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| **Overview of ITS Programs Within New Hampshire’s Service Delivery System** |

New Hampshire was the first state in the country to close its institutions for people with ID/DD. Since 1991 when the Laconia State School was closed, New Hampshire has provided a totally community based system of services and supports for its citizens with ID/DD or acquired brain injuries. These services are managed through a system of 10 Area Agencies that are designated under state law RSA 171:A to deliver regional developmental services. This system’s mission is to assure that all individuals from their respective regions have access to the person centered, individualized services and supports that they need and desire in order to live rich and full lives as active and valued members of their communities.

The Area Agency system promotes full community inclusion and is committed to helping individuals with developmental disabilities and/or acquired brain injuries obtain the necessary skills to live as independently as possible. New Hampshire’s Area Agencies provide services to over 10,000 individuals and their families. Within the developmental services system there are a number of adults whose behaviors pose a moderate to significant risk to the community. These behaviors include problematic sexual behavior, arson and fire setting histories, and/or high levels of violence and aggression. These struggles are often intensified due to a high proportion of individuals who often also struggle with complex mental health needs, trauma histories, and occasionally, significant medical needs. These combine to create the need for a multi-faceted, therapeutically-informed, well-coordinated care approach for these individuals.

The enactment of RSA 171:B in 1994 regarding involuntary civil commitment resulted in heightened awareness of this high-risk population. Referrals to the area agency system increased, due to the system’s default ability to provide supports on a 24 hour basis. This trend also coincided with decreased public funding for other service delivery systems and in particular, New Hampshire’s mental health (MH) system.

In recognition of these issues in 2009 the state Senate established a commission under SB 112 to study the problems and make recommendations to address the issues. In conducting its work, the Commission was guided by a commitment both to ensuring community safety and to improving services for individuals with high-risk behaviors. The Commission recognized the need to create a service structure where individuals with Developmental Disabilities who have high-risk behaviors are able to receive effective treatment, by qualified professionals, in a safe environment, and be guaranteed full protection of the rights afforded to them as citizens and under RSA 171:A (the state law and accompanying regulations for the developmental services system).

While there is still work to be done, there have been significant gains over the past several years to establish a structured service delivery system for this high-risk, HCBC waiver eligible population in New Hampshire. These include the development of Intensive Treatment Service (ITS) programs, increased capacity for therapeutic supports with specially trained clinicians, development of the Statewide Risk Management Committee and Community of Practice, development of Local Risk Management Teams at all 10 Area Agencies, statewide and cross-systems participation in multiple ITS Summits, a vetted group of Risk Assessors from across the Northeast, extensive consultation with nationally recognized consultants, and the development of multiple, active ITS Workgroups designed to work on current systems advancement.

This standards manual is the product of collaborative efforts of clinicians and staff members from the area agency system, vendor agencies, Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, Community Supports Network, Inc. (CSNI), NH Bureau of Developmental Services, and other members whose work supports those waiver-eligible individuals struggling with histories of High-Risk behaviors.