

GMSS REPORTER

GREEN MOUNTAIN SUPPORT SERVICES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

July 2025 (3rd Quarter newsletter)

GMSS Happenings

Tropical BBQ Party!

Join us in celebrating DSP Recognition week with a BBQ and lawn games. We look forward to celebrating with GMSS participants and Shared Living Providers!

Thursday, September 11th
Noon – 2:30pm



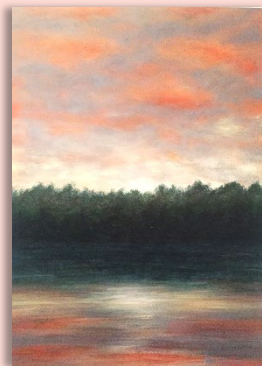
Bingo 2025

August 6th
August 20th
September 3rd
September 17th
October 1st
October 15th
October 29th
November 12th
November 26th
December 10th
December 19th

From 9:30-10:45 A.M.
At Green Mountain Support Services

Painting with Andrea

Wednesday
August 20th
9:30 – 11:00am



Everyone welcome!
All supplies provided

GMSS REPORTER



**ELIZABETH
WALTERS**
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Summer greetings, GMSS –

We are now actively in the transition to conflict-free case management! For those served in our Developmental Services and Brain Injury programs, introductory meetings with Benchmark and Columbus Group will be

scheduled in the next few weeks. GMSS will coordinate and host those meetings at the time and place that works best for our participants. For those served in our Adult Family Care program, introductory meetings will be scheduled later in the fall. While some people get excited by change, we know that others feel nervous. We can't make that feeling go away, but we can guarantee that GMSS will support each person we serve to make this transition as comfortable and successful as possible. If you have questions or concerns, reach out to us so that we can help.

This month, we were pleased to partner with Community College of Vermont's Career Pathway Entry Program to host CCV students who are considering careers in human services for shadow days in which they get to see what our work is about, and we get to meet potential future hires. We have been very fortunate lately and have seen a large volume of high-quality applicants both for employment and for shared living positions. We have nearly completed hiring for our new Specialized Care Team and will soon be adding another service coordinator to our team. It's always heartening to hear from people who applied because a current employee or shared living provider encouraged them. Thanks to those of you who have shared your positive experience with GMSS with others!

We continue to monitor changes being implemented by the federal government. One

critical impact we want to make sure you are aware of concerns Medicaid eligibility. Right now, individuals receiving Medicaid benefits need to recertify their eligibility every year. This is already a challenging administrative burden for people in long-term care, as any of you who have missed that all-important envelope in the mail knows all too well. The major legislation that was just passed will require people to recertify their eligibility twice a year – having a lifelong condition or disability does not exempt anyone from this requirement. There will also be new waiting periods for anyone who loses their eligibility. And, whereas now, people can get reinstated and have their Medicaid made retroactively eligible for ninety days, that retro window will shrink to thirty days. All these changes pose significant threats to access and stability. It will be critical that we work carefully to keep those we serve actively eligible for Medicaid.

In brighter news, members of our DSP team have been reorganizing our participant drop-in space to make it even more functional and inviting. This is a spot where any of our participants is welcome to drop in – to meet up with a friend, to use a computer, to take a quick break in the middle of a busy day in a place that has air conditioning and an accessible bathroom, etc. We want to give a special shout-out to Onika Curler (GMSS DSP), who stepped up to ask if she could organize a prom and did an amazing job. It was a wonderful time for all who attended! We hope you will join us for our next big upcoming events – Painting with Andrea on August 20 and, coinciding with our celebration of DSP Appreciation Week, our Tropical Barbecue on September 11. These events are for our participants, staff, and shared living providers and we hope to see you at them!

Elizabeth



Notice for GMSS Participants

2025 Participant Satisfaction Survey

Every year, we collect participant feedback so that we can be sure we are doing our very best. Your thoughts and feedback are important to us and your responses will be completely anonymous. All GMSS participants have been mailed a survey to complete and mail back. Or you may complete it online here: gmssvt.org/survey

We will collect responses through **August 11, 2025**. We will share the results in an upcoming GMSS Reporter. Thank you for making time to share your thoughts with us.

SHARE YOUR
THOUGHTS

WE'RE
LISTENING



Board Meetings

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



Upcoming SLP Trainings

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

SLP Annual Training Dates

In-person training meets 6hr training requirement

"Regulate, Relate, and Reason" Model: Keys to Helping People Build Trusting Relationships and Lead Better Lives, presented by David Cannamela and Al Vecchione
September 17, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Mental Health First Aid by Chris Young
September 26, 8:30am – 3:30pm

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Therapeutic Options
(Recertification, virtual)
August 8, 2025, 9:00am – 12:30pm
October 10, 2025, 9:00am – 12:30pm

Therapeutic Options
(In-person, full course)
September 10, 2025, 9:00am - 3:00pm)

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First Aid/CPR Certification
August 19, 9:30am – 1:30pm
September 16, 10:30am – 2:30pm



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Celebrating our GMSS Team

GMSS New Employee Spotlight

Welcome!

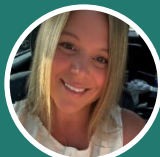
Andrea Adams

Direct Support Professional



Christa Barrett

Specialized Care Team DSP



Liza Bothfeld

Service Coordinator



Jennifer Fletcher

Specialized Care Team DSP



Damian Nichols

Direct Support Professional



Bo Patch

Direct Support Professional



Raechel Patch

Direct Support Professional



GMSS Anniversaries

(July – Sept)

GMSS Employees

Jeanine Chalue	7/13/2008	17yrs!
Alysia Coolum	7/31/2022	3yrs
Ashley Lafiria	7/17/2023	2yrs
Mike Molander	7/8/2024	1yr
Nicole Russell	7/28/2022	3yrs
Lisa Tilton	7/18/2016	9yrs
Danielle Tinker	7/18/2016	9yrs
Elizabeth Walters	7/1/2004	21yrs

Corey Cayton	8/29/2023	2yrs
Jared Coolum	8/14/2023	2yrs
Christina Greene	8/17/2020	5yrs
Amy Touchette	8/24/2004	21yrs

Danielle Samuelson	9/26/2023	2yrs
Emily Kittredge	9/12/2022	3yrs
Beth Hammond	9/12/2023	2yrs
Chelsey Roberts	9/09/2024	1yr
Mark Patenaude	9/1/2021	4yrs
Deb Bolinger	9/12/2022	3yrs
Dave Fleming	9/23/2014	11yrs

Shared Living Providers

Deborah Allen	7/7/2017	8yrs
Judy Boyce	7/1/2016	9yrs
Elizabeth Manfredi	7/1/2019	6yrs
Danette Powers	7/1/2021	4yrs
Jill Sweet	7/15/2021	4yrs

Megan Patenaude	8/1/1999	26 yrs!
Jean Audet	8/1/2016	9Yrs
Ila King	8/1/2017	8yrs
Donald Taylor	8/23/2021	4yrs
Thomas Rubman	8/16/2019	6yrs
Heather Ely	8/1/2024	1yr

Kerri Fillion	9/27/2017	8yrs
Jason Metcalf	9/7/2021	4yrs
Virginia Griffen	9/30/2022	3yrs
Jody Benoit	9/20/2023	2yrs
Julie Williams	9/25/2023	2yrs

Green Mountain Support Services

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