

New Connections Result from Enhanced Integration with NH Division of Public Health Services

As the New Hampshire Disability & Public Health project (NH DPH) strengthens its integration with the NH Division of Public Health Services (Division), invitations to participate in public health working groups and initiatives take shape. In turn, these new connections ensure that NH DPH can progress toward its goal to improve the health and quality of life of people with mobility and intellectual disabilities in NH through accessible and inclusive public health.

Kimberly Phillips, NH DPH Principle Investigator, now serves on the NH Public Health Services Improvement Council (PHSIC).

- The PHSIC is comprised of key stakeholders and public health leaders across the state and provides oversight to sustain statewide public health improvement efforts.
- Its mission is to “advance the Division’s mission to protect and promote physical, mental, and environmental health and prevent disease, injury and disability.”

In December 2017, Dr. Phillips led a discussion with the PHSIC about the work of NH DPH and its aims to improve cultural competence with disability among public health professionals in our state. The group considered different models of disability (e.g., medical, functional, and social) and was challenged to reconsider their mission statement, which is very reminiscent of the medical model. NH DPH uses a combination of models to advance a holistic, person-centered perspective.

In addition, as a result of support and technical assistance offered to state public health programs, NH DPH was invited by the NH Asthma Control Program to participate in the newly formed Health Promotion Users Group (HPUG).

- The HPUG is comprised of Division staff and leadership from various programs (e.g., Asthma, Maternal Health, WIC, Nutrition, Tobacco) who seek to increase the quality of NH public health messaging and materials.
- Participation in the HPUG provides a valuable opportunity to share information about accessibility and inclusion with DPHS staff members and to keep up with the state’s health promotion activities.
- Members of the HPUG have already consulted NH DPH staff several times regarding the accessibility of health promotion communications and materials.

NH DPH is supported by cooperative agreement #NU59DD000954 from the U.S. 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.

Institute on Disability/UCED

