

C3PH Public Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 12th, 2024
Time: 9-10:30am
Meeting Leader(s): Caleb Gilbert, Director of Public Health, Carroll County Coalition for Public Health
Zoom Meeting

1. Welcome and quick introductions
 - Caleb Gilbert, C3PH; Jen Thomas, C3PH; Catalina Kirsch, C3PH; Emily McArdle, C3PH; Karen Umberger, Conway Resident ; Cathy Livingston, Ch Uld; Lindsay Richardson, C3PH; Will Owen, Memorial Hospital; Renee Wheaton, Town of Freedom and Gibson Ctr; Trish Reynolds, EM Memorial Hospital ; William Riley, Huggins Hospital; Valeda Cerasale, Northern Human Services; Soyla Hernandez, C3PH; Kim Ip, New Futures; Cheryl Frankowski, WMCHC; Karen Abbott, Child Care Aware; Melissa Bartlett, Memorial Hospital; Marianne Jackson, MWV Age Friendly Community; Joy Gagnon, UNHCE; (17 participants)
2. C3PH Regional Coordinating Council for Public Health Emergency Preparedness
 - Introduction of Lindsay Richardson PHEP Coordinator for C3PH, lindsay.richardson@graniteuw.org
 - RCC for PHEP: Regional Coordinating Council for Emergency Preparedness.
 - Overview of PHEP program and roles of coordinators

Coordinate and convene, at minimum, quarterly regional PHEP planning committee and/or workgroup to:

- Improve regional emergency response plans.
 - Improve the capacity for partner entities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from public health emergencies.
 - Ensure and document committee and/or workgroup review and concurrence with revision to the Regional Public Health Emergency Annex (RPHEA), annually. Documentation of plans and roles and decision makers.
 - Quarterly meetings of PHEP workgroup
 - RCC members provide input to plan training exercises
 - Actively recruiting new membership to re-launch a Carroll County PHEP RCC. Lindsay will draft a recruitment letter for us to share with our contacts.
3. Brief Report Outs by CHIP Priority for year-end SFY24:
 - Public Health Emergency Preparedness Across the Lifespan
 - See updates above. Recruiting participation for RCC
 - Participated in School Based Flu Clinics
 - Jurisdictional Risk Assessment completed. Co-facilitated between the State of NH and CHI. Thanks to all who filled out surveys. Collected input on potential threats/disasters for emergency preparedness and response planning. Carroll County data will be used to inform C3PH RCC planning. State has identified a state priority as Family Preparedness. That will be a

priority focus in Carroll County as well. Lindsay will develop local awareness and training activities for family preparedness (being prepared for winter storms, flooding, other natural disasters and other potential hazards).

- Renee Wheaton – working on Senior Preparedness education and awareness activities to help seniors to be prepared for winter storms, power outages, etc. Working with three communities and seeking more communities to get involved. Working with remote communities who experienced significant isolation and emergencies for senior citizens in recent storms.
- Will Owen, Trish Reynolds, Memorial Hospital.
 1. Trish has been hired FT for Emergency Mgmt,
 2. 2024 power outage at Memorial Hospital led to lessons learned for preparedness. Renewed interest among hospital leadership and partnership with North Conway Fire Department to work on preparedness plans.
 3. Can leverage resources from within MaineHealth towards the effort
- Access to Comprehensive Physical Health Services
 - Will Owen. Brad Chapman is new hospital president and getting oriented to the community. MaineHealth logo and brand change launch in August. No change in providers. Access to care is increasing. Access to Primary Care. Waiting list is down 75%. Huge focus. Expanding hours and hiring providers. Behavioral Health – Jen Smith has launched an Addiction Medicine program at Memorial Hospital Behavioral Health as of June 1. Working with Dr Smith to be able to refer patients from Emergency Dept and start initiating SUD prescription medications from ED. Care Traffic Control – statewide initiative is in development to track open beds for mental health. State is declining some IEAs, likely to protect individual rights. Highlights need for care coordination within regions
 - Will Riley – Huggins Hospital – similar experience re: IEA (involuntary emergency admission)
 - Caleb Gilbert, Soyla Hernandez – there is a group of care coordinators meeting to network and collaborate. Soyla has been helping connect clients to benefits applications and establishing medical care home. Soyla.hernandez@graniteuw.org
 - Cheryl Frankowski – WMCHC – Erin Jones is now a CRSW recovery coach, within WMCHC. Starting Smart Recovery Group. Still taking new patients. Clinical Director role now shared between Krystal Brown, Medical Assistant, kbrown@whitemountainhealth.org ; Still looking for new staff for Nursing aspect of that clinical director role. WMCHC is struggling with space to provide services. Shared an idea that partnership with VA Community Based Clinic could be an interesting way to combine efforts.
 - Jennifer Thomas, CC Veterans Coalition is collecting data about access to health services for military and veterans.
- Access to Comprehensive Behavioral Health Services
 - Valeda Cerasale – Northern Human Services – focus is on staff retention. 2 FT Clinicians in Conway plus 3-4 PT. Only taking emergency clients and hospital discharge. Wolfeboro, no wait list. ED boarding is still an issue locally and statewide. Wait time for NH Hospital is lengthy. Positions open at Northern HS w \$2k sign on bonus. Efforts to recruit and retain continue. Mobile Crisis Team is ongoing, 5-11pm, M-F. NH Rapid Response Access Point handles triage and dispatches Mobile Crisis Team when indicated or provides referral to community mental health services at Northern HS. Law Enforcement is still choosing at times to default to Emergency

Department handoff rather than hold for Mobile Crisis Team, which takes time to respond. Can be 45 min for example.

- Catalina Kirsch – Trained to deliver Responding to Addiction workshop by Addiction Policy Forum; Trained to deliver CALM training (Counseling for Access to Lethal Means). Seeking to deliver both trainings in 2024. Naloxbox Installations are planned across Carroll County. For more info see www.naloxbox.org Overdose Prevention kits in nylon zippered bags are out of stock but naloxone is still available through C3PH for individuals and service providers. An update to sober living services available: Thistle Down has new ownership and will continue to offer sober living. Contact person is Stacie Leclerc at Blue Heron Counseling. Please reach out if interested. Catalina.kirsch@graniteuw.org.
- Jennifer Thomas – Substance Misuse Prevention – Alternative Peer Groups for youth intersecting with Substance Use Disorder, starting groups in Wolfeboro at Kingswood Youth Center and Center Conway by MWV Supports Recovery at Terra Equine Therapy, see flyers attached. Carroll County Veterans Coalition planning more trainings in the fall. NH Suicide Prevention Council Conference in November. Jennifer will be presenting at the conference.
- Emily McArdle – Youth Outreach at C3PH and Under 25 Network of Carroll County on FB and Instagram. Resources for Graduates at Carroll County Adult Education. Kingswood High School Mental Health Month info table. Share these sites with teens and young adults in your life: <https://www.facebook.com/U25CarrollCountyNH> and <https://www.instagram.com/u25carrollcountynh>
- Youth Advocacy events coming up - Learn how to make change in NH at a FREE Advocacy 101 training! Your voice can help shape policies that directly impact our lives, including Housing, Workforce, Healthcare, and Environment policies. Learn how to engage in state-level advocacy efforts and hear from a local change-maker in your community about how they did it! This free training will be held at two locations in Carroll County:
North Conway Community Center on Monday, June 24, 5:30pm-7:30 pm. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/2tnf9sen>
Makers Mill in Wolfeboro on Tuesday, June 25, 5:30pm-7:30 pm. Register here <https://tinyurl.com/bdhkt5fe>
Register now and be sure to share with anyone you know who may be interested!
- Kim Ip – New Futures. see <https://new-futures.org/post/This-Week-at-the-State-House-Week-of-6-10-24>
 1. <https://new-futures.org/issues/health>
 2. <https://new-futures.org/childrens-behavioral-health> ; <https://new-futures.org/issues/supporting-lgbtq-youth>
 3. <https://new-futures.org/issues/public-health>
 4. <https://new-futures.org/issues/substance-use>
 5. <https://new-futures.org/alcohol-oher-drugs>
 6. NH Legislative session is in the stage where some bills are on their way to a committee of conference or on their way to Governor’s desk including SB 403 re to Community Health Workers, SB 508 re services to the incarcerated for diagnosis and referral for SUD; SB 399 re to insurance companies to cover costs of lead testing for young children. Cannabis bills related to profits going to prevention, about ; Bill to develop recovery

houses as residential zoning, failed HB1521. Bill to SB495 re oversight of SUD system of care. Failed. Ratios and supervision and quality of care.

- **Healthy Aging**
 - Preparedness for seniors. See notes above.
 - MWV Age Friendly Community – promoting use of telehealth to access services – Marianne: check the website regularly. Updates on scam prevention. Blogs on Nutrition. New app going live for iPhone of walkable trails. Training demo on July 9 to get out to use the trails. Many health related initiatives. Renee Wheaton helping clients navigate services, understand property taxes Transportation, Scott Boisvert is Mobility Manager and working to support more efficient medical transportation, perhaps a coordinated approach. MWV Age Friendly soon will send out information about Emergency Preparedness learning events which are being planned starting late June. First event at Constitution Park, Ossipee. Stay tuned. Renee Wheaton – property tax pressures on seniors. In July, Renee will be pulling together info on how to stretch your dollar, access SNAP, food security, Carroll County Food Access Network.
- **Healthy and Thriving Early Childhood Experiences**
 - Child Care Aware – Karen Abbott – program of So NH Services. Child Care Resource and Referral – promoting child care scholarships, eligibility has been expanded. Trainings for child care providers. Also provide technical assistance. Interested in emergency preparedness for providers. Working to promote workforce development for early childhood educators/child care workers. Website:
 - Cathy Livingston, Children Unlimited. Promoting staff wellness activities, walking and more. State Diaper Pilot Program, working with Strafford County CAP. Families can sign up for a monthly supply of diapers. Program in development. Diaper Depot will continue. Children Unlimited will have a new position, Newborn Navigator, Ariel Callanan is the contact person. Resources and referrals for families of newborns, starting July.
 - Caleb Gilbert, C3PH: continuing to serve on the Leadership Team for the Region 7 Early Childhood Partnership (Carroll, Coos, and Upper Grafton Counties). Working to develop an Early Childcare Directors Network in southern Carroll County. Currently conducting outreach and meeting 1 to 1 with EC directors. Will be doing in-person visits along with Joy Gagnon from UNH CE in the summer.
 - Advocacy, New Futures: <https://new-futures.org/issues/early-childhood>

4. Other Updates from Participants

- Training coming up. Active Shooter full scale exercise and drill June 20 at Kennett High School. You will see first responder vehicles in operation.

Adjourn

ADVOCACY 101

FREE TRAINING- NORTH CONWAY, NH

LEARN HOW TO MAKE CHANGE IN NH!

Your voice can help shape policies that directly impact our lives: Housing, Workforce, Healthcare, Environment. This training teaches young adults (under age ~40) how to engage in state-level legislative advocacy efforts. Plus, hear from a local change-maker in your community about how they did it!

THIS FREE TRAINING PROVIDES:

- An overview of the NH state legislature and how a bill becomes a law
- Ways to get involved by participating in public hearings, reaching out to legislators, letter writing, using media, and other advocacy strategies

Refreshments served!



Monday, June 24



5:30-7:30pm



**North Conway
Community Center
78 Norcross Circle
North Conway, NH 03860**



Register Now: <https://tinyurl.com/2tnf9sen>



ADVOCACY 101

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Refreshments served!



Tuesday, June 25



5:30-7:30pm



**Makers Mill
23 Bay St.
Wolfeboro, NH 03894**



Register Now: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhkt5fe>



CONGRATULATIONS GRADS!



Congrats on your incredible achievement!
As you begin the next chapter of your life, the Under 25 Network of Carroll County is here to support you. Scan the QR code below to access a variety of resources designed to help you thrive.

You are not alone!

RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- Adulting Tips
- Health & Mental Healthcare Resources
- Finances
- Healthy Relationships
- Safety
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- And more!

SCAN HERE TO
GET STARTED!



Or go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/z23cdf7j>



WHITE MOUNTAINS PRIDE FESTIVAL

**JUNE 29
10-4PM**

**NORTH CONWAY
COMMUNITY
CENTER PARK**

FREE ADMISSION

**LIVE MUSIC • FOOD TRUCKS
VENDORS • BEER TENT**

**FAMILY FRIENDLY WITH GAMES
AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES**

**REVEREND YOLANDA • LADY VANESSA
JESSYE DESILVA • THE BAD JUDIES
TOMMIE AURA • CHRYSALIS
FOOD FOR BEARS • KENZIE JACOBSEN**



FRIENDS, FUN & FREE MEALS!

2024 CARROLL COUNTY SUMMER MEAL SITES

Sponsored by the NH Food Bank, USDA's Summer Nutrition Programs for Kids (SUN) is a federally-funded, state-administered program which provides kids & teens with access to tasty, nutritious meals during the summer months.



Meals will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis at the sites and times below.

PLEASE NOTE: Dates and times are subject to change.

LOCATION	MEAL SERVICE TIME(S)	ADDRESS	DATES	DAYS OF MEAL SERVICE
Ossipee, NH				
Ossipee Central School	BREAKFAST 7:30am - 8:00am	68 Main Street Center Ossipee, NH	7/9 - 8/8	Tuesday - Thursday
	LUNCH 11:30am - 12:00pm			

Please note: Meals must be consumed on-site during designated meal service time.

FOR KIDS AND TEENS UNDER 18.
NO REGISTRATION OR APPLICATION REQUIRED.

NHFOODBANK.ORG/SUMMERMEALS





nami Peer-to-Peer
National Alliance on Mental Illness

FRIDAYS 2PM - 4PM STARTING JUNE 7, 2024 - VIRTUAL

NAMI Peer-to-Peer is an 8-session recovery-focused course for adults with mental health conditions.

- Free and Confidential.
 - Held Weekly for 2 hours.
 - Led by peers with mental health conditions.
 - A great resource for information on mental health and recovery.
- Offers respect, understanding, encouragement and hope.
 - Builds on the strength and resilience of participants.

Contact: Karen Privé kprive@NAMINH.org

Interested? Register at
tinyurl.com/NAMINH-2024P2P

About NAMI

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI New Hampshire and dedicated volunteer members and leaders work tirelessly to raise awareness and provide essential education, advocacy and support group programs for people in our community living with mental illness and their loved ones.

Participant Perspectives

"NAMI Peer-to-Peer is uplifting, life-saving and an eye-opening experience that changed how I see myself."

"The biggest thing I gained from this class was to become my own advocate and best friend."

"Seeing my peers' strength and dedication to their recovery was personally meaningful."



SurvivorVoices: Sharing the Story of Suicide Loss

Speaker Training for Adults 18-24 yrs who have lost someone to suicide:

**Thurs July 11, Mon July 15, & Tues July 16
5:30 – 8:30PM**

VIRTUAL LIVE TRAINING

Participants must attend all three sessions.

Registration and pre-training interview are required. For more information, please contact Amy Oliva at aoliva@naminh.org by July 1, 2024

There is NO CHARGE for this program. Space is limited.

This program by NAMI New Hampshire is offered to train those who have lost someone to suicide in sharing their story of suicide loss safely. Through the sharing of their personal stories of suicide loss, SurvivorVoices speakers promote healing and understanding, which in turn supports and encourages suicide prevention efforts. The speakers talk about the life and the death of their loved one, how they coped and continue to cope with the loss, and what has helped or not helped.

The goals of this program are to raise awareness of the risk factors and warning signs for suicide; increase help-seeking behavior; reduce the stigma, shame, and isolation that loss survivors feel; and teach individuals and communities how to better help loss survivors and how best to respond to suicide death in a sensitive and informed manner.

Please note: For the training participant's well-being, it is recommended that it be two years or more since the loss by suicide occurred.

Resources for Survivors of Suicide Loss are available at: <https://naminh.org/sosl/>

There is NO CHARGE for this program and space is limited to adults 18 – 24 years of age.

This training is made possible through the Garrett Lee Smith Grant.



WAY STATION EVENTS- ways to help!

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

**Housing
Operations
Poverty Mitigation
Economic Stabilization**



Event	Date	Location	Outreach
Valley Food Fight Valley Promotions	Tuesday June 4 4pm	Josiah Bartlett School Bartlett NH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Chef Sue Carrigan - Attend
NH Gives	June 11-12 5pm-5pm	Spring Appeal! Annual 24 Hours of Online Giving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank You for Supporting Way Station!
Annual Appreciation Reception	Wednesday June 19 5-7pm	Way Station 15 Grove St North Conway NH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tour Learn History Current Impact Future Impact
Harvey	Friday Jun 21 7:30pm	M&D Playhouse 2760 White Mtn Hwy North Conway NH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share the Stage \$5/tix goes to Way Station
Paddle For A Cause	Wednesday July 10	Saco River Tubing 558 Wh Mt. Hwy Conway NH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donate \$5/kayak \$10/canoe or \$1 river tube
White Mountains Pride Festival	Saturday June 29 10-4	Add a few details describing your project's goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day of Outreach & Awareness Raffle Donations
Hawktail in Concert Presented by Thrivent	Thursday August 15 7-9	Leura Hill Eastman Performing Arts Ctr Fryeburg ME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendraiser Free! Suggested Donation \$50pp

Donations	Government Funding	Private Grants
\$97,267	\$159,401	\$54,008

The Impact Way Station makes is that we HOPE to save a life

Friends — You never know what's happening to the person you meet on the other side of the cash register, standing next to you in line, or walking down the street. Homelessness is mostly invisible. Yet these are your neighbors, too.

Contact Way Station

CALL (603) 452-7113 for support. You can leave a message seven days a week; we will reply by phone during operating hours and help make a plan.

Offering on-site services on Mondays 10am-2pm (only by appointment) and drop-in or by appointment via curbside on Thursdays 10am-6pm, with "go bags" including client's mail, toiletries, laundry cards & detergent, phone cards, emergency food, camping supplies (if available and needed) and more. We also meet with clients weekly, conduct wellness calls, develop relationships with people who seek our help, and support client goals with advocacy and referrals to additional resources. *Note that we aren't a shelter. We cannot offer housing.*

Scope of Services

- Phones and phone cards with calling and internet access
- Mail box address
- Shower facilities / toiletries
- Laundry and supplies (by appointment on as-needed basis)
- Supplies: toiletries, sleeping bags, tents, blankets, towels, etc.
- Referrals to other Mt Washington Valley services

Mission Statement: *Provide safe, welcoming, non-judgmental space and supportive services for homeless & housing insecure residents of Mt Washington Valley.*

Way Station is a 501(c)(3) charity incorporated in the State of New Hampshire. EIN: 85-1330063. This serves as your receipt for tax purposes, and your donation is deductible to the full extent of the law. No goods or services were provided to you in connection with this donation.

HOPING TO HELP

development@waystationnh.org

603-728-9837

Stay in touch: 603-452-7113 15 Grove St, PO Box 1888 North Conway, NH 03860

<https://new-futures.org/post/This-Week-at-the-State-House-Week-of-6-10-24>



This Week at the State House (Week of 6/10/24)

June 10, 2024

The end of the legislative session is near and a few of New Futures' priority bills are continuing on their path through the State Legislature, with critical final votes this week that will determine whether they advance to the Governor's desk. All of our other priority bills are either awaiting action from the Governor or have been defeated this session.

New Futures and our partner organizations invite you to join us for our [2024 Advocate Appreciation Celebration](#) to thank you for your hard work in advocating for policy change in New Hampshire this session. This FREE event takes place this Thursday, June 13 from 4 to 7 pm at White Park in Concord. Enjoy food trucks, entertainment, raffles, and games - [RSVP now!](#)

Learn more about where bills are heading below:

Updates on Committee of Conference Meetings

Last week, Committees of Conference met on several of our priority bills. The following three bills survived Committees of Conference and will return to the House and Senate chambers for a final vote this Thursday, June 13. If approved, the bill goes to the Governor; if rejected, the bill dies.

Cannabis Commercialization: HB 1633, as amended by the Senate, meets many of [New Futures' Principles for Responsible Cannabis Policy](#), including an increase to 20% of cannabis revenue designated for substance misuse prevention, treatment, and recovery funding; strong protections for kids; and sound public health policy. The Committee of Conference made a change to decriminalize cannabis possession up to one ounce until legalization takes effect in 2026.

Ending Hunger for Older Adults and Children: [SB 499](#) would help feed NH's older adults, people living with disabilities, and children. The Committee of Conference agreed on a final version of the bill that includes participation in the Elderly Simplified Application Project, which helps older adults access nutrition assistance benefits, and funding for New Hampshire's participation in Summer EBT, a federal program that feeds hungry kids during the summer. [Email your State Legislators using NH Hunger Solutions' easy action form](#) to urge them to support the Committee of Conference report for SB 499.

Resources for Child Care Centers: The Senate added an amendment to HB 1202 that includes language from SB 596 that better supports child care centers in meeting the needs of all children. This amendment would still provide additional funding to child care centers caring for children with extra behavioral or developmental needs through the New Hampshire Child Care Scholarship program. The Committee of Conference agreed to keep this amendment in their final version of HB 1202. [Email your state legislators](#) to urge them to support the committee's report to HB 1202. If you're interested in calling your legislators, a [sample script and contact information](#) is also provided.

The following two issues **were defeated in Committees of Conference**. We will continue to work with partners around the state and will look to bring these pieces of legislation back next year:

Supporting Development of Recovery Housing: HB 1521, as originally introduced, would have expanded access to recovery housing in New Hampshire by helping cities and towns develop recovery housing resources. Unfortunately, the Senate passed an amended version of the bill that would make it more difficult to develop recovery houses in some communities, and the Conference Committee could not come to an agreement on this bill.

Oversight of Substance Use Treatment System: The Senate amended HB 1079 to incorporate language from SB 495, which would improve New Hampshire's substance use treatment system by strengthening patient protections and ensuring high-quality services. Unfortunately, the substance use treatment language did not make it into the Conference Committee's final version of the bill.

Headed to the Governor

The following bills have passed both the N.H. Senate and the House of Representatives, and are on their way to the Governor's desk. Once received, the Governor can sign the bill into law, veto the bill, or leave it on his desk unsigned, which means it then becomes law.

Child Care for Child Care Workers: SB 404 would provide child care workers with access to the New Hampshire Child Care Scholarship program as a proactive approach to addressing the child care workforce crisis.

Growing the Health Care Workforce: SB 403 aims to increase access to care by creating voluntary certification for Community Health Workers (CHWs). Voluntary certification would provide a clear career path and greater financial stability for these frontline health workers.

RSV Immunization: SB 559 would ensure access to the RSV immunization for New Hampshire children. This bill doesn't make the immunization mandatory; it simply removes financial barriers for families who choose to get it.

Treatment Services in NH's Criminal Justice System: SB 508 would increase access to substance use and mental health screening and treatment for individuals in New Hampshire's criminal justice system. This would help them receive the treatment services they need, reduce criminal recidivism, and help New Hampshire overcome the ongoing addiction and mental health crises.

Insurance Coverage Mandate for Youth Mental Health Services: SB 411 would create a committee to study emergency mental health services for youth in New Hampshire. These services include wraparound services, behavioral or mental health crisis assessments, crisis intervention services, crisis stabilization services, intensive in-home services, residential treatment services, intensive structured outpatient programs, parent and youth peer support services, and partial hospitalization programs. These services are critical to ensuring that the needs of New Hampshire's most vulnerable children are met.

Preventing Childhood Lead Exposure: SB 399 would help families access lead testing by removing financial barriers. This would help protect Granite State children, who are at the highest risk for lead poisoning, from the harmful impacts of lead exposure.

Banning Hemp-Derived THC Products: SB 505 would permanently ban hemp-derived THC products known as delta-8, delta-9, and delta-10. These dangerous and unregulated products were sold in NH due to a legal loophole, until a 2023 law banned them for one year.

Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation: FOUR anti-LGBTQ+ bills are heading to Governor Sununu's desk. It's critical we **ask Governor Sununu to veto anti-LGBTQ+ bills and keep New Hampshire inclusive and welcoming for everyone.**

Learn more about the bills:

- **Discrimination in Public Spaces:** HB 396 would allow for discrimination against transgender people by banning them from using restrooms or locker rooms and participating in sports that align with their preferred gender identity. Bans such as these prohibit transgender youth from participating in typical daily activities and make them feel unwelcome in their communities, which leads to poorer mental health outcomes.
- **Sports Ban for Transgender Girls:** HB 1205 would ban transgender girls from playing on school sports teams that align with their gender identity at public middle and high schools. It is unclear how this bill would be enforced, which could lead to intrusive and damaging inquisitions on any student-athlete.
- **Censorship in Schools:** HB 1312 attempts to silence discussions of gender and sexuality in the classroom by implementing a two-week advance notice of any curriculum including those topics. When LGBTQ+ youth feel support, acceptance, and open representation within their homes, schools and communities, they have much better mental health, educational and social outcomes.
- **Restricting Access to Medical Care for Transgender Teens:** HB 619, as amended, would ban gender-affirming surgery for transgender youth and prohibit doctors from referring care for transgender youth to out-of-state doctors. Transgender youth, like all youth, have the best chance to thrive when they are supported and can get the doctor-prescribed medical care they need when they need it. Gender-affirming care is evidence-based and supported by medical authorities like the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association.

To check in on the status of all our priority bills, visit our [Current Legislation](#) page and select an issue you care about!