



Northeast Region Coordinator

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Northeast Highlights

On 11/17 we had guest speaker, Chester Finn, speak with us about Self Determination & Self Direction with 29 people attending. Chester gave us a history of self-determination and self-direction and why it's important. We had a lively conversation about standing up for our rights and being strong advocates. As Chester said, "You have the power to

make changes and do things... Come up with ideas of what you would like and don't be afraid to ask."

On 11/10 we had our outdoor Meet up at Bradley Palmer State Park. It turned out to be a beautiful day to catch up with friends and get some sunshine.

Austin created a story about his life and advocacy work. He presented this story to families at the Mass Families Organizing for Change NE Leadership Retreat on November 6th. Austin stressed the importance of friendships and saying, "Yes," to new things.

On 11/3 NE Regional Meeting had a presentation with Paula and Donna on Self Direction.

Thank you to Paula took part in the MA21 meeting along with Anne and Sam to improve self-direction on November 2nd and November 15th. This coalition is looking for stories of anyone doing self-direction now or thinking about it. Contact bridget@wearemass.org if you want to share your self-direction story.

Tim & Donna attended Leadership Summit planning meetings on November 5, 12, and 19. We're looking forward to the Leadership Summit on December 4th!

Thank you also to Donna for recording testimony for the Supported Decision Making Bills. Also, a shout out to Derek for testifying to end the use of electric shock at the hearing to end the use of aversives on 11/22.

Coming up in December we have three regional meetings on December 1, 15th and 29th. Looking ahead to January, we have our Annual Meeting and elections! All are welcome.