelly Fagan, Amy Frechette, Gina Cannon, Kathryn Greenslade.
  - Jessica Gorton left early
  - Deirdre Dunn and Lesley Blecharezyk abstain as they were not at the meeting.

### **NH Department of Safety/Blue Envelope Program -HB140-FN**

Although the council hasn't been directly involved in the legislation surrounding this, it is now being called upon to assist with the development of the Blue Envelope Program. This initiative is designed for licensed drivers with Autism. Ashley Gray from the New Hampshire Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has joined the discussion to talk about the recently passed legislation.



New Hampshire's neighboring states already have similar programs in place, and now NH is looking to implement its own version. The program will provide a blue envelope, available for request from the DMV starting in January. Inside the envelope, individuals with Autism will find instructions on what to do if they are pulled over by law enforcement. The envelope can be clipped to the vehicle's visor and will also include emergency contact information. The DMV is currently working on making the program suitable for New Hampshire residents, and it will require verification from a medical provider—something the DMV already has in place. Additionally, New Hampshire does offer an Autism indicator that can be added to a driver's license.

The DMV is seeking advice from the council on what information should be included in the envelope to best serve drivers with Autism. They are also looking to gather input from law enforcement on what would be most useful for them in these situations. A small task force from the Autism Council should be formed to help shape the program and determine how to effectively market it.

Carrie will send HB140-FN.

- There are samples from other states that can be used as reference – easy to find online.
- This will not be a required program for us.
- Concerns with the envelope being on their visor due to the content that might be in the envelope.
- Suggestion of information on the envelope regarding passengers of the car who have Autism.

The DMV will front the cost of the Blue Envelope.

Sub-Committee – Gina Cannon, Jenn Pineo Baker & Angela. This can also be sent out to some of the self-advocate groups looking for individuals with autism who drive who and would like to provide some input as to what should be on this envelope, they could also email their ideas.

**Question:**

- What kind of training will happen
- After this is in place what will there be follow-up training?



- Could someone come and talk with us about standards and training to talk to use about these questions.

### **Annual Report Discussion**

An Annual Report does need to be put together with details of what we have been working on over the past year. Will be a limited report this year where the council was not fully active for a while.

- Building up membership – still people waiting to hear back from the governor’s office Amy and Kathryn would like examples and then would possibly be willing to help put together the annual report with the support of Carrie and documents.

### **Department of Health and Human Services and Bureau of Developmental Services Update (Jessica Gorton and Dee Dunn Tierney)**

- DHHS budget passed, there were no cuts to the developmental services.
- Request for a million dollars to support Family Centered Early Supports and Services, did not pass.
- Renewed the Area Agency-designated Area Agency contracts for an additional 2 years. Those went into effect starting July 1.
- Renewed and approved contracts for New Hampshire Family Voices approved to continue to provide:
  - Family-to-family health information center
  - Youth healthcare transition services and facilitate some family councils.
  - Coordinating the CYCC Council. (Council for Youth Chronic Conditions)
  - Coordination birth to 8 council (early childhood advisory council).
- State plan has been submitted for the Title V block grant, starting this year and goes through 2030. There is a new Title V director this year.
- Working with ESS to go through the DMS 2.0 review. (Differentiated Monitoring and Support) The federal department, Office of Special Education Programs, will be coming for a week in August looking at policies and procedures. Work being done around fiscal policies, general supervision, including monitoring and compliance, results, data, planning & dispute resolution.  
Part C is for kids under 3. Part B which is the special education in public school system.

### **Advocacy Priorities Discussion**

- Consider the development of the following committees:
  - By-laws committee



- HB 140 – Blue Envelope Committee
- Resources Development Committee – list of resources to go on the website (links) (spell out acronyms)

### **Membership Committee Update**

- Three applications that had been discussed with a fourth person who has applied directly to the governor for the at-large positions. Voted to move two of the applicants forward:
  - Voted to move application forward for recommendation to full council as an at-large position for Nicollette King, pending attendance at a meeting for an, she has joined today meeting.
  - Voted to move application forward to recommendation to the full council for a governor-appointed family member for Elaine Strand who is a family member.
  - Sara Valli the director of ATin NH will be invited to the next meeting.
  - Dawn applies directly to the governor, was asked to fill out an application, which position she was looking for, which we have not yet seen.

### **August Meeting planning**

#### **ATinNH to present**

Sara Valli from ATin New Hampshire will join at the August meeting to update us on their equipment lending program. Along with what ATM in New Hampshire does and how to use it and the logistics. She will be joining from 1pm to 1:30pm.

#### **Financial Reports**

September we will start with a brief update on financial reports for the Council.

#### **Other Business**

- Will need to look at Bi-laws – Gina and Marissa
- Jenn Pineo-Baker interested in participating in the task force – [jsp@nhfv.org](mailto:jsp@nhfv.org)
- Kelly Erhart would like to be a part of a resource development committee
- Dee has a program assistant what works with her who can keep track of resources to go on the website.
- Fiscal Agent asked for a work plan need to be put together by next week. Marissa drafted a work plan and was sent out to the council today.  
Gina motioned to accept the letter as drafted as the Council Work Plan. Kathryn second.
  - ✓ Motion passed, all in favor: Kate Scheer, Marissa Berg, Amanda Merrill, Carolyn Lewis, Shelly Fagan, Gina Cannon, Kathryn Greenslade.
  - Jessica Gorton left early
  - Amy Frechette stepped out of the room.



- Deirdre Dunn and Lesley Blecharezyk abstain.
- Conference at the end of August in Rhode Island was sent out from Kathryn on Neurodiversity in higher education. Please share.

### **Meeting Adjourn**

Kathryn motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dee seconded. All in favor.  
Meeting adjourned at 2:06

Minutes passed on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting.  
Council Administrator- SS