

FAST Forward

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.



They are often placed out of home in residential treatment facilities, psychiatric hospitals, juvenile justice facilities, or daytime programs. Many of these placements take the youth 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.

Families and Systems Together

New Hampshire is making big strides to address these challenges using the NH Wraparound based program called FAST Forward. 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.

The FAST Forward program is...

- Working with a team using a wraparound process to coordinate care
- Providing unconditional support and individualized flexible programming with a “do what it takes” attitude
- Offering an enhanced array of services, including short-term respite care, and soon to include mobile crisis teams
- Using a “system of care” approach that is family driven, youth guided, community based, and culturally and linguistically competent
- Making sure our youth with the most difficult emotional and substance use issues are connected with the appropriate supports within their community

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 in policy, planning, and evaluation of the overall system. Youth voice is needed and valued, as youth are full participants in planning their care.

Community Based and Culturally Competent

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.

History of FAST Forward

FAST Forward began as a 4-year federally-funded initiative to improve the lives of children and youth with serious emotional disturbances and their families by decreasing behavioral and emotional problems and improving functioning in home, school, and community for these youth. After a successful start-up period focused on partner and infrastructure development, FAST Forward began working with families in July 2014.



As of October 1, 2016, FAST Forward has continued on under the administration of NFI North, Inc., (NFI). NFI is a private non-profit human service agency with an exceptional reputation for delivering high quality services in both New Hampshire and Maine. As an agency that prides itself on consumer voice and choice, NFI is perfectly suited as the care management entity for FAST Forward. NFI is fully accredited by the Joint Commission in Behavioral Health Care.

Referrals are being accepted from families and providers for children and youth who...

- Are Medicaid eligible
- Are aged six or who are young adults transitioning out of school, foster care, or state placements
- Experience difficulties in day-to-day life due to a diagnosis of serious emotional disturbance
- Are at risk of multi-agency involvement (includes out of home placement in a residential treatment facility, psychiatric hospital, or juvenile justice facility)

FAST Forward staff serve youth and families and will provide facilitated referrals and interim supports to those waiting for FAST Forward services.

FAST Forward staff and partners have been trained in the nationally recognized and evidence supported wraparound process and will be working to build up the network of wraparound partners.

For more information or to make a referral, please call us at [\(603\) 271-5075](tel:6032715075) or [\(603\) 869-0027](tel:6038690027) or visit our website: nh4youth.org or www.NFINorth.com