



Bureau of Developmental Services Newsletter

Winter
2022

Welcome to the Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS) Newsletter!

The BDS Newsletter highlights information about the work we do to support individuals and families.

Our second issue provides a year-end letter, an overview of some commonly used terms, and a look forward to 2023.

Do you know anyone who would like to receive this newsletter? Please ask them to send an email to ddsystemswork@dhhs.nh.gov and request to be added to our mailing list.

Letter from Sandy Feroz, BDS Bureau Chief

Dear Community Members,

The Developmental Services system provides support to roughly 5,500 people across the state. Services are designed to support an individual with a developmental disability or acquired brain disorder, we know that our services also support and impact families and the greater community. BDS partners with nearly eighty service providers across the state to ensure services are delivered. These providers work with families to provide respite, find housing, and weave supports into the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Organizing it all are ten Area Agencies, who serve as a central point of access to families seeking services across the state. At the Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS), there's a team that many of you don't see, working in partnership with the area agencies, service providers, and individuals and families served, to make sure that the fiscal health of the system is maintained and the health and safety of those accessing supports and services is secure.

For over a year now, the BDS team has been collaborating on a multi-year implementation project called "the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Systems Work." Included in this work are efforts to update the DD Waiver, service rates and rate methodology, and the Information Technology (IT) systems. Throughout this process, we have been connecting with families to hear about what must be preserved, what may need to change, their interests in this work, or answer questions related to this work. In these discussions, families requested continued conversation and information directly from BDS. You asked for ways to be involved and BDS has tried to deliver.

Since we announced our intentions to pursue this work, we have stood up a robust stakeholder engagement process. This has included over 50 meetings among 4 work groups, as well as:

- Developing a website with frequently updated resources and improving accessibility of materials
- Adjusting work group membership to include more individual and family voices
- Attending over 10 meetings with providers and advocacy groups and site visits in 3 regions
- Hosting nearly 20 in-person individual and family forums and 10 virtual information sessions on various topics and sending personal email responses to individual questions.

As 2022 draws to a close, I want to thank you for your ideas and contributions to the critical work that is underway. We want to ensure that people are always central to what we do. To this end, we need to ensure they have the options and finances to support their goals, which are highlights of this year-end newsletter. I look forward to everything that we will accomplish in 2023.

Sandy Feroz, Bureau Chief

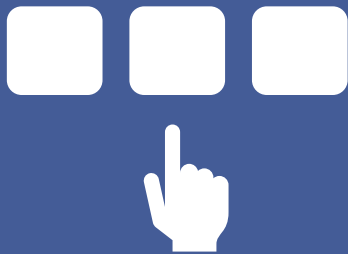


Overviews of Common Terms That Have Been Referenced Throughout Our Engagement

Participant Directed & Managed Services (PDMS)

PDMS is a method of service delivery under the three 1915(c) waivers (In-Home Supports, Developmental Disabilities, Acquired Brain Disorder) in NH's developmental services system. It is an alternative to "traditional services" offered under the waivers.

This means that an individual, or a representative of the individual's choosing, has decision-making authority over certain services and takes direct responsibility to manage those services with the assistance of a system of available supports.



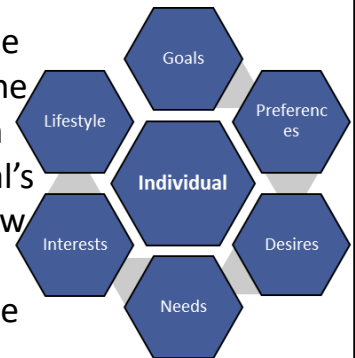
The BDS systems work to enhance the IT system, develop updated rates, and add additional waiver services will expand the choice and flexibility within the BDS programs, making it more nimble to changes if individuals experience changes in their support needs.

The PDMS program will continue to function with the same budget and self-directed employer authority as it does today to support individual's needs.

Person-Centered Planning

Person-Centered Planning is an individual and family-directed, positive approach to the planning and coordination of a person's services and other supports based on the individual's aspirations, needs, preferences, and goals.

This approach, when done correctly, should assist the individual's support team by informing an individual's service agreement for how services can accompany other supports to help the individual achieve their



goals. Based on information obtained from this process and other service planning meetings, the individual's service coordinator will work with the team to identify providers of these services and develop the final service agreement with the array of services the individual is requesting.

Through a Person-Centered Planning, the team may learn more about an individual or the individual's goals may change. It is the role of the service coordinator to work with the team to modify the service agreement to reflect the changes in service to meet these goals. Work is currently being done to enhance this process in New Hampshire.

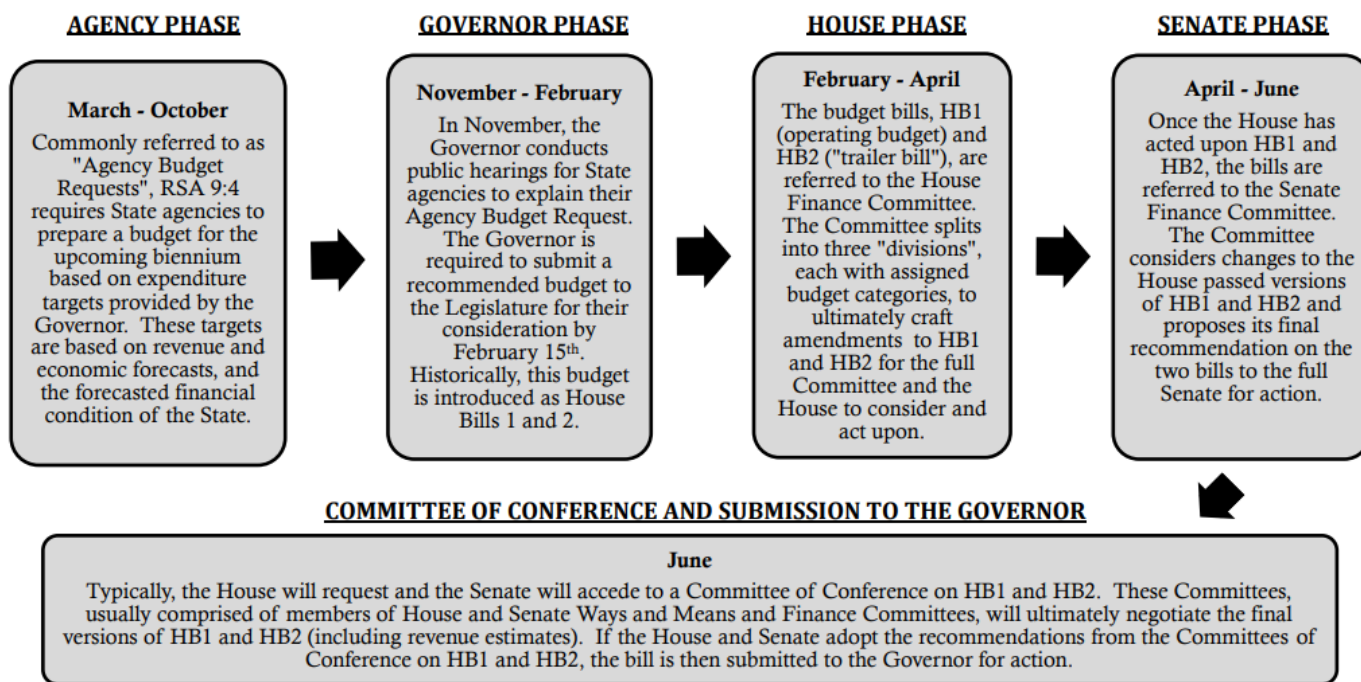
Resources related to Person-Centered Planning are:

- LifeCourse Nexus – Charting the Life Course Framework ([Click Here](#))
- Administration for Community Living – Person Centered Planning ([Click Here](#))



Many conversations related to the DD Systems Work have included reference to budgets. Here is a high-level overview of the State’s budget process, that all agencies, including DHHS, follow in order to have a budget approved by the NH State Legislature.

The State's Operating Budget Process begins during an even-numbered year (e.g., 2022) and ends during an odd-numbered year (e.g., 2023). The budget development process is long, as agencies begin work on the budget more than a year before it will become enacted. Below is an infographic of the flow of the phases:



Infographic source: NH Office of Legislative Budget Assistant – Fiscal Issue Briefs - Operating Budget Process - November 2016 ([Click Here](#))

Looking Forward to 2023

We look forward to more engagement in 2023 as the BDS Systems Work continues, including:

- Facilitating Work Group meetings and discussions
- Meeting with individuals, families, area agencies, providers, and advocacy groups
- Sharing updated Waiver service definitions
- Providing proposed rule updates for public comment
- Submitting proposed Waiver updates for Federal review and approval