



NFI North

Inspiring and empowering people to reach their full potential and live successfully in their community

WHO ARE WE?

NFI North was created at a time when people who had mental health needs were institutionalized due to a lack of community services. As a result of this widespread practice, people's lives and futures were adversely affected.

Today, stigma and discrimination still exist—but as millions of us raise our voices, harmful misconceptions are beginning to decrease. NFI North believes that people thrive best on their own and in their community. We provide services that empower and inspire people to reach their full potential.

NFI North provides an array of services across Maine and New Hampshire. The agency is an accredited, well-recognized, high-quality, nonprofit organization whose focus is on helping people help themselves. We accomplish this by providing specialized education, counseling, supported employment, care management, foster care, residential services, as well as many other services designed to meet the needs of the people we serve.



MISSION FOCUSED



HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF



**IN HOME & IN
COMMUNITY SERVICE
DELIVERY**



**INDIVIDUALIZED &
FAMILY FOCUSED
SERVICES**

OUR BELIEFS

- Participant driven services
- Each person has unique strengths, needs, and ideas
- People are capable of positive change and positive impact
- The best care is trauma-informed, individualized, and holistic
- Education and skill-building are essential for sustainable growth
- Open, honest, ongoing communication is done in an environment of respect and dignity
- Treatment approaches are guided by cultural, linguistic, and gender-responsive competencies

ABOUT FAST FORWARD

Administered by NFI North, the Fast Forward System of Care is a spectrum of effective, community-based services and supports for children, youth, and their families with or at risk for mental health challenges. Fast Forward is organized into a coordinated network, builds meaningful partnerships with families and youth, and addresses their cultural and linguistic needs in order to help them to function better at home, in school, in the community, and throughout life.

Many New Hampshire children, youth, and families experiencing difficulties in day-to-day life due to serious emotional disturbances have challenges finding the right support at the right time. The children are often placed out of home into residential treatment facilities, psychiatric hospitals, juvenile justice facilities, or daytime programs. Many out of their local schools and communities. Despite the best intentions and hard work of families and providers, services are often fragmented and difficult to navigate for families. New Hampshire is making huge strides to address these challenges using the Wraparound based program called FAST Forward.

WHAT WE DO

The FAST Forward program stands for “Families and Systems Together” and is designed to serve youth with serious emotional disturbances and their families whose needs are not met by traditional service streams and programs.

FAMILY AND YOUTH-DRIVEN

Family is at the core of FAST Forward’s work. Family members have a voice in describing their needs and strengths, and a choice in identifying services and their supports. Families take a leadership role in their families’ care as well as in policy, planning, and evaluation of the overall system. Youth voice is needed and valued given the youth are key drivers in planning their care.

YOUTH GUIDED

Youth are full participants in meetings, and in planning and identification of services and supports provided through the FAST Forward program. Youth voice is present and appreciated. Youth are leaders in their own service planning efforts as well as at policy and planning tables related to development, implementation, and evaluation of the support array at the system level.

COMMUNITY-BASED

Services are home and community-based: keeping youth in their homes and schools is a priority. FAST Forward honors the culture and beliefs of each family served through this program. If out-of-home placement is needed for a period of time, it is short-term and targeted to a specific need.

CULTURALLY & LINGUISTICALLY COMPETENT

Our treatment planning goal is to develop a plan for each participant that defines their strengths, identifies goals or needs they may have and develops interventions or approaches with the participant to help attain their goals and improve their self-sufficiency in areas of need. An Individual Service Plan (ISP) will be developed as a result of the treatment planning process that includes a thorough assessment, talking with the participant, and his/her significant relationships.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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