



To: NADE Board of Directors
From: Kristina Burbank, Northeast Regional Director
Date: February 22, 2021
Subject: NADE Northeast Regional Director 2021 Mid-Year Report

I am pleased to make my Mid- Year Report as the Northeast Regional Director of NADE. The NE region has been lacking members for some time. During this unprecedented time with the Coronavirus pandemic affecting all DDS employees, membership retention and participation has been a challenge.

The Vermont Chapter, The Green Mountain Association of Disability Examiners (GMADE) remains the largest chapter in the Region. As per the agreement with the VT DDS to cover memberships for adjudicators and support staff, GMADE is committed to providing 12 hours of training for adjudicators and 6 hours of training for support staff. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and with all but a handful of staff working from home, trainings were suspended from March 2020 through the present. However, the GMADE training committee is working closely with the State of Vermont's employee training center to provide a multi-part professional development training aimed at helping staff become more engaged with their work and to plan a career path within the DDS. In addition, efforts have been made to create a series of "Lunch and Learn" sessions led by our MC's and PC's. Training modalities are being worked through in order to accommodate staff working from home.

GMADE is currently working on planning for the 2022 National Training Conference in Burlington, Vermont. The newly elected GMADE board is working hard to keep members engaged while dealing with heavy workloads in addition to this national health crisis.

As outlined in the charges for Regional Director, I have kept the chapter presidents and contacts within our region updated and have solicited their input on various actions requiring our comments and feedback. Communication at all levels is vital to the success and strength of an organization.

In this time of great uncertainty and turmoil, I endeavor to help our organization retain members and generate local activity. I wish to thank the Board for the opportunity to serve and for all their help and understanding as I continue to learn my role and my responsibilities.