



Lori A. Weaver
Commissioner

Morissa Henn
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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July 13, 2026

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, to enter into an educational tuition agreement and to pay said costs in an amount of \$2,871.50 as follows:

Institution:	Liberty University 1971 University Blvd. Lynchburg, VA 24515
Course Title(s):	Acute Stress, Grief, & Trauma; Crisis & 1st Responder Skills; Complex Trauma & Disasters; Pastoral Counseling Capstone
Course Date(s):	Begin: 08/24/2026 End: 12/18/2026
Employee:	Ian Rice
Funding Source:	05-95-95-953010-56770000-066-500544
Total Cost of Course(s):	\$2,871.50 (block price for one semester of classes, as listed)
State Share:	\$2,871.50
Source of Funds:	Employee Training; 27.52% Federal, 68.10% General, 4.38% Other

EXPLANATION

This education will benefit the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Ian Rice by improving the overall efficiency of the employee's work in the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). It will enhance Ian's capacity to provide thoughtful, compassionate support to the youth in care at the Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC).

Acute Stress, Grief, & Trauma will support the missions of SYSC and DHHS by improving Ian's provision of trauma-informed care to youth experiencing significant emotional, behavioral, and environmental stressors. With enhanced understanding of acute stress reactions, grief responses, and long-term effects of unresolved trauma, Ian will recognize trauma-related behaviors, respond appropriately during crises, and contribute to a safer and more therapeutic environment. *Crisis and 1st Responder Skills* will help Ian to respond effectively during high-stress situations, maintaining safety, professionalism, and therapeutic engagement. Knowledge of crisis intervention models and critical incident response will better prepare Ian to assist youth in distress, while supporting team-based responses and the safety and stability of the facility.

Complex Trauma & Disaster will explore organizational and community responses to large-scale crises and disasters, which can inform preparedness and recovery efforts within institutional settings. This knowledge will help Ian to collaborate with mental health professionals, educators, and other support staff while promoting trauma-informed practices that align with the rehabilitative goals of DHHS. *The Pastoral Counseling Capstone* will allow Ian to integrate and apply knowledge to real-world helping environments. This course will strengthen Ian's ability to synthesize evidence-based counseling principles, crisis intervention strategies, and ethical decision-making into practical approaches that support youth rehabilitation and positive behavioral outcomes.

Completing these courses is part of Ian's pursuit of a master's degree in Pastoral Counseling.

Ian Rice has been employed with DHHS for 1.75 years, in the position of 21-1010 Counselor-3 (Youth Counselor) with DCYF. His position involves supporting youth in care, directing and monitoring youth movements, enforcing SYSC rules, and maintaining the safety of the facility.

The Department of Health and Human Services encourages and supports employees who wish to further their professional growth through continuing education in disciplines that are mutually advantageous. Successful completion of the courses will add to the overall strength of the Department to perform its mission for the residents of New Hampshire.

This course will not be taken on State time.

Attached is a fully executed Tuition Agreement for your review.

Respectfully submitted,


Lori A. Weaver
Commissioner

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
EDUCATIONAL TUITION AGREEMENT



Agreement dated this 19 day of June 2026 by and through the Department of Health and Human Services (hereinafter referred to as the "State") and Ian Rice

(hereinafter referred to as the "Recipient"). The State and the Recipient do hereby mutually agree as follows:

1. The State shall pay to the named institution the sum of \$ 2871.50, which monies shall be used for the purpose of enrolling the Recipient in: C&IRS, ASG&T, CT&D, PCC FOR MASTER'S IN (course name), which course is being offered by: Liberty University PASTORAL COUNSELING: and which course shall commence on August 24th 2026 and terminate on December 18th 2026 TRAUMA & CRISIS INTERVENTION

2. The Recipient shall complete and achieve a passing grade in each course named in paragraph 1.
3. Should the Recipient fail to complete or achieve a passing grade in each course named in paragraph 1, the Recipient shall pay to the State the sum set forth in paragraph 1, provided, however, that if more than one course is named in paragraph 1, the amount which shall be paid to the State shall be calculated on a pro rata basis.
4. Upon the satisfactory completion of the courses named in paragraph 1, the Recipient shall continue in the employ of the State in his/her current position (or in such other position, at equal or greater compensation, to which he/she may be assigned) for a period of six (6) months.
5. The Recipient shall work in any area of the State to which he/she may be assigned, provided that such assignment will not constitute a severe hardship to said Recipient.
6. Should the Recipient breach any of the conditions set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5, the Recipient shall pay to the State a sum equal to all monies previously paid by the State for the Recipient pursuant to the Agreement, provided, however, that the Recipient shall receive a credit for each month in which he/she is employed by the State subsequent to the date upon which the named course(s) are satisfactorily completed, the value of said credit to be calculated on a pro rata basis.
7. The Recipient shall not raise any setoff or counterclaim against the State in any action brought by the State to collect any amount due under this agreement.
8. Should any amount be found to be due the State in any action brought against the Recipient pursuant to this Agreement, the State shall, in addition to said amount, be entitled to an award of costs and a reasonable amount in "attorney" fees.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the representatives of the State, in his/her official capacity only, and without personal liability, and the Recipient, have hereunto set their hands on the date first above written.

RECIPIENT

(signature)

[Signature]

(printed name)

IAN RICE

NOTARY

State of New Hampshire, County of Hillsborough

On this the 8th day of July, 2026, before me, Ian Rice, the undersigned officer, personally appeared,

Samantha Hamilton (recipient) known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person who subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he/she executed the same for the purposes herein.



In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

[Signature]
Notary Public/Justice of the Peace Signature

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

DHHS Commissioner or Designee Signature

(printed name, title) Ann H. Landry, Associate Commissioner

(date) 7/13/2026