



Advocacy Matters Newsletter

Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire

July 21, 2020

General Court News- Legislative Activities Suspension

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Court has suspended all legislative activities until further notice with the exception of *remote public meetings, notices for which will be published in the House or Senate Calendar*. During this time, the State House and Legislative Office Building will be closed to legislative members, legislative staff, and visitors.

Legislative Update - HB 250

From Gail Brown at the NH Oral Health Coalition:

We want you to know that the next phase of the bill for a Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit is scheduled to go to the Governor this week. You can contact Governor Sununu by phone at: 603-271-2121 or email at: GovernorSununu@NH.gov.

HB250 requires the commissioner of the department of health and human services to solicit information and to contract with dental managed care organizations to provide dental care to persons under the Medicaid managed care program. This would apply to the Medicaid adult dental benefit and also move the children's comprehensive Medicaid dental benefit from a fee-for-service into a managed care system. Full text is available at: http://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/billText.aspx?sy=2020&id=336&txtFormat=html. HB250 was strongly supported in the NH House and Senate on a bipartisan basis. It is good policy.

If you support is bill, tell the Governor that you want *him to sign HB 250 to support dental coverage for adults under the state's Medicaid program*.

Talking Points:

Signing HB250 is the *doorway to responsible management of limited financial resources* especially during a critical health emergency. Personalize your request to your work, family, or need. Some suggestions of talking points are listed below. Your request can be short and does not need to cover all points.

- Establishes a managed care model for the delivery of Medicaid dental services for adults and children;

- Allows Medicaid provider dollars to be used for dental services to treat and repair adult dental disease before it becomes a costly medical crisis in the emergency department or inpatient hospitalization;
- Allows the timely treatment of dental disease supporting adult employment, student learning, and effective substance treatment and the avoidance of relapse related to pain; and
- Reduces the impact and cost of dental disease on chronic illnesses such as cardiac, pulmonary, autoimmune, dementia, and many other chronic illnesses and conditions.

Americans With Disability Act (ADA) 30th Anniversary- July 26, 2020



President George H.W. Bush Signing the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is federal legislation passed in 1990 that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities. The law made it illegal to discriminate against a disabled person in terms of employment opportunities, access to transportation, public accommodations, communications, and government activities. The law prohibits private employers, state and local governments, employment agencies, and labor unions from discriminating against the disabled. The ADA also establishes requirements for telecommunications relay services. Title IV, which is regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), also requires closed captioning of federally funded public service announcements.

Under the ADA, employers are required to make reasonable accommodations in order for a disabled person to perform their job function.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a piece of employment law passed by congress in 1990 to prevent workplace and hiring discrimination against employees with disabilities of all kinds.
- The ADA applies to all businesses with 15 or more employees and includes private enterprise as well as state and local government employers.
- The ADA also had the effect of increasing accessibility and mobility for disabled persons by mandating handicap-accessible ramps and other accommodations in public places and businesses. -Adam Hayes, Investopedia

Race & Disability with LeDerick Horne

Co-sponsored by: ABLE-NH w/ GSOP, DRC-NH, NHCDD, Manchester Inclusivity and Equity Committee, and the NH Office of Health Equity

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM [Event page and registration info available here](#) **Facebook Event:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/583190512625364/> **Twitter Link:** <https://twitter.com/DRCNH/status/1279059434392748032>

Disability and the Media: A Free ADA Anniversary Discussion

Presented by*: Institute on Disability at UNH and DRC-NH

Wednesday, July 22 from 12:00 -1:30 PM ET [Event page and registration info available here](#)

Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1126945627684312/> **Twitter**

Link: <https://twitter.com/UNHIOD/status/1281600735260672001>* *Live captioning and ASL interpreting supported by the [NH Bar Foundation Advancement of Justice Fund](#).*

ABLE NH July 26th ADA Event: ABLE NH hopes you'll join us virtually to recognize 30+ ways that the ADA makes our country better. We invite people with and without disabilities to participate in a Facebook live stream video on July 26th from 10-11 AM to share about why the Americans with Disabilities Act is important to you.

This event will be viewable to the public through live stream on ABLE NH's Facebook page, but if you'd like to participate in the video and share 3-5 sentences about why you love the ADA, please register at <https://ablenh.wildapricot.org/event-3910592> Registration means you'll get a secure Zoom link the morning of the event. ABLE NH can help you to prepare your statement, or maybe you already know what you want to say about how the ADA has impacted your life. We will make your participation via live stream easy. Please contact leahs@ablenh.org with any questions. If you'd just like to tune in and watch this event but not be in the video, you can just RSVP to the Facebook event at <https://www.facebook.com/events/3155081281240634/>.

Access for All: A Conversation on the ADA and the Outdoors Hosted by: The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire and DRC-NH

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 from 5:00 – 6:00 PM [Event page and registration info available here](#) **Facebook**

Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/211809670006951/> **Twitter**

Link: <https://twitter.com/DRCNH/status/1283070107451875328>

Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire **Covid-19 Financial Assistance Program**

Supporting Our People during the COVID - 19 Epidemic. The Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire is pleased to offer a financial assistance program specifically focused on individuals/families who are struggling with the effects of COVID – 19.

A one-time fund of \$500 per family will be made available to brain injury survivors and family members who are struggling in the aftermath of the pandemic. These funds could be used for things like purchasing food, paying rent, utilities or for other household needs for individuals who are laid off, furloughed, or otherwise out of work. However, there are no restrictions on what may be requested except that it must be related to situations people are dealing with as a result of the pandemic.

For eligibility requirements and to access the grant application, please visit www.bianh.org or email Ellen Edgerly at Ellen@bianh.org

If you have any questions relative to this newsletter, please contact me.

Take care-

Ellen

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