

Advocacy & News



MEET OUR NEW PUBLIC POLICY & MARKETING COORDINATOR

Michelle St. John joined Northern Human Services in March 2022 and is coordinating our legislative events as well as several mini (15 minute) online advocacy trainings this fall.

She will be updating families through Northern's website, Facebook page, and through occasional email updates.

Michelle also attends the Family Support Advisory Council meetings (held on the third Monday of every month), and works with individuals and families who would like to get involved in advocacy efforts.

Contact Michelle through your Family Support Coordinator; email, mstjohn@northernhs.org; or phone, 603-213-1225.

www.NorthernHS.org
[@nhsNewHampshire.org](https://www.facebook.com/nhsNewHampshire.org)

LEGISLATIVE LEARNING SESSIONS

Election Day is November 8, 2022. Every two years, Northern Human Services invites candidates in Coos, Carroll, and Northern Grafton counties to attend a legislative learning session. We invite you to attend one of the four scheduled for this fall. Dates include:

- October 13 - Whitefield
- October 17 - Conway
- October 27 - Berlin
- November 3 - Virtual / Zoom



WHAT HAPPENS AT A LEGISLATIVE LEARNING SESSION AND WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

These events are designed to be educational and provide an opportunity for families/individuals to share their lived experience with future policy makers.

More importantly, they are a powerful opportunity to educate candidates about the needs and challenges individuals (and families) with developmental disabilities face on a daily basis. In some cases, this may be the first time a candidate learns about what it is like to live with a developmental disability.

We are looking for families/individuals who are willing to share their life experience and the unique challenges with political candidates in our region. If you are interested in attending and sharing your experience, please reach out to your **Family Support Coordinator**, or contact Michelle directly at mstjohn@northernhs.org or **603-213-1225**. Support will be provided to prepare for and speak at the session(s).

EVENT SCHEDULE

- 6:00 p.m. Welcome/Introductions
- 6:15 p.m. Northern Human Services Overview
- 6:30 p.m. Participating Families Share Their Experiences
- 7:00 p.m. General Questions From Candidates
- 7:15 p.m. Wrap Up/Post Event Networking; Light Refreshments



NEW LAWS IN 2022

- SB 422 and HB 103, both pertaining to an adult dental benefit, are now law, after many years of advocacy and negotiations. Over 120,000 Granite State adult Medicaid recipients will have access to dental benefits, starting in April 2023.
- HB 1513 gives students with IEPs the right to remain in school until the end of the academic year during which they turn 22.
- SB 238 ensures that students who receive special education services will continue to do so regardless of the public school chosen by the family.
- SB 381 establishes an office of the advocate for special education.
- HB 1135 provides for the requirement of an audit of education freedom accounts.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST! SEND AN EMAIL TO COMMUNICATIONS@NORTHERNHS.ORG