

GMSS REPORTER

GREEN MOUNTAIN SUPPORT SERVICES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

August 2026 (3rd Quarter Newsletter)

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

GMSS BBQ!

Let's Celebrate Together!

WHEN:
Wednesday,
August 26, 2026
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

WHERE:
GMSS Office
93 James Road
Morrisville, VT

Join us for a fun tropical afternoon!

BBQ

ICE CREAM TRUCK

LAWN GAMES

⇒ We can't wait to see you there! ⇒



GMSS participant, Henry, was excited to be making gains at his regular PT appointment with Hannah of Northern Physical Therapy in Lyndonville.



SAVE *the* DATE

Direct Support Professionals **CELEBRATION**



Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 10AM | Vermont Statehouse Lawn

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**ELIZABETH
WALTERS**
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Greetings!

We think of summer as a time to slow down a bit, but that isn't possible right now. The challenges we face today – as an agency, as a society – are enormous. Increasing numbers of people are struggling and that is affecting all of us, in

almost everything that we do. GMSS, like the other agencies that make up the Vermont Care Partners network, is serving people with more complex needs than ever before. This is at a time when costs for everything are rising, and budgets are failing to keep pace. We are all being asked to do more, with less.

At GMSS, we are striving to meet these challenges by continually evaluating how we do things and making changes when we identify new and better ways. For example, while we can provide services statewide, we are no longer accepting referrals for people living in the southern half of the state. We are focusing our energies on the counties where we most regularly work and where we don't need to absorb disproportionate travel costs. We are looking at our workflows to ensure that information is collected and shared, and tasks are accomplished, in the most efficient and effective ways possible. We are also aggressively adopting new software tools that allow us, for example, to better track, in real time, our work with the CMOs, such as monitoring annual plan updates and the completion of funding requests. Our staff deserve tremendous credit for their unwavering commitment to our mission, for their continual openness to change, and for their insight and thoughtful suggestions which so often make us better.

In this newsletter you will see the results of this year's participant satisfaction survey. We use this feedback to drive improvement, and we are grateful to those participants who took time to respond. Suggestions from our participants and their families are always welcomed!

There are some important events coming up and we hope you will join us at one or both. On August 26 (11-2), we will host our annual Tropical Island Barbecue at the office. Join us for food, outdoor games, and conversation! September 9 (10-1) is DSP Appreciation Day at the Vermont Statehouse. This is a wonderful celebration of the value and impact of direct service workers, who are the backbone of our system of care.

If you've got questions, comments, or suggestions, my door is always open.

With gratitude,

Elizabeth

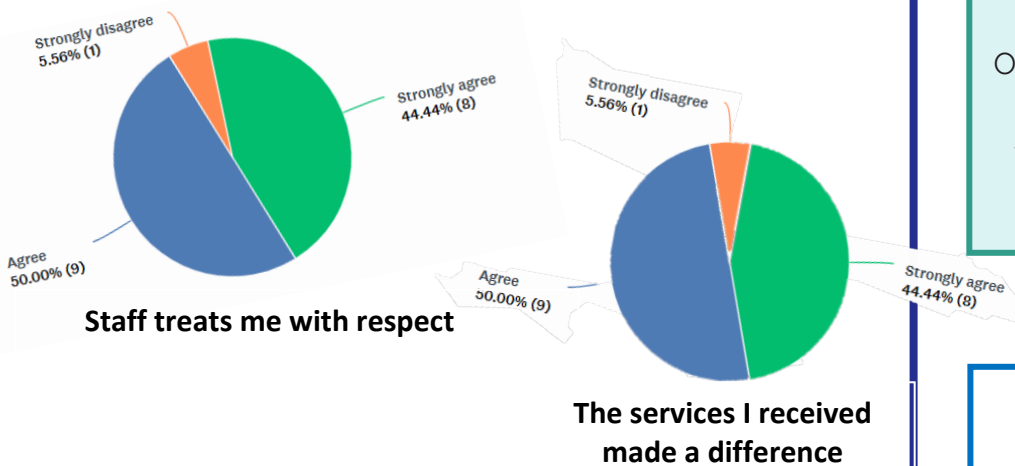
Important Funding News

DAIL has notified the Designated and Specialized Service agencies that we have lost two important funding sources. The program that provided up to \$1,000 per home placement to address a participant's accessibility needs has been discontinued. This affects people in all (DS, AFC, and BI) programs. The Developmental Services "One-Time Funding" program will also not be funded this year. This has been used in past years to provide up to \$5,000 per participant to promote independent living and the development of self-advocacy skills as well as to address unmet needs in areas such as health and safety, assistive technology, environmental modifications, and crisis prevention. These are both significant losses to the people we support. **If you or someone you know wants to make a donation to help address this kind of need, please visit our website and click the "Support Our Mission – Donate Today" banner.**

Participant Survey Results

Thank you to our participants for taking the time to complete our survey. We appreciate your feedback and carefully read every response. Your input helps us continue improving our services.

- 78% agreed or strongly agreed that they received the right services.
- 78% agreed or strongly agreed that their quality of life improved as a result of the services.
- 94% agreed or strongly agreed that staff treated them with respect.
- 94% agreed or strongly agreed that they like where they live.



**Tuesday, September 8th
11am – 2pm**

**Participant painting class.
All supplies provided.**



Board Meetings

Our GMSS Board meets most months on the fourth Thursday of the month at 5:30pm. The next meeting date and link can be found on our website:

gmssvt.org

SLP Contract Signing

For DS contracts

- Friday, September 11th (9-12)
- Monday, September 21st (1-4) at GMSS

SLPs will still have the option to sign their new contracts electronically, if preferred.



Upcoming Trainings

Visit our website to sign up: gmssvt.org/slp-resources

SLP Training Days

- **Sept 1**, 8:30am – 4:00pm: Guardianship: What It is and What It isn't
- **Sept 15**, 8:30am – 4:00pm: Advance Directives: Planning Ahead for Care

Therapeutic Options Full Course

- **October 7** (8:30am-3:30pm, in-person)

Therapeutic Options Re-Certifications

- **Sept 9** (9:00am-1:00pm, in-person)

First Aid/CPR/AED

- **August 18** (9:30am-1:30pm, in-person)
- **Sept 22** (9:30am-1:30pm, in-person)



BINGO

**Come join in the fun!
9:30-10:45am**

August 12th	October 21st
August 26th	November 4th
September 28th	November 18th

GMSS REPORTER

Welcome GMSS team members

Hannah Nault

Specialized Care Team DSP



Casey Nichols

Service Coordinator



Megan Patenaude

Service Coordinator



Olivia Townsend

Specialized Care Team DSP



Green Mountain Support Services

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HAPPY Anniversary

3rd Quarter Anniversaries

GMSS Staff

July

Elizabeth Walters	07/01/2004	22yrs
Jeanine Chalue	07/13/2008	18yrs
Lisa Tilton	07/18/2016	10yrs
Danielle Tinker	07/18/2016	10yrs
Nicole Russell	07/28/2022	4yrs
Ashley Lafirira	07/17/2023	3yrs
Michael Molander	07/08/2024	2yrs
Jennifer Fletcher	07/07/2025	1yr
Liza Bothfeld	07/28/2025	1yr
Ben Carpenter	07/28/2025	1yr
Liam Mitchell	07/28/2025	1yr

August

Amy Touchette	08/24/2004	22yrs
Christina Green	08/17/2020	6yrs
Amanda Jones	08/11/2025	1yr

September

David Fleming	09/23/2014	12yrs
Mark Patenaude	09/01/2021	5yrs
Deborah Bolinger-Elkoury	09/12/2022	4yrs
Emily Kittredge	09/12/2022	4yrs
Fawn Lanpher	09/19/2022	4yrs
Beth Hammond	09/12/2023	3yrs
Chelsey Robert	09/09/2024	2yrs
Stacey Merriam	09/16/2025	1yr

Shared Living Providers

July

Judy Boyce	7/1/2016	10yrs
Deborah Allen	7/7/2017	9yrs
Elizabeth Manfredi	7/1/2019	7yrs
Danette Powers	7/1/2021	5yrs

August

Jean Audet	8/1/2016	10yrs
Ila King	8/1/2017	9yrs
Thomas Rubman	8/16/2019	7yrs
Donald Taylor	8/23/2021	5yrs

September

Leona Ingalls	9/1/1992	34yrs
Kerri Fillion	9/27/2017	9yrs
Jason Metcalf	9/7/2021	5yrs
Jessica McLeish	9/30/2021	5yrs
Jody Benoit	9/20/2023	3yrs
Julie Williams	9/25/2023	3yrs