



NH Governor's Commission on Disability

NEWS BULLETIN 11.8.18

GCD AND GCD's CAP PROGRAM: WORKING TOGETHER FOR ACCESS FOR ALL

Concord, NH—During 2018, the Governor's Commission on Disability continued and fostered its overall vision of prioritizing teamwork and partnership. Most recently, that mindset has propelled Chuck Saia, Executive Director of the GCD and Lorrie Ripley, Ombudsman of the GCD's Client Assistance Program (CAP), to work even more in unison on programs and initiatives that benefit those with disabilities.



Lorrie Ripley and Chuck Saia
in Berlin, NH at the Transition Fair

Recently, at the Transition Fair in Berlin, NH, the GCD exhibited materials that focused on the STABLE NH program, New Hampshire's ABLER savings and investment plan. It served as a synergistic opportunity to answer the question 'What next?' and provide resources to families seeking information or planning for their transitional youth's future.

"As part of the GCD's mission, CAP invests in working with individuals with disabilities on their journey to find employment," said Ripley. "Often times, we are able to start the process by helping them formulate what questions to ask to determine what they may be interested in."

As co-administrator of the STABLE NH program, Chuck Saia, finds that a conversation about STABLE NH often begins with explaining that it allows individuals with disabilities to save money without risk of losing other Federal benefits, such as SSI and Medicaid.

"When Lorrie is able to assist with the employment issues, then the possibility and benefit of a savings program like STABLE NH can be viewed as a real game changer," said Saia. "We have testimonials from enrollees who were able to use STABLE NH funds to purchase a vehicle for transportation to work, or even pay for qualified educational expenses."

In today's economic climate, the rate of employment seems to be rising, but it's still fair to point to a disproportionately high unemployment rate for those with disabilities. "This is where the GCD through its Client Assistance program works to nicely empower all in the workforce," said Saia. "Every person in the workforce is unique and valuable."

STABLE NH and CAP are some of the more visible programs which showcase GCD's effectiveness. ADA and recovery in the workforce is another.

#