



Connecting Individuals with Disabilities to Their Community

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Schreiber Spearheads NH Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Competency System

(Concord, New Hampshire) – Community Bridges’ Elynn Schreiber recently helped complete the NH Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Competency System (ECFMHC). Ms. Schreiber was the driving force behind the ECFMHC, both developing and leading the project. The system will act as a guide to ensure that personnel have the necessary skills to provide services to young children and their families. Ms. Schreiber is the vice-president and former president of The New Hampshire Association for Infant Mental Health (NH-AIMH), which was the lead agency for the project.

The ECFMHC outlines professional competencies for service providers who work with families and children such as child care providers, educators, therapists, pediatricians, home visitors, early interventionists, and child welfare workers. The system defines 6 areas of core competency and presents skills in a hierarchy of 4 levels: foundational, intermediate, advanced, and specialist. The system can be used as a guide in self evaluation, professional development, program evaluation, hiring, and as a tool for supervision and mentoring.

“The ECFMHC system will be of great benefit to all working with young children and their families,” says Schreiber. “The goal of the project was to create a guide for clarity and uniformity in standards relevant for all people in the field. The system will help to ensure that people who work with young children and their families in any capacity have the skills needed to perform their job to the highest standards.”

More information on the ECFMHC system can be found at www.nhaimh.org

About The New Hampshire Association for Infant Mental Health

The NH-AIMH was created in 1996 by a small group of mental health and educational professionals. Motivated by their belief in the importance of the mental and emotional well-being of young children and their awareness that this essential aspect of healthy development was not well-recognized by most parents, pediatricians, early childhood and mental health professionals, they established their mission; to identify and distribute information and advocate for public policies to promote positive child development.

About Community Bridges

Community Bridges connects individuals with disabilities and their families with resources that help them achieve positive growth and change. By managing a support network of community resources, Community Bridges matches individuals with disabilities to opportunities that help them realize their greatest potential through an individualized plan.

Serving individuals with disabilities of all ages and financial backgrounds, Community Bridges is a not-for-profit organization that solidifies funding and fosters relationships with a trusted network of organizations throughout the community to ensure the best opportunities for individuals in the areas of Early Childhood Support, Residential and Day Services, Career Development, Homecare Services,

Self-Directed Services, and Individual and Family Support. For more information call 603-225-4153 or visit www.communitybridgesnh.org.

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