

DECEMBER
2019

Advocacy in Action

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

Dear LRCS Families,

Happy Holiday's! My name is Carrie Duran and I am the new Legislative Liaison at Lakes Region Community Services. I am excited to introduce myself to you as your partner in navigating the legislative and law-making process in the state of New Hampshire.

I am single parent of three amazing girls and I live in Wolfeboro. My twins are 13 years old and my youngest is 8 years old and experiences Down syndrome. I began my advocacy journey when my daughter Katie was born with a developmental disability. I was a mom on a mission and began going to workshops, conferences and speaking with other parents. I also began volunteering in my community which led me to my passion of advocating for my daughter and the disability community.

I understand the challenges parents and caregivers have in the day to day responsibilities of caring for someone with a developmental disability and want to support you in your own advocacy journey. I look forward to assisting you with strengthening your advocacy knowledge, skills and goals!

Happy Holiday's from my family to yours and best wishes for the New Year!

Best wishes,
Carrie Duran, Legislative Liaison
carrie.duran@lracs.org



(Carrie and her daughter's, Marisole, Katie and Isabella)



NEW HAMPSHIRE
Family Support
Conference

SAVE THE DATE

Family Support Conference

April 24-26, 2020

What is a Legislative Liaison?

In New Hampshire we have ten area agencies which provide case management and services for those with developmental disabilities. Each agency has a legislative liaison who communicates between our legislator's, the area agency and the families we serve.

Some of the aspects of my position are:

- Advocacy education and training for families
- Engage families, caregivers and self-advocates in the legislative process
- Attend legislative sessions and committee hearings
- Follow, analyze and review pending legislation
- Advise on the priorities and the potential impact of legislation

What's Ahead for 2020?

Ahead of the New Hampshire's 2020 legislative session opening on January 8, 2020, I have been hard at work reviewing the 1063 bills put forth by our legislative members in our state house and senate. I have flagged around 30 bills which may have an impact both positively and negatively for the developmentally disabled (DD) community. If you would like to receive more information about these bills and how you can get more involved in the legislative process, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at carrie.duran@lracs.org. You can also sign up to be added to the newsletter on the Lakes Region Community Services website at www.lracs.org/. Legislative updates can be found under the developmental services/legislative updates drop-down tab.

I look forward to hearing from you and supporting you in the legislative process!

New Hampshire Legislative Insights

The State of New Hampshire has one of the largest legislative bodies in the country. We have 400 State Representatives and 24 Senators that are elected every two years. It is important that you know and build relationships with your elected officials. They want to hear from you to understand important information that will impact their votes on policy changes.

You can learn more information about the senate by exploring their website at <http://gencourt.state.nh.us>.

Reference:

CSNI (2019). Retrieved from <https://csni.org/>



(Carrie testifying on the budget, at the NH State House)

Advocacy in Action

Advocacy In Action is a video series designed to educate families and individuals of LRCS on the legislative process. As you navigate through the videos, you will gain insight on upcoming legislative topics, and learn how to maneuver through the advocacy process. For more information or video requests, please contact Carrie Duran at carrie.duran@lracs.org.



*The New Hampshire
State House*