

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT: Julie Moser**

(603) 862-3603

[jmoser@cisunix.unh.edu](mailto:jmoser@cisunix.unh.edu)

**REAL CHOICES FOR OLDER ADULTS & INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN  
THE COMMUNITY IS FOCUS OF UNH/INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY CONFERENCE**

MANCHESTER – The Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire will hold a two-day conference in September to highlight real choices for older adults and individuals with disabilities living in communities.

The conference, scheduled for September 23 and 24 at the Center of NH, Holiday Inn in Manchester, is sponsored by The Real Choice Systems Change project at the Institute on Disability and associated partners (listed below). It will present innovative models that represent best practices in community programs promoting equal opportunities, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

Keynote speakers include advocate and storyteller Norman Kunc, national transportation expert Jon Burkhardt, economic counseling and social work expert Kevin J. Mahoney from Boston College, and director of the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group at the Center for Medicaid and State Operations, Tom Hamilton.

Conference sessions will explore topics such as: community transportation, accessibility, nursing home transition, housing opportunities, community healthcare, person-centered planning, mentorship, assistive technology solutions to maximize employment opportunities, misuse of medications and alcohol among elders in senior housing, finance solutions, and more.

The Real Choice Systems Change project is designed to create and implement improvements in community-based care systems in order to improve health and long-term care services and supports that assist older adults and individuals with disabilities to live in the community.

Sponsors include NH Department of Health and Human Services, NH Developmental Disabilities Council, Granite State Independent Living, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-NH, Community Support Network Inc., Granite Supports Projects, Common Ground, and individuals and families

To register or for more information, call (603) 228-2084 or (800) 238-2048 (in NH) or visit [www.realchoicenh.org](http://www.realchoicenh.org).

A one-day summit on innovative transportation models in New Hampshire will also be held in concert with the Real Choice conference on September 24, featuring transportation experts Jon Burkhardt and Sue Jeffers, as well as regional state coordination planners and presentations by representatives of federal and state regulatory agencies. This summit provides opportunities to learn and exchange new ideas and plans about community transportation. For information about attending this summit, contact Sönke Dornblut at (603) 224-0630, (800) 238-2048 (in NH) or e-mail [sonke.dornblut@unh.edu](mailto:sonke.dornblut@unh.edu).

The Institute on Disability's mission is to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities into their schools and communities. The Institute works with students and faculty, conducts statewide training, participates in grant-funded model demonstration projects, conducts research and engages in collaborative partnerships with other statewide organizations that are committed to improving the lives of persons with disabilities and their families.

The Institute on Disability, together with the Center for Genetics and Child Development at Dartmouth Medical School; the Institute for Health, Law, and Ethics at Franklin Pierce Law Center; and the School of Community Economic Development at Southern New Hampshire University comprise New Hampshire's University Center for Excellence on Disability (UCED).

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*The Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire, is a University Center for Excellence on Disability, established in 1987 with a mission to promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into their communities.*