The purpose of this project is to introduce the mission of the NH4Autism committee and explain the process behind updating a resource guide for practitioners and families receiving a new autism diagnosis that encompasses factual information and family stories.

**Purpose**

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NH4Autism: Collecting Families’ Lived Experiences

**Resource Guide Revision**

- Edit current autism resource in NH called, Crossing Bridges (1998).
- Make a resource compiled of current factual information pertaining to the characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder and different family stories that could provide families receiving the diagnosis with information that they may be able to relate to and move forward.

This resource will be available to families and practitioners.

**Collecting Families’ Stories**

- **Survey**
- **Analyze themes**
- **Compare themes to needs assessments completed in NH in 2014**

**LEND Connection**

NH4Autism, in collaboration with the NH-ME LEND program (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) will gather family stories, via a survey to be sent out via Facebook to generate responses from families in NH who have a child with Autism.

**2019 NH4Autism Survey**

- What are ABA services and how does one access them?
- Moe services are needed in Northern NH
- What school services are available?

Need more information about:

- School services (IEPs)
- ABA services
- Financial resources
- Insurance information (Medicare/Medicaid)

- Services needed to support adult transition

**2014 NH Statewide Autism Needs Assessment**

- Needs for consistency in services across the state, area agencies, and school systems

Need more information about:

- School services (IEPs)
- ABA services
- Financial resources
- Insurance information (Medicare/Medicaid)
- Area Agencies
- *Need for consistent information

- Important to have school transition support
- Services needed to support adult transition

Next Steps

Use themes identified between the survey and needs assessment to ensure more information is provided in the updated NH4Autism resource book

**References**

- 2014 NH Statewide Autism Needs Assessment

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Nonprofit organization comprised of parents and professionals who wish to provide support and education to families of children with autism, professionals who work with them, and individuals who consider themselves part of the autism spectrum.

Needs Assessments Common Theme: families with a loved one who has autism feel isolated and alone.

Desire to provide families with the necessary supports and resources to not feel alone with this diagnosis.