

GMSS REPORTER

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November 2023



BIG THANKS!

During the recent “case management week,” we celebrated and thanked our service coordination team with a luncheon, followed by pumpkin decorating. Their dedication and thoughtful work is critical to the success of our agency and we are grateful for all they do. You are all so appreciated!

More photos, pages 4, 5

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High quality supports to those we serve is of paramount importance

A truly beautiful thing happened this month. A person interviewing for a job turned at the end of the interview to all of us in the room and asked why each of us works at GMSS. We went around the table and every person in the room spoke to our mission but each person spoke also about feeling included, well-supported, and valued. It was a heartening moment as we looked at one another and realized just how far we have come together. Our staff is extraordinary and one important indicator of how we are doing as an agency is found in what they tell us. Beautiful!

The Developmental Services Quality Review Team is wrapping up its work and the Adult Services Quality Review Team will soon begin its review of our Adult Family Care program. These periodic reviews are important opportunities for us to share success stories and we have many of them to share!

Each month, our staff and shared living providers help people to enjoy their best lives – healthy, secure, safe, learning, connected, etc. These reviews are also an important opportunity for us to learn where we can make further improvements.

We just wrapped up “case management week” during which we thanked our service coordination team for the critical work they do each day – with great skill, passion, and dedication. We are incredibly fortunate to have this team of service coordinators. GMSS has never had a team so strong, so experienced, or so capable! Stop by the office to see the fabulous pumpkins they decorated during their cele-



ELIZABETH WALTERS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

bration lunch!

With numerous state-level changes happening within the HCBS landscape – payment reform, conflict-of-interest-free case management, electronic visit verification, settings rule implementation, etc. – we are juggling to incorporate new rules, new processes, and new demands on our time. No matter how chaotic or pressured, we keep as our North Star the paramount importance of high quality supports to those we serve for the most important test of our quality will always be the security, wellness, and satisfaction that they enjoy.

Be on the lookout soon for an invitation to a special holiday event. We will be hosting a pancake breakfast, craft making, and holiday movie event on Monday, Dec. 4th. Breakfast and crafts will run from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and the movie will begin at 10:30 a.m. We are hoping to have a great turnout and looking forward to seeing lots of merry faces!

UPCOMING GMSS BOARD MEETING

The next GMSS board meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 16th from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

All members of the GMSS community are welcome to attend board meetings.

The board will designate a public comment period at each meeting during which community members may ask questions or offer comments.

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NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

GMSS welcomes Danielle Samuelson to the team!

Professional background that brought you to your current position: I went to NVU - Johnson for Creative Writing and explored education courses while I was there. I taught for some time while in college and after graduating, and also did respite.

Passion(s): I grew up in a state where resources are difficult to find. I saw my mother struggle to find any resources that could support my brother. It has become important to me to ensure that whichever community I surround myself with has adequate access to these resources. I firmly believe that everybody should be able to get the help that they deserve. I'd like to continue in aiding others to find the resources that they need.

Physical location: I grew up in Ocala, Florida. I often hear the question "Why did you move here?" I chose to move to Hardwick, Vt., with my mother and brother when I was eighteen so that I would be able to attend the college that my mom graduated from in Johnson. I currently live in Morrisville, Vt., and I absolutely love living in Lamoille County. Vermont has definitely become my forever home.

A random tidbit of fun: My husband and I love to take our son to the Shelburne Museum and often go every weekend when we are able to! I love to read some of the books that got me interested in writing to my son. I love to write in my free time, primarily focusing on fiction and literary nonfiction.



Danielle Samuelson
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

GMSS welcomes James Beckett to the team!

About James Beckett: I currently reside in island pond since moving from Burlington area. I have 7 years providing all kinds of support but mainly elderly. I was a store manager for 22 years but followed my heart. My purpose in life is to help people in and outside of work.



James Beckett
DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL



Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living

Engagement Sessions

The Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) has partnered with Public Consulting Group (PCG) to offer virtual Engagement Sessions for **individuals receiving services, families, guardians, and advocates**. These sessions will be an opportunity to meet with PCG and DAIL directly to ask questions and share concerns about the **Supports Intensity Scale - Adult Version**.

Who is invited? Vermont Developmental Disabilities Services Home and Community-based Service Consumers, Families, Guardians, Self-advocates.

When will they be held? November and December 2023

Where will they be held? Virtually, via Zoom.



If you have questions or require accommodations, contact jessica.bernard@vermont.gov. Please make accommodation requests at least one week in advance of the session.

Engagement Session Dates and Zoom Links

Wednesday, November 29, 10am
Join here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87050444262>
Call in: (301) 715-8592; Meeting ID: 870 5044 4262

Thursday, November 30, 3pm
Join here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8853483796>
Call in: (646)931-3860; Meeting ID: 885 3348 3796

Wednesday, December 13, 1pm
Join here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89074600955>
Call in: (309) 205-3325; Meeting ID: 890 7460 0955

Thursday, December 14, 6pm
Join here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88530221750>
Call in: (689) 278-1000; Meeting ID: 885 3022 1750

SAVY MEETING

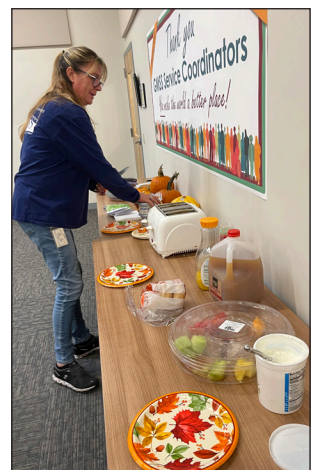
Come join us for a SAVY meeting! Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Roberts Room at GMSS. SAVY is a member-run group for individuals with disabilities which gives them a voice to speak on issues that are important to them. The group teaches members to speak up for themselves, spreading the word about self-advocacy and providing the opportunity to work on projects that benefit themselves and their community.

FOOD DONATIONS SOUGHT

The SAVY group has placed a drop box as you enter the GMSS building to collect non-perishable food items. The food that is donated will stay in Lamoille County to help those in need. If you can, please help us fill the box!



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UPCOMING TRAININGS

* **Therapeutic Options** – All dates in Morrisville. All sessions will be held from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

* Wednesday, Nov. 15th

* Wednesday, Dec. 13th

* **DDSD QSR** – Preliminary feedback meeting will be Nov. 7th from 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

* **Medication Administration Refresher:** All classes will be held in person in the Roberts Room at the GMSS Morrisville office:

* Tuesday, Nov. 7th, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. (Giles Room)

* Monday, Nov. 13th, 10:00 a.m.-noon

* Tuesday, Dec. 5th, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

November Employee Anniversaries

Hallie Ward – 2019 (4 years)

Richard Gioia – 2021 (2 years)

Tracey Mariah – 2022 (1 year)

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Fax: (802) 888-1182

Email: newsletter@gmssi.org



Ensuring Our Neighbors with Disabilities
are at Home in their Community.

gmssi.org