

GMSS REPORTER

GREEN MOUNTAIN SUPPORT SERVICES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

October 2024 (4th Quarter newsletter)

A bit of what we have been up to...



Art Days



Appreciation Days



Contract Signing



GMSS REPORTER

Celebrating a one-year milestone and opportunities ahead



Dear GMSS Community –

It was one year ago that we celebrated the redesignation of the agency, and we have had a very full year since achieving that milestone! Rebuilding the agency has taken the effort and commitment of every single member of our community and I'm grateful for each of you. We still have work to do, but we now have the skills and, more importantly, the people necessary to move forward successfully, in service to those who trust us to provide needed services.

I want to update you on significant upcoming systemic changes that will affect all of us, including those we serve. First is conflict of interest-free case management which, because that is such a mouthful, is commonly referred to as COI (see-oh-eye). COI is a federal requirement designed to ensure that individuals receiving services have their needs assessed and planned for objectively, by someone other than the agency that delivers services. This means everyone receiving HCBS services in Vermont (whether in the DS, AFC, or BI program) will have at least one new team member beginning in 2025. In very practical terms, each person who receives services will have a new, independent case manager who will identify support needs, write the annual service plan, and monitor the person's progress and welfare.

GMSS will collaborate closely with the new case managers who will depend on us to do most of the things we currently do – write behavior, communication, and employment support plans; contract with and support shared living providers; provide training to staff and contractors; monitor progress toward outcomes; facilitate and oversee healthcare; etc.

The State anticipates contracting in April 2025 with one or more new case management entities, who will serve participants in the DS and BI programs. Following a transitional period for training and other build-up activities, those new DS and BI case managers will assume their responsibilities on October 1, 2025. AFC participants will receive case management from one of the Area Agencies on Aging. AFC case management transitioning will begin in June 2025 and will be completed by December 2025. 2025 is going to bring considerable change. You can learn more by visiting the [DAIL website](#) I'll continue to provide you updates here and of course, I'm happy to answer your questions any time.

The second big change is the Developmental Services payment reform initiative. This will be a state-level transformation of how DS services are funded and how provider agencies are paid. It will have sweeping effects on provider agencies and we are working now, alongside DAIL and all the provider agencies, to achieve the best possible outcomes. You can learn more about this initiative at the [DDSD website](#).

What else is happening now? So much, but here are some highlights

- Our 2024 training initiatives are advancing nicely! Our staff have recently received training in advance care planning as well as in fraud, waste, and abuse prevention. Our first Shared Living Provider in-service day provided an opportunity for our SLPs to talk with members of the Vermont Clinical Training Consortium about the unique privileges and challenges of the SLP role, as well as to work with our nursing team on topics including managing complex updates to medication administration records. Our second in-service opportunity is October 30 and SLPs who haven't yet met their 2024 training requirements are encouraged to attend. Sign up at 2024 Training Registration (gmssvt.org/slp-resources)
- Under the stewardship of Operations Director, Beth Hammond, the WheelPad project has finally gained real traction. The purchased units have all been delivered and we anticipate receiving our Certificate of Occupancy for the first two units soon.
- We continue to sparkle on our key performance indicators. This includes items such as submitting critical incident reports on time and ensuring we see people, in their homes, every month. We are excited to be expanding our list of performance indicators in 2025 as we update our Quality Improvement Plan.

Yours truly,

Elizabeth



Join us for our
GMSS Halloween Party
 A special Participant Celebration!

HALLOWEEN DAY
 October 31, 2024 • 10:00am – 2:00pm
 GREEN MOUNTAIN SUPPORT SERVICES
 93 James Rd, Morrisville

10:00 – 10:30 AM: Trick or Treating down our halls.
 10:30 – 11:30 AM: Dancing & cookie decorating
 11:30 AM: Catered Lunch from Hoagies Pizza & Pasta
 (Mac & Cheese, meatballs, breadsticks & salad)
 Snacks and dessert supplied by volunteers.
 12:00 – 2:00PM: Halloween Movie for all

We encourage everyone to come
 dressed up as they'd like!
 (Please no weapons of any kind with costume)

RSVP: If you plan to join us for lunch, please call our
 front desk (802-888-7602) within 24hrs of our party.

GMSS
 GREEN MOUNTAIN SUPPORT SERVICES
 93 James Rd, Morrisville
 www.gmssvt.org
 ph 802-888-7602

BINGO DATES

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



October 29th **1:30-3:00 Kim**

November 7th **1:30-3:00 Kim**

November 13th **9:30-10:45 Kristine**

November 21st **9:30-10:45 Kim**

November 27th **9:30-10:45 Kristine**

December 12th **1:30-3:00 Kim**

December 18th **9:30-10:45 Kristine**

Board Meetings

Our GMSS Board meets on the fourth
 Thursday of the month 6:00 – 7:00p.m. 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.

Art Days!

Friday, November 15

Tea light holders
 created with leaves



Friday, December 20

Holiday ornament making

1:30 – 3:30pm

93 James Rd., Morrisville
 All materials provided.



Upcoming SLP Trainings

To sign up for any training, visit our
 website's SLP resource page:
gmssvt.org/slp-resource

SLP Training Day

October 30th, 9am – 3:30pm

CPR/first aid Certification

January 14th, 8am – noon



New GMSS Employee Spotlight

MEET

Chelsey Robert
GMSS Service Coordinator



"Hi! My name is Chelsey! I have come to GMSS from working in public school for the last three years where my love for working with people with disabilities began. When I'm not working, you can find me at home with my son, husband and our crazy 8 dogs (I clearly love chaos) or doing photography!"



SLP Resources

On-Call Line: 802-231-1233

Remain on hold and do not skip to voicemail. We'll connect you with on-call staff ASAP.

SLP Webpage

gmssvt.org/slp-resources

Employee Anniversaries

(August – December 2024)

AUGUST

Amy Touchette	08/24/2004 (20 years!)
Lynn Burnham	08/20/11 (13 years)
Christina Green	08/17/2020 (4 years)
Kimberly Werner	08/15/2022 (2 years)
Jared Coolum	08/14/2023 (1 year)
Corey Cayton	08/29/2023 (1 year)

SEPTEMBER

David Fleming	09/23/2014 (10 years)
Mark Patenaude	09/01/2021 (3 years)
Deborah Bolinger-Elkoury	09/12/2022 (2 years)
Emily Kittredge	09/12/2022 (2 years)
Fawn Lanpher	09/19/2022 (2 years)
Beth Hammond	09/12/2023 (1 year)
Danielle Samuelson	09/26/2023 (1 year)

OCTOBER

Hellen Bard	10/11/2021 (3 years)
Sabrina Rossi	10/18/2022 (2 years)
Kathleen Hammond	10/25/2023 (1 year)

NOVEMBER

Hallie Bourgeois	11/01/2019 (5 years)
Richard Gioia	11/22/2021 (3 years)
Sal Acosta	11/20/2023 (1 year)

DECEMBER

Lindsay Barup	12/21/2016 (8 years)
Sheila Coolum	12/04/17 (7 years)
Shawn Grant	12/21/2022 (2 years)

SLP Anniversaries

(August – December 2024)

AUGUST

Megan Patenaude	08/01/99 (25 years!)
Jean Audet	08/01/16 (8 years)
Ila King	08/01/17 (7 years)
Thomas Rubman	08/16/19 (5 years)
Donald Taylor	08/23/21 (3 years)

SEPTEMBER

Kerri Fillion	09/27/17 (7 years)
Jason Metcalf	09/07/21 (3 years)
Judy Cheeseman	09/08/21 (3 years)
Virginia Griffen	09/30/22 (2 years)
Jody Benoit	09/20/23 (1 year)
Julie Williams	09/25/23 (1 year)

OCTOBER

Tina Tyrell	10/01/88 (36 years!)
Faye Cochran	10/01/99 (25 years!)
Jennifer Sherburne	10/01/07 (17 years)
Tina Lehouillier	10/01/07 (17 years)
Micheal Merchant	10/01/11 (13 years)
Elke & Ernest Jones	10/01/12 (12 years)
Penny Strong	10/15/18 (6 years)
Wendy Cookson	10/15/18 (6 years)
Gloria Young	10/22/19 (5 years)
Christine "DeeDee" LaRow	10/06/21 (3 years)
Mary Hunt	10/29/21 (3 years)
Faith Therrien	10/17/23 (1 year)

NOVEMBER

Carol Boivin	11/01/08 (16 years)
Erika Thompson	11/01/12 (12 years)
Christi Mason	11/01/17 (7 years)
Darcy Berthiame	11/15/17 (7 years)
Terence Siciliano	11/01/19 (5 years)
Justin Mollander	11/01/20 (4 years)
Katie Belvel	11/15/23 (1 year)

DECEMBER

Bill Coleman	12/01/14 (10 years)
Grace Bagalio	12/01/15 (9 years)
Marsha LaBree	12/01/16 (8 years)
Casey Sherburne	12/15/18 (6 years)
Jodi Hodgdon	12/01/20 (4 years)
Tammy LaPan	12/03/20 (4 years)
Millie Sequins	12/01/21 (3 years)
Amanda LaRock	12/16/21 (3 years)
Dorothy Leach	12/01/23 (1 year)
Julie Maskell	12/15/23 (1 year)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



GREEN MOUNTAIN SUPPORT SERVICES

93 James Road, Morrisville, VT 05661

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Web gmssvt.org