



# New Hampshire's Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Public Policy Report

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## Six Goals

### The Commission's Journey

June 2007 Legislature passed; Governor John Lynch, signed into law HB 396 establishing NH Commission on ASD.

March 2008 Report reviewed and available for public comment.

July 2008 Public Policy Report was released.

August 2008 Governor John Lynch signed HB 1634 into law, establishing the NH Council on ASD.

- ### NH Council on ASD Work Groups
- Screening & Diagnosis
  - Education
  - Human Services
  - Public Awareness & Safety
  - Data Collection
  - Employment & Independent Living
  - Insurance

### Infrastructure

- ❖ Provide leadership to ensure **all** services are provided in the most timely, collaborative, and effective manner possible.
- ❖ Develop and support a service infrastructure, which is multi-disciplinary, person centered, and easily accessed.



### Early Identification and Treatment

- ❖ Children will be screened for ASD **before** age 2.
- ❖ Children suspected of having ASD will:
  - Be referred immediately for early supports and services, and
  - Undergo a diagnostic evaluation within 45 days.
- ❖ Children with a diagnosis of ASD will have begun a robust program of evidence based intervention and treatment within 45 days of diagnosis.

### Successful Transition to Adulthood

- ❖ Students and young adults will be given opportunities and support to make a successful transition to adulthood and to be engaged and contributing members of their community.



### Safety

- ❖ Providers of emergency services will be aware of sensory, behavioral, and social differences of individuals w/ASD and how to appropriately accommodate their needs.

### Professional Development

- ❖ Expand evidence-based, high quality pre-service and in-service professional development, technology assistance, and mentoring opportunities.
- ❖ Ensure a workforce that is capable and confident in its ability to support individuals to be fully included in their communities.



### Funding

- ❖ Funds from many sources (public, private, federal and state) will be brought together to ensure an infrastructure, workforce, and knowledge-base necessary to meet public health challenges of ASD.
- ❖ Ensure individuals served by the system receive medically necessary treatment(s) & ongoing support needed to live a productive life of their choosing.