



July 28, 2015

Her Excellency Governor Margaret Wood Hassan  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

1) Authorize the New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities (the “Council”) to conduct a two-day conference on September 25 and 26, 2015, at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, NH (vendor # 165195) to train people with disabilities, families and human services professionals in advocacy and best practices for supporting children and adults with autism, for a total cost not to exceed \$16,000.00, effective upon Governor and Council approval, in the State Fiscal Year 2016 and through November 30, 2015.

100% Other Funds (Registration fees and donations).

2) Further Authorize the Council to accept registration fees and donations in an amount not to exceed \$16,000.00, effective upon Governor and Council approval.

100% Other Funds (Registration fees and donations).

Funds will be deposited into account: 01-97-97-970010-7135, New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities.

FY16

006-403508	Miscellaneous Revenue	\$16,000.00
020-500200	Current Expenses	\$16,000.00

**EXPLANATION**

This conference is organized to help fulfill the Council’s duties and powers under RSA 19-J:6 III “to support and conduct training for persons with developmental disabilities, their families, and service providers to enable such persons to obtain access to, or to provide, community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance, including special adaptation of generic community services or specialized services, to people with developmental disabilities.” The conference will focus on the theme “Human Rights for All” and will be organized in close collaboration with The Autism National Committee, Inc. (AutCom). It is anticipated that 150 – 200 people will attend the conference.

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RSA §19-J:2 provides that “the council may receive, administer and expend any funds...from any sources public or private, to serve as the designated state agency pursuant to the DD Act and to enter into contracts for the purposes of its programs.”

The Radisson Hotel Manchester was selected as the conference venue, after negotiation with two other venues, because it met the criteria of (1) availability in the fall of 2015, (2) ability to accommodate plenary and breakout sessions with varying numbers of attendees, (3) willingness to accommodate the anticipated sensory challenges and food service needs of conference attendees, and (4) reasonable cost (including overnight lodging). The selected venue is located in central New Hampshire for ease of access by multiple attendees (see Attachment A).

The total cost of this two-day conference (not to exceed \$16,000.00) includes printed material, advertisement, postage, facility rental, meals and refreshments. These costs will be offset by an estimated \$16,000.00 in conference revenue. A tentative conference agenda and estimated budget are attached.

The New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities was established in 1971, pursuant to the federal Developmental Disabilities Act (DD Act) of 1970. Councils are located in every State and Territory and represent a Federal-State partnership to expand opportunities and improve the quality of life of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Councils are charged by Federal law to identify the most pressing needs of people with developmental disabilities in their State or Territory and to develop innovative and cost effective strategies to meet those needs. Councils work to promote the independence and productivity of people with developmental disabilities and promote systems change that will eliminate obvious inequities in areas such as employment, education, and access to healthcare.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Stamatakis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carol Stamatakis  
Executive Director

**NH Council on Developmental Disabilities  
and Autism National Committee (AutCom)  
Conference: Human Rights for All  
September 25-26, 2015  
Manchester, NH**

**Explanation of the Choice of the Radisson Hotel – Manchester as the  
Conference Venue**

The process of finding a venue for AutCom's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, to be held in the fall of 2015, began in January, 2014. In making the decision of which venue to choose, the criteria to be applied were as follows:

1. Availability of the venue within the requisite time frame.
2. Physical set-up that minimizes crowded and noisy conditions, to accommodate the sensory issues faced by many of the conference presenters and attendees.
3. Banquet and lodging charges that are comparable to those of other hotels contacted.
4. Family-style meal service to most efficiently accommodate special dietary considerations (e.g. gluten-free, casein-free, vegetarian).

Since the organization had used the Crowne Plaza Nashua in the past, that hotel was contacted first. It was not available in the requisite time frame; had it been available, although not ideal in terms of criteria 2 and 4, it would have been the first choice as a reasonable known quantity. The Holiday Inn Express and Suites Manchester – Airport was contacted next; this venue did not meet criteria 2 and 4. Both venues required a food and beverage minimum, not required by the Radisson. Other venues contacted either were too expensive or had little interest in hosting the conference.

The Radisson Hotel – Manchester immediately met three of the four criteria (1, 2 and 4) and after negotiation was deemed also to meet the criterion of reasonable cost.

BUDGET

NH Council on Developmental Disabilities  
in collaboration with the Autism National Committee  
Conference: "Human Rights for All"  
September 24-26, 2015  
Radisson Hotel Manchester  
Manchester, NH

<u>Estimated Revenue</u>	
Registration Fees (based on 100 paid attendees @ \$150)	\$15,000.00
Donations to Scholarship Fund (to subsidize attendance of individuals on the autism spectrum)	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$16,000.00</b>
<u>Estimated Expenses</u>	
Meals (breakfast, lunch, snack x 2 days) - 150 attendees @ \$43.00/day x 2	\$12,900.00
Board Working Dinner 9/24/2015	450.00
Audio/Visual Equipment Rental	\$1,500.00
Postage & Supplies (folders, nametags, etc.)	\$450.00
Miscellaneous unanticipated conference expenses	\$300.00
Bank Charges (e.g. PayPal)	400.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,000.00</b>

Note: If the number of paid registrants exceeds the estimated 100, the increased revenues will cover all increased expenses.

**NH Council on Developmental Disabilities  
and Autism National Committee (AutCom)  
Conference: Human Rights for All  
September 25-26, 2015  
Radisson Hotel Manchester  
Manchester, NH**

**Keynote Addresses  
(in alphabetical order)**

**Lydia Brown**

***More Than Neurodivergent:  
Autistic Rights in Social Justice Movements***

Lydia Brown is a disabled activist and writer whose work focuses on violence against multiply-marginalized disabled people. Lydia is president and co-founder of the Washington Metro Disabled Students Collective and co-president of TASH New England, while also serving on the Board of Directors of the Autism Women's Network and the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council. Lydia works as a policy analyst at the Autistic Self Advocacy Network. Additionally, Lydia has served two terms as Undersecretary for Disability Affairs with the Georgetown University Students Association. Previously, Lydia was the 2012 Patricia Morrissey Disability Policy Fellow at the Institute for Educational Leadership. In 2013, Lydia was honored by the White House as a Champion of Change for disability rights. Most recently, Lydia received the Washington Peace Center's Empowering the Future Youth Activist Award for 2014. Lydia's work has been published in *Criptiques*, *Torture in Healthcare Settings*, *Tikkun*, *Black Girl Dangerous*, *hardboiled magazine*, and *The Washington Post*.

**Elizabeth (Ibby) Grace**

***Typed Words, Loud Voices***

**Elizabeth J. (Ibby) Grace** is an Autistic disability activist and Assistant Professor of Education at National Louis University in Chicago, where she lives in the suburbs with her family. She blogs at [tinygracenotes.blogspot.com](http://tinygracenotes.blogspot.com) and is an editor on *i.e.:* inquiry in education ([digitalcommons.nlu.edu/ie/](http://digitalcommons.nlu.edu/ie/)) and *NeuroQueer* ([neuroqueer.blogspot.com](http://neuroqueer.blogspot.com)). Her writing can also be found among other places in the books *Loud Hands*, *Both Sides of the Table: Autoethnographies of Educators Learning and Teaching within Disability*, and *Criptiques*. Ibby currently serves on the boards of directors of Society for Disability Studies and Autism National Committee.

## **Linda Rammler**

### ***Who Defines Social Justice?***

#### ***The Culture Clash between Academia, the Service Industry, and True Advocates***

**Linda Rammler** has more than 40 years of experience in the field of disability, including inclusive education and communities, conducting independent educational evaluations, and consulting with teams and families on inclusive education, right to communicate (she is a facilitator), and positive behavior supports for all learners. She is particularly interested in individuals who have labels of autism spectrum differences and gives workshops on all of these topics with particular reference to autism. Linda is Technical Assistance Director at the University of Connecticut Center for Excellence in Developmental, Research and Service. She is the spouse of a person with disabilities and has been an adoptive parent and foster parent of youth with behavioral health needs. Linda has a Master's degree in special education from University of Hartford and a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Yale University.

## **Emma Zurcher-Long and Ariane Zurcher**

### ***The Power and Right to Connect***

Emma Zurcher-Long was born in 2002. She is a public speaker, a writer and is Autistic. Emma cannot have a conversation with spoken words. She communicates by typing and wishes people would "listen to my writing voice, but they listen to my talking voice instead." Emma's writing has been published on her blog, [Emma's Hope Book](#), *Special Parent Magazine* and HALO's 2014 edition of *Voices*. Emma has given presentations at autism and disability conferences and at schools around the country.

Ariane Zurcher is a writer, public speaker, artist, award-winning jewelry designer and mother. She blogs with her daughter, Emma, about autism on their blog, [Emma's Hope Book](#); about art, design, marriage, parenting, inspiration and life on [Where Art & Life Meet](#); and on a variety of topics for the [Huffington Post](#). Ariane's writing has been published in *Allure*, *Elle Magazine*, *Options*, *XX1st Century*, *Aspen Magazine*, *Aspen Times*, *Special Needs Parenting*, *Parenting Magazine* and many others. She was the voice of Barb for the audiobook, *I Might Be You* by Barb Rentenbach and Lois Prislovsky, wrote the foreword to Judy Endow's book, *Painted Words: Aspects of Autism Translated*, and has given presentations at a number of conferences and schools around the country.

**NH Council on Developmental Disabilities  
and Autism National Committee (AutCom)  
Conference: Human Rights for All  
September 25-26, 2015  
Radisson Hotel Manchester  
Manchester, NH**

**Breakout Sessions – List of Presentations (DRAFT)**

**The Autism Women's Network: Community Organizing and Advocacy for Disabled Women**

Corina Becker, Sharon Davenport, Morénike Giwa Onaiwu, and Heather Thomas

**A Conversation about Inclusion with Students Who Type**

Mary Schuh, Moderator; Grant Blasko, Henry Frost, and Emma Zurcher-Long

**Thirty Years of Art Making**

Larry Bissonnette

In a retrospective look at the art of Larry Bissonnette, Larry will share both new and older examples of his art from a major solo exhibition of his work on display summer of 2015 at the Amy Tarrant Gallery in Burlington, Vermont. Through these examples, he will discuss his journey as an artist which he describes as "My path to making my art leave the world of disability, pushing in many old ideas and launching new perspectives about the abilities of people with autism."

**Collateral Damage: Terrible Risks and Audacious Hopes at the intersection of Race and Disability**

Kerima Çevik

Surviving in the era of unconscious racial bias, urban poverty and racial strife across our country.

**Collaborative Advocacy in the Autism Community: An Inclusive Framework for Social Change**

PACLA (Parenting Autistic Children with Love and Acceptance)

Beth Ryan and Leah Kelley

**I Stand with Henry: Taking Down the Barriers**

Tracy Thresher and Henry Frost

I stand with Henry in his demand to see the intelligent mind within. I met Henry in my quest to change the World's view of disability to recognizing that there is intelligence in all people, if only the Presumption of Competence is the paramount pulse coursing through the veins of educators. I stand with Henry because in Henry I see true grit. Henry is an amazingly resilient young activist. In my mind he is a leader taking down old barriers of discrimination, shifting our culture to one of seeing and believing in ability, rather than judging based on unreliable assessments. I stand on the platform of the typing train with you, my pal.

## **Reaching Up through the Keyboard to a Brighter Life**

Mark Utter

This workshop will address the issues and joys connected to Supported Typing. In this interactive workshop film maker Mark Utter will share inspirational words from his latest writing project about how Supported Typing has allowed him to take over the designing and defining of his life. The presentation will include clips from Mark's movie, *I am in here; A View of My Daily Life with Good Suggestions for Improvement from my Intelligent Mind*, and his new television Talk Show, *The Uttering Mind*. A lively guided conversation between Mark and the workshop participants will then take place and the comments will be synthesized on Mark's blog at [utterenergy.org](http://utterenergy.org).

## **The Road Map to Independent Communication**

Larry Bissonnette and Tracy Thresher

Pascal Cheng and Harvey Lavoy, III

This session will focus on specific techniques and strategies that can be used to help individuals who type with support gain greater levels of independence with their communication. Participants will learn a problem-solving process for identifying motor/movement difficulties that interfere with independent communication and then determining appropriate strategies and supports. The presenters will share their experiences with the process of independence.

## **Congratulations! You've been accepted! Our Experiences on the Journey of Higher Education**

Jenn Seybert and Jamie Burke

## **Our Lives Now Because of Supported Typing**

Mike Hoover and Rob Cutler

Rob and Mike will discuss the ways in which using supported typing brought them from the sidelines to healthy, active, contributing lives.

## **(No title yet)**

Cynthia and Grant Blasko

## **Making Things Happen Legislatively** (suggested title--presentation pending)

Max Barrows, Nicole Leblanc, and the people who shepherded through NH's law mandating competitive wages for people with disabilities

# TITLE I

## THE STATE AND ITS GOVERNMENT

### CHAPTER 19-J

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

##### Section 19-J:2

**19-J:2 Council Established.** – There is established the New Hampshire council on developmental disabilities which shall promote the inclusion, integration, productivity, independence, and self-determination of people with developmental disabilities in New Hampshire, and carry out the requirements of Subtitle B of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (hereinafter known as the "DD Act"), 42 U.S.C. sections 15021 through 15029, and subsequent amendments thereto. The council may receive, administer, and expend any funds that may be available under this federal act, or from any other sources public or private, to serve as the designated state agency pursuant to the DD Act and to enter into contracts for the purposes of its program.

**Source.** 2006, 179:1, eff. July 1, 2006.

# TITLE I

## THE STATE AND ITS GOVERNMENT

### CHAPTER 19-J

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

##### Section 19-J:6

**19-J:6 Duties and Powers.** – The council shall have the following duties and powers:

I. To develop a state plan for the inclusion, integration, productivity, independence, and self-determination of people with developmental disabilities in New Hampshire and implement programs, projects, and activities to implement that plan.

II. To support and conduct outreach activities to identify individuals with developmental disabilities and their families who otherwise might not come to the attention of the council or existing service systems.

III. To support and conduct training for persons with developmental disabilities, their families, and service providers to enable such persons to obtain access to, or to provide, community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance, including special adaptation of generic community services or specialized services, to people with developmental disabilities.

IV. To support and conduct technical assistance activities to assist public and private entities to contribute to the achievement of the purpose of the DD Act.

V. To support and conduct activities to assist neighborhoods and communities to respond positively to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by encouraging local networks to provide informal and formal supports; through education; and by enabling neighborhoods and communities to offer such individuals and their families access to and use of services, resources, and opportunities.

VI. To support and conduct activities to promote interagency collaboration and coordination to better serve, support, assist, or advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

VII. To support and conduct activities to enhance coordination of services with other entities authorized by federal or state law, concerning individuals with disabilities, and other groups interested in activities to benefit individuals with disabilities.

VIII. To support and conduct activities to eliminate barriers to access and use of community services by individuals with developmental disabilities, enhance systems design and redesign, and enhance citizen participation to address issues identified in the state plan.

IX. To support and conduct activities to educate the public about the capabilities, preferences, and needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families and to develop and support coalitions that support the policy agenda of the council, including training in self-advocacy, education of policymakers, and citizen leadership skills.

X. To support and conduct activities to provide information to federal, state, and local policymakers by supporting and conducting studies and analyses, gathering information, and developing and disseminating model policies and procedures, information, approaches, strategies, findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

XI. To support and conduct demonstrations of new approaches to services and supports.

XII. To support and conduct other advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities to promote the development of a coordinated, consumer and family-centered, and directed comprehensive system of community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that contribute to the achievement of the purpose of the DD Act.

XIII. To adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, to carry out the council's duties under the DD Act and this chapter.

XIV. To conduct activities necessary to carry out the responsibilities of a Council on Developmental Disabilities as specified in the DD Act or as directed by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, United States Department of Health and Human Services.

**Source.** 2006, 179:1, eff. July 1, 2006.