

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Department of Health and Human Services
Division for Children, Youth and Families
Child Development Bureau



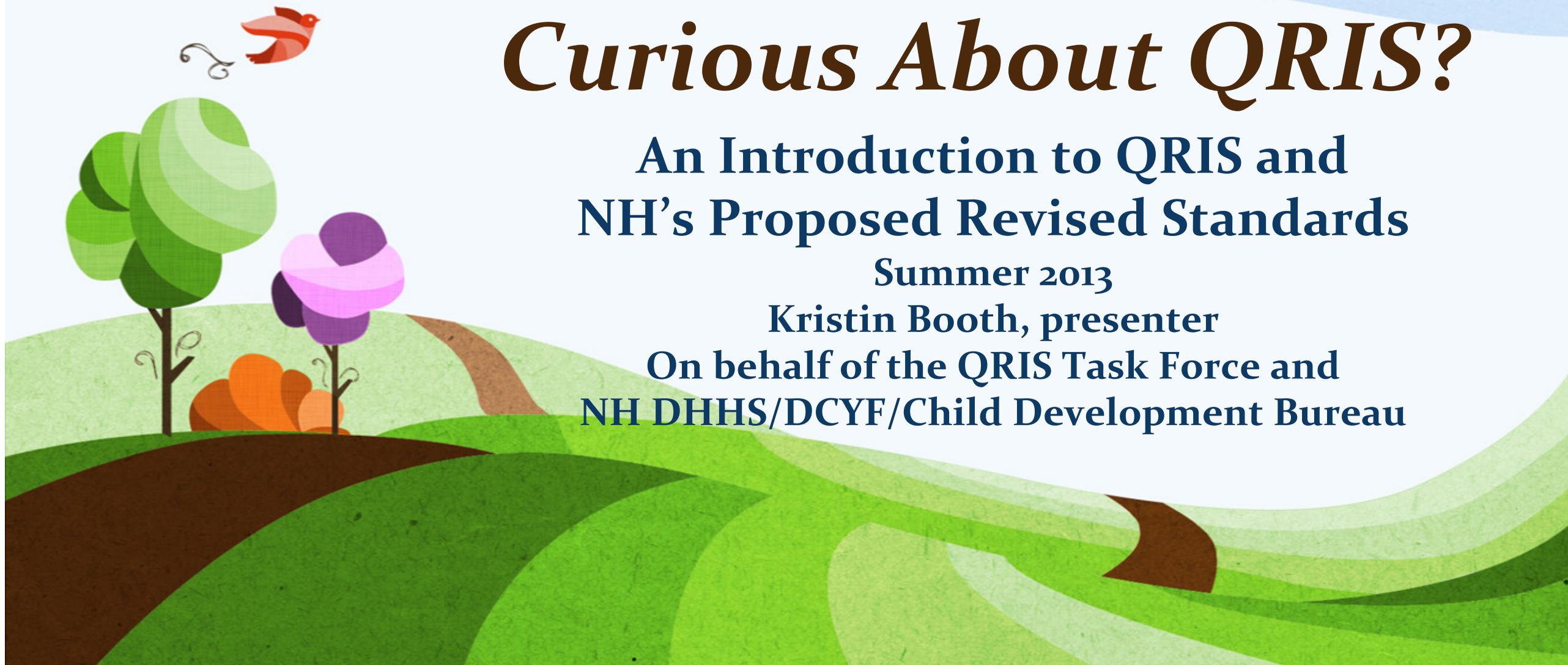
Curious About QRIS?

**An Introduction to QRIS and
NH's Proposed Revised Standards**

Summer 2013

Kristin Booth, presenter

**On behalf of the QRIS Task Force and
NH DHHS/DCYF/Child Development Bureau**



What is QRIS?

- QRIS stands for Quality Rating and *Improvement* System.
- 5 Elements:
 - Standards
 - Evaluation/Rating
 - *Supports*
 - Incentives
 - Marketing



Federal Expectations

- **States have a system of measuring quality and helping program to meet high standards (QRIS)**
- **Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge**
 - Ambitious, yet achievable targets, including those for High-Quality Accountable Programs**
- **Benchmarks for each element: CQI for QRIS**
- **Data & Accountability**
- **Quality Performance Report**

NH's Current Quality Rating System

- Consists of 3 levels:
 - Licensed
 - Licensed-Plus
 - Accredited
- Applies to center-based and family child care
- Applies to early childhood and afterschool



Phase One of NH's Proposed QRIS Standards

- Birth through Kindergarten
- Licensed, center-based early learning and development programs
- Child care, Head Start, public preschool (if licensed)



Bedrock of NH's QRIS

- Goal of QRIS
- Logic Model
- Definition of Quality Early Childhood Programs
- Guiding Principles



Goal of NH's QRIS

“To promote a **culture of continuous quality improvement** among early childhood professionals to ensure that all New Hampshire children have access to high quality care and education.”

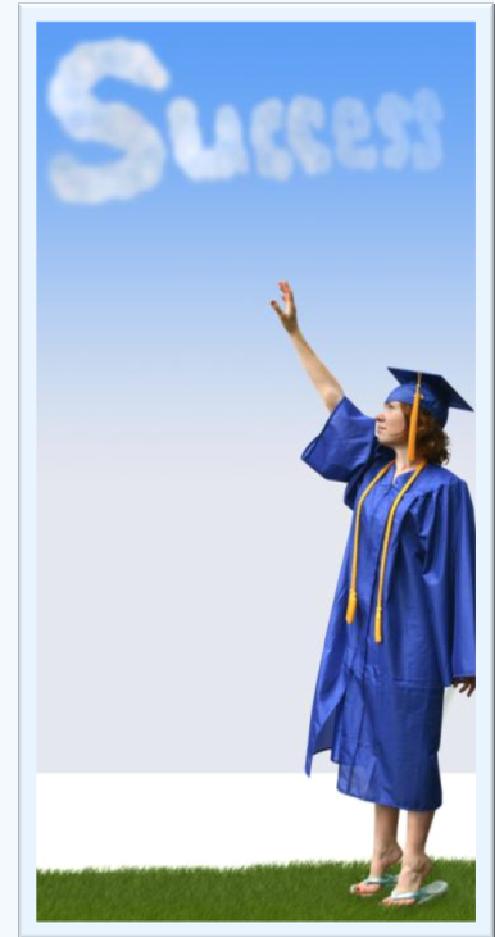
Adopted by the QRIS Task Force, November 2, 2012



Long Term Goals

- Programs engage in continuous quality improvement.
- All families have access to higher-rated programs.
- Children who attend higher-rated programs are better prepared for success in school and to become productive members of society.

Adopted by the QRIS Task Force January 3, 2013



NH's Definition of Quality Early Childhood Programs

“Quality early childhood programs provide experiences that optimize child development and learning, engage families and communities as partners and result in life long learners and productive members of society.”

Adopted by the QRIS Task Force, July 2, 2012

Revised March 1, 2013

Guiding Principles

NH QRIS:

- Supports programs to achieve increasing levels of quality.
- Is designed so that programs are able to sustain quality levels achieved.
- Includes incremental steps that are achievable.
- Keeps children and families at the core.
- Utilizes measurable standards of program quality at defined levels.



Guiding Principles, continued

- Establishes system-wide accountability measures.
- Connects with community supports.
- Supports programs through meaningful consultation and other incentives.
- Promotes access for all families to utilize high quality child care.



Guiding Principles, continued

- Identifies levels of quality in a method easily recognized by families, the community and the EC field.
- Incorporates standards which are empirically based.
- Maintains a system that is accessible (simplicity, regional concerns).
- Utilizes valid monitoring tools.



Guiding Principles, continued

- Inspires eligible programs to participate and remain in the system.
- Supports a system which is sustainable.
- Is designed with the capacity to grow with changing best practices



A stylized landscape illustration. The background consists of several layers of wavy, horizontal bands in shades of blue and light blue, suggesting a sky or distant hills. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills of varying shades of green. On the left side, a stylized flower with a dark brown stem and two small, curly tendrils grows. The flower has several large, rounded petals in shades of purple and pink. At the base of the flower, there are several smaller, rounded shapes in shades of orange and brown, possibly representing soil or other plants.

Questions?

A Word About Standards

- **What are standards? Common expectations that are measurable and used for comparison**
- **“...measurable, meaningfully differentiate program quality levels and reflect high expectations of program excellence commensurate with nationally recognized standards that lead to improved learning outcomes for children.” RTT-ELC expectation**
- **Nationally recognized**



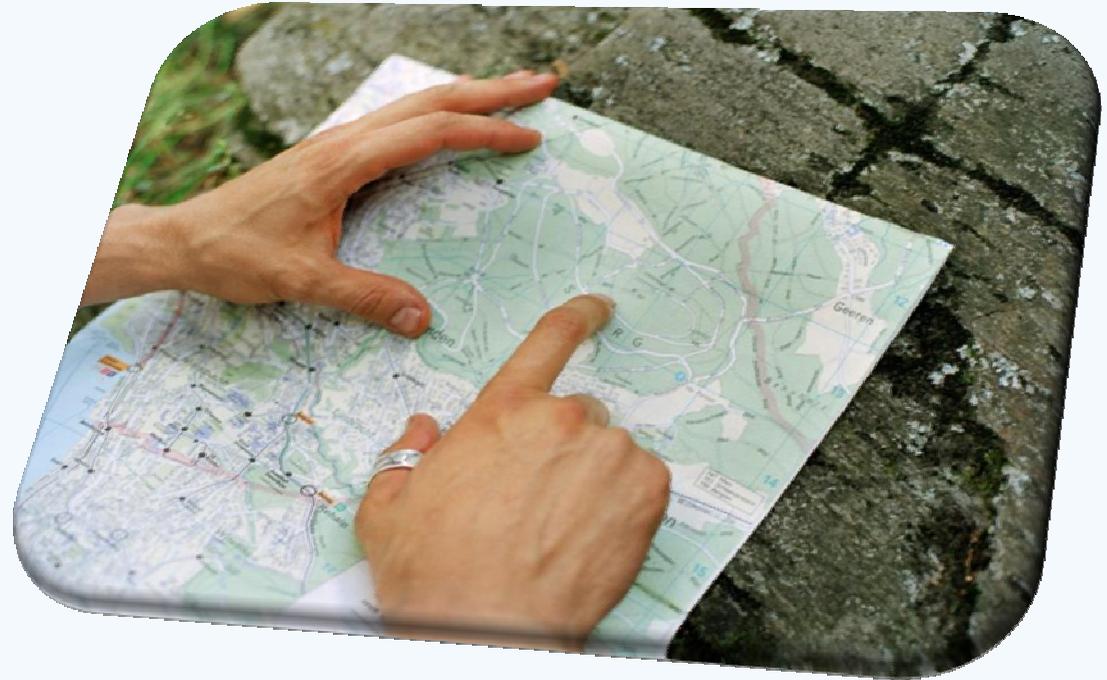
Some Challenges of Standards

- They are designed to be challenging – cause us to aspire and strive for excellence.
- Sometimes they give us a picture of ourselves that's different than what we think it is.
- There is a way for everyone, who accepts the challenge, to move forward.
- Doing them to fidelity (how and what they are intended to accomplish).
- They *will* change.



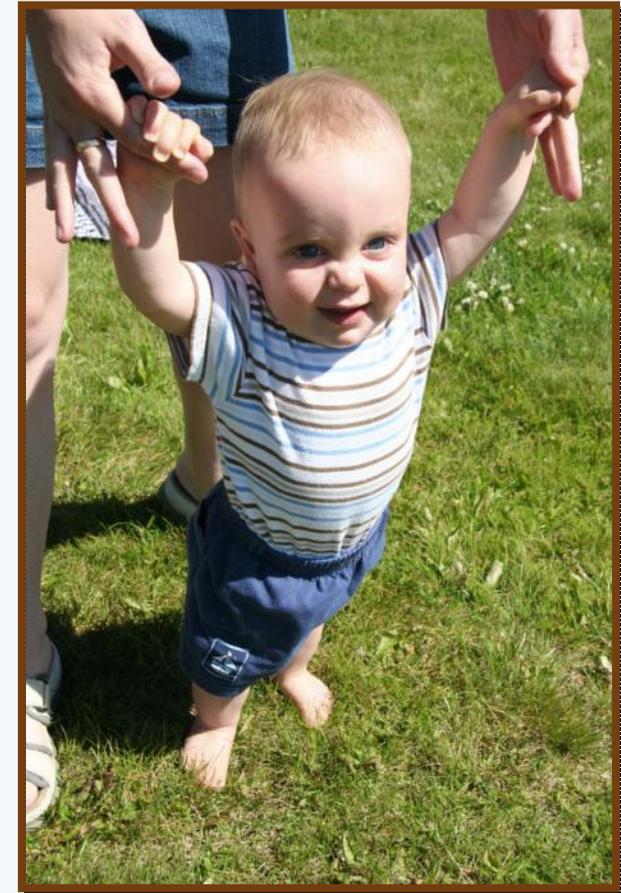
Some Opportunities of Standards and a QRIS

- Participate in something new and exciting
- Build, grow and make improvements
- Follow a road map



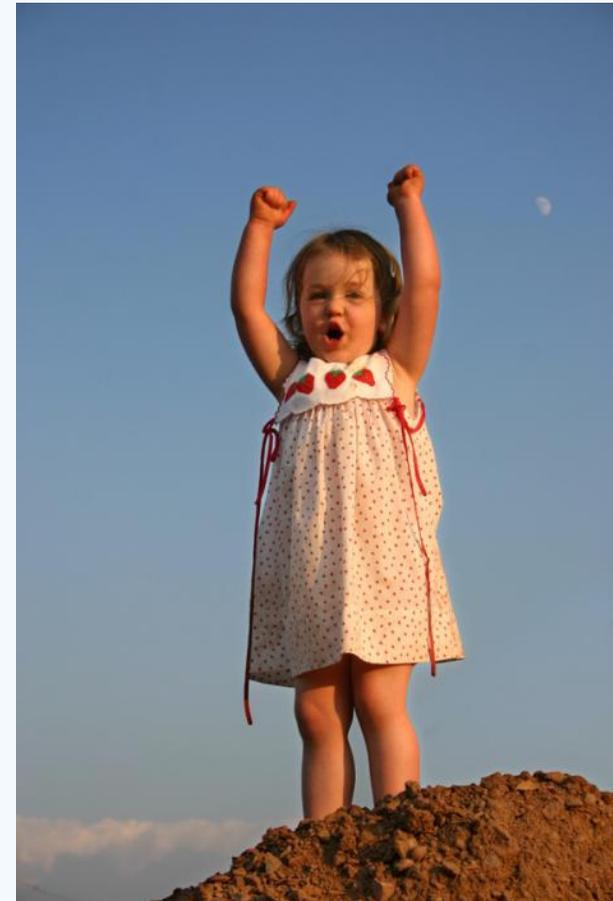
Opportunities of Standards continued

- Obtain supports to help you meet, attain and sustain levels of quality.
- Identify your weaknesses, face your fears and vulnerabilities and triumph
- Support one another (cohort)
- Really make a difference



Some Rewards of Achieving Standards

- Sense of accomplishment
- Recognition – program, marketing, state and national levels
- Financial incentives
- Joy!
 - Children
 - Families
 - Ourselves and our colleagues



Questions?



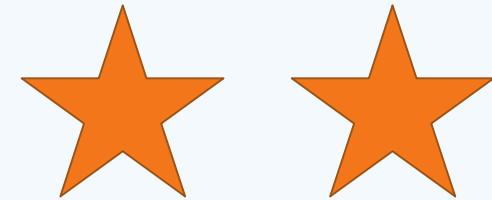
What About Licensed-Plus, Head Start and Accreditation?

- Program representation on the Task Force and Standards Development Committee.
- QRIS Task Force consideration and incorporation of standards.
- Licensed-Plus is still in place as its own designation until revised system is adopted.
- Incentives were restored in July.



Basic Structure

- Levels 1 & 2 - Preparatory – training and document-based; complete everything at each level
- Levels 3, 4, & 5 - Increasing in quality; based on points; includes on-site monitoring
- Few and the powerful



Categories of Standards

- **Curriculum and Environments**
- **Teacher and Director Qualification**
- **Engaging Families and Communities as Partners**
- **Business and Administration Practices**



Curriculum and Environments



- **Completion of NH Early Learning Standards (ELS) training modules**
- **Curriculum/Instruction aligned with ELS**
- **Formative assessments**
- **Screening measures and observation**
- **Nutrition, physical activity, & screen time**
- **Environmental Rating Scale (ERS)**
- **Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)**

Teacher and Director Qualifications

- Participation in New Hampshire Professional Registry & holding credentials
- Professional development plans
- Demonstrated competencies



Engaging Families and Communities as Partners



- **Completion of Strengthening Families modules**
- **Strengthening Families Self-Assessment**
- **Implementation of Strengthening Families strategies**

Business and Administration

- Job descriptions staff supervision and performance evaluations
- Personnel policies
- Salary scale and benefits
- Soliciting & incorporating feedback from staff
- Operating budget
- Marketing and public relations
- New family orientation
- Health and safety policies and practices
- Emergency preparedness and prevention



Questions?



What are our next steps?

- Presentations around the state through August;
Committee meetings to consider feedback- September
- Decisions: Finalize standards and required documentation, structure and points system, NAEYC and Head Start, how to measure the standards, CQI plans
- Submit standards to OCC by September 30th
- Reconvene committee in October to begin work on supports, incentives, marketing, financing, implementation, validation
- Phase Two



What can you be doing now?

- **Be an early adopter, enthusiast, advocate**
- **Become Licensed-Plus**
- **Review & become familiar with standards, self-assessments and rating scales**
- **Begin to implement those things that cost little or no money**
- **Participate in ECE Shared Resources**

Providing Feedback and PAU's

- For attending you will receive a certificate for 2 hours training and $\frac{1}{2}$ of a PAU.
- If you provide thoughtful, specific feedback within a week of this presentation, you will receive an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ of a PAU.
- Can others read and provide feedback? Yes! Can they get a $\frac{1}{2}$ PAU too? Yes.
- We want your perspective!



Feedback on the Standards

- What doesn't make sense?
- What's not clear about the expectation?
- What you don't understand?
- Do you see any duplication of standards?
- What's missing?
- Which standards do you think will make the most difference in meeting our goals?
- Are there standards that don't seem to make a difference?
- How do the standards align with stated goals and guiding principles?



Feedback on the QRISystem

- What excites you the most about the revised QRIS?
- What do you think will be most challenging?
- What can we do to help programs get prepared?
- What supports will you need to make quality improvements in your program?
- Which supports would help you be most successful? cohort model; training, templates, TA
- What are your thought and ideas about the proposed structure?
- What ideas do you have about implementation & rating designations
- What would incentivize you to participate and how would you structure it?
- Do you have any ideas for a name for NH's QRIS?



A stylized landscape illustration. The background features wavy, layered bands of blue and light blue, suggesting a sky or water. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills of varying shades. On the left side, a stylized flower with a dark brown stem and two large, overlapping petals (one purple, one pink) grows from a small mound of orange and brown soil. The word "Questions?" is written in a large, brown, serif font across the center of the image.

Questions?

The Journey

- We are all embarking on a journey. QRIS provides the road map. Each experience is going to be different.
- Every journey has unexpected experiences along the way- some are delightful surprises and others pose difficult or even unpleasant challenges.
- We want to be there to help you pack your suitcase, be your tour guide, celebrate your arrival at a new destination, be your translator, and help you find your way when you are lost.
- We want you to look back on the journey and remember the wonderful experiences you had and where you are now, and see that it was all worth it because you made a difference in a life.





Thank you for coming!

Providing Feedback: Survey Monkey Link

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5993RKF>

Questions: kbooth@dhhs.state.nh.us