



*ABLE NH advocates for the civil and human rights of all children and adults with disabilities and promotes full participation by improving systems of supports, connecting families, inspiring communities and influencing public policy. To this end, ABLÉ NH has established a set of Guiding Principles.*

- 1. Maintain Independence and a democratically elected leadership within the organization.*
- 2. Ensure that the history and lessons of Laconia State School are never forgotten*
- 3. Fight to ensure New Hampshire will never again open a state-run institution for individuals with developmental disabilities.*
- 4. Build strong coalitions to create a broad and powerful base to ensure that citizens of all abilities have adequate supports and services spreading the message that no one group in need of support can ever truly benefit at the expense of another. United We Must Stand!*
- 5. Protect the systems at the state and federal level that support citizens' ability to remain in their homes and prevent unnecessary institutionalization*
- 6. Work to end all waiting lists, whether officially sanctioned or unofficially maintained, ensuring that people who need assistance have access to the high quality services and supports they need to maintain their health and safety and live and participate within their communities with freedom and dignity.*
- 7. Ensure that any Medicaid or human service reform efforts prioritize New Hampshire's commitment to community based care.*
- 8. Educate neighbors, family and friends as well as public officials year round as well as during election cycles and budget seasons*
- 9. Commit to developing new leaders in the organization*
- 10. Build power and awareness within communities across New Hampshire working to ensure that public officials finally have open discussions about the need for fair tax structure in the state*