

GMSS REPORTER

GREEN MOUNTAIN SUPPORT SERVICES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April 2025 (2nd Quarter newsletter)

GMSS Happenings

Upcoming SLP Trainings

To sign up for any training, visit our website's SLP resource page:

gmssvt.org/slp-resources

TRAINING

NEW SKILLS

Therapeutic Options

(Recertification, virtual)

May 9, 2025, 9:00am – 12:30pm

Therapeutic Options

(In-person, full course)

June 11, 2025, 9:00am - 3:00pm

First Aid/CPR Certification

May 20, 8:30am – 12:30pm

June 17, 10:30am – 1:30pm



CPR & First Aid
Training Class

UPCOMING BINGO DATES

Any changes will be posted on our Facebook page and at GMSS



Wednesday Mornings

May 7th 9:30-10:45

May 21st 9:30-10:45

June 11th 9:30-10:45

June 25th 9:30-10:45

July 9th 9:30-10:45

Board Meetings



Our GMSS Board meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 5:30pm. A meeting link can be found on our website: gmssvt.org

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.



Still life painting with Andrea

Friday, June 18th

10:00am – 11:30pm

All materials supplied



GMSS REPORTER

Making a meaningful difference each day



**ELIZABETH
WALTERS**
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Hello, GMSS –

Every day, I am inspired and amazed by the incredible work I see our teams doing. Sometimes that means helping a young adult gain the skills needed to become more independent in life, and be able to succeed without the

continued need for services. It can mean developing strategies so that a person can continue to live safely at home following a serious injury. It can also mean helping a person cope with news of a life-altering medical diagnosis. Sometimes, it means helping a person to find their first job or get a promotion. And sometimes it means helping a person to reconnect with long lost family and recover memories from their younger years. At the heart of what we do, every day, is the people we serve. Our commitment to ensuring people are living their best lives, on their terms, is unshakeable, and it's an honor to see that in action every day. If a team member has made a difference in your life or the life of your loved one, I invite you to let them know. It means the world to staff to know that their work is appreciated.

I'm especially grateful for our team in these unprecedented times. We knew we would see the implementation of conflict-free case management this year. The next big change, payment reform in Developmental Services, is well underway and moving ahead, too. Those two initiatives are the biggest changes we've seen to our system of care since the closing of the Brandon Training School more than thirty years ago. On top of these changes, the pace of the sometimes-contradictory announcements

from the federal administration is frenetic, and decisions to target entities that promote equity and justice, to close departments, to gut agencies by firing large numbers of staff, and to eliminate support for programs that people rely on – such as Meals on Wheels and the Low-Income Heating Assistance Program – are coming fast and furious. In some cases, these announcements are retracted by the administration, while in others the administration's planned actions are stayed by the Courts. It is very hard for even the most ardent news follower to know what is happening day-to-day, but the bottom line is that the administration is slashing departments and programs, and serious threats to Medicaid are on the table. We do not yet know if or how this may affect our services, but I want to assure you that at the agency and state level, we are doing everything in our power to protect the essential services we provide, and to plan to mitigate harm should the administration's orders result in loss of funding for our programs.

We will update you as we learn of anything concrete, and I urge you meanwhile to stay informed about the impending launch of conflict-free case management. DAIL has announced that Benchmark Human Services and Columbus Group have been awarded the case management contracts for those served in our Developmental Services and Brain Injury programs. In-person and virtual opportunities to meet these organizations will begin at the end of April. Learn more [here](#). As always, if you have questions or want to talk about something, please reach out.

Elizabeth

Valuable Resources



Vermont ABLÉ accounts offer a \$25 incentive to new registrations

The Vermont State Treasurer's Office is proud to promote ABLÉ (Achieving a Better Life Experience) accounts—a powerful tool helping Vermonters with disabilities build financial security. Administered by the Treasurer's Office, ABLÉ accounts allow individuals with disabilities and their families to save and invest money without affecting eligibility for Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or other needs-based public benefits. These tax-advantaged accounts can be used for a wide range of disability-related expenses, including education, housing, transportation, health care, and more.

Vermont ABLÉ is helping Vermonters achieve greater independence and financial security through the power of STABLE accounts.

Vermont ABLÉ provides:

- Access to STABLE accounts for Vermonters with disabilities
- Tax-free savings for disability-related expenses
- The ability to save and invest without losing needs-based benefits

Learn more about ABLÉ [here](#)



VERMONT 211 LAUNCHES NEW, EASY ONLINE DIRECTORY

Vermont's comprehensive statewide information and referral resource announced today that it has launched a new, user-friendly online directory.

[Vermont 211's search tool](#)

provides quick access to information about its most commonly requested services and resources. Find connections to child care, free community meals, free tax preparation, crisis hotlines, rent assistance, health care, job training, legal help, state benefits, and much more.



Medicaid AARP®

Medicaid and Its Role for Older Adults in Vermont

Medicaid is a critical safety net for about 40,000 adults ages 50 and older in Vermont.¹ It covers long-term care (such as home care aides and nursing homes), emergency and routine medical and behavioral health care, and prescription drugs for individuals who have very low incomes or qualifying life circumstances. It also helps pay out-of-pocket costs for millions of low-income Medicare beneficiaries.

Key Takeaways

- Medicaid provides health care coverage for Americans throughout their lifespan, including about 40,000 people ages 50 and over in Vermont.
- Medicaid is a safety net for low-income adults on Medicare who face unaffordable out-of-pocket costs.
- Medicaid pays for a broad range of long-term care services for people who need them.
- Medicaid provides important supports for family caregivers, including health care coverage for them and services for the people they care for.

Visit AARP's website [here](#) for more information.

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Celebrating our GMSS Team

GMSS New Employee Spotlight

Welcome!

Meagan Audet

Specialized Care Team DSP



Barbara Briggs

Specialized Care Team DSP



Meredith Bump

Specialized Care Team DSP



Onika Curler

Direct Support Professional



Miri Mahar

Specialized Care Team
Program Manager



Cassea Mercia

Specialized Care Team DSP



Green Mountain Support Services

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Web: gmssvt.org

GMSS Anniversaries

(April – June)

GMSS Employees

April

Raymond Greene	4/27/09	16yrs
Rebecca Agone	4/1/24	1yr

May

Naw Ruth Doe	5/15/23	2yrs
Tammy Chase	5/6/24	1yr
Jennifer Hanley	5/16/24	1yr
Heather Tatro	5/20/24	1yr

June

Andrea Mayo	6/18/18	7yrs
Chelsea Tuttle	6/21/18	7yrs
Sonya Hazen	6/17/20	5yrs
Hallie Ward	6/15/21	4yrs

Shared Living Providers

April

Kevin Bryant	4/1/2017	8yrs
Brandon Baptiste	4/1/2018	7yrs
Sonja Crowe	4/1/2021	4yrs
Dylan Archbold	4/2/2021	4yrs
Donna Peake	4/5/2023	2yrs
Shari Douglass	4/29/2024	1yr
Trevor Bidwell	4/30/2024	1yr

May

Gabe Mello	5/11/2018	7yrs
James Christie	5/1/2019	6yrs
Sandy Garand	5/15/2019	6yrs
Brandy Farrar	5/16/2023	2yrs
Deo Pokhrel	5/7/2024	1yr

June

Leona Ingalls	6/1/1995	30yrs!
Hubert Bent	6/1/2004	21yrs!
Linda Demar	6/1/2013	12yrs
Christine Eid	6/1/2015	10yrs
Lynn Patenaude	6/1/2017	8yrs
Candy Griswold	6/1/2017	8yrs
Angela Lee	6/17/2021	4yrs
Dave Daly	6/29/2024	1yr
Ashley Brown	6/30/2024	1yrs