



Issue 9 July 2, 2020

What's Next? A Letter From Sandy

Dear Gateways,

So what happened?

Once in 100 years! In 2020 our lives changed dramatically. The Gateways team and our partners are doing our best - so many lessons learned and more to come. Fortunately, New Hampshire today has not had the impact we have seen in other states. To date in the DD community, 37 individuals are infected and there have been three deaths; however, let's remember New Hampshire has over 5,558 infected individuals and 339 unfortunate deaths.

What now?

The governor has announced a new phase, "Safer at Home." Gradually, New Hampshire is re-opening. Gateways has created a reopening task force and is working hard to learn from others so that we take all the necessary steps to open safely. Gateways is serving children at Canal Street and reconsidering our footprint for staff moving forth. The team at Gateways is working with the state public health and CSNI for reopening recommendations for day programs, service coordination visitations, and a process for family members to visit their loved ones in long-term care facilities. New Hampshire is taking a very measured approach and so is Gateways.

What's Next?

As a safety net organization, all of us at Gateways have been reminded how essential our work is, if anyone ever questioned it. Through this pandemic, we clearly see how critical a role our team has in supporting the clients and families we serve 365 days a year. What will Gateways look like in the future? We may all agree that there is a role for telehealth and

some remote work, and we recognize even more strongly that families need additional and more flexible home support, especially when they continue to have their son and daughters remain in their home. And what we really confirmed and need to not forget is the role of the direct support workforce. The value of DSPs was truly recognized as critical workforce for the individuals we support. It continues to be so evident through this crisis as they put themselves on the frontline daily. Last week, our Governor extended the additional Long Term Care stipend for frontline direct support workers and announced that it would continue to the end of July. New Hampshire leadership recognizes the risk these staff people take every day. We all hope that moving forward, when all is said and done, their essential work continues to be recognized. Nationally, agencies like ours have launched a "Forgotten Faces" campaign, and Gateways along with many others will work hard to advocate for these critical workers in our system.

I know that many staff wonder, when will we fully re-open? What will my job look like in the future? I, like all of you, wonder the same. The impact of this pandemic is still evolving... and I know that we, together with the people we support, will help determine

What's Next.

Be Safe and Well,

~ Sandy

Click here for [NH Safer At Home](#) page.

