



IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1-2
Message from Mary-Anne
MDS Springs Forward
BDS Systems Work

Page 3
People at MDS
In Memory

Page 4-7
From Our Community

Page 8
News & Notes

Page 9
Community Support

Page 10
Legislative Update

Page 11
Resources



The mission of MDS is to work toward inclusion, participation and mutual relationships for all people who are at risk of isolation from their community.

www.mds-nh.org

Inclusion
Participation
Mutual Relationships



Message from Mary-Anne MDS Springs Forward ♦ BDS Systems Work

It's been three months now since I've been wearing this Executive Director hat, and I have to admit, it's been a bit of a whirlwind! I want to share with you what I'm seeing and my vision for where MDS is going.

We're in tough times. Extreme staff shortages at all levels continue to plague MDS and our provider agencies. Uncertainties in Concord and Washington affect funding and services. The world has been rocked by COVID, and we're still reeling (and learning) from its effects. Nonetheless, we continue to do what we do. We are dedicated to ensuring the health, safety and independence of the individuals and families we support by helping provide adequate resources, advocacy and services. This has always been and will always be our main priority.

Several decades ago, I started in this field as a DSP right here in our region, working with both children and adults. This provided me with a unique opportunity to see things from the inside, on the front lines. My work as DSP, Program Manager, Service Coordinator, Supervisor, and then Director of Operations has been invaluable and has deeply informed my perspective.

It's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day work, but it's also important we look to the future! Our efforts over the coming years will focus on:

- supporting individuals to be as independent as possible
- supporting families to be effective advocates for their family members
- making MDS better known in the community and building community partnerships
- supporting our staff and fostering a healthy work environment
- maximizing efficiencies and shoring up our internal processes

Our mission of inclusion, participation and mutual relationships continues to guide our work at all levels.

We are dedicated to providing innovative, high quality services for individuals with developmental disabilities and those with brain injuries. That is why we exist, and these efforts are how we will succeed.

I'm so proud to be working with all of you – staff, providers, individuals, and families – and I'm continually amazed at your commitment and compassion in all that you do. Thank you.

BDS Systems Work Impacts You—Stay Informed!

You may have noticed an uptick in our communications regarding “BDS Systems Work.” Several areas are being reviewed and redesigned by the NH Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS).

THE CLIPBOARD



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The Clipboard is an agency-wide MDS newsletter. All departments, families, individuals, and community organizations are invited to submit items to be included in the publication. The opinions expressed in articles are those of the people who have written and submitted the material. Therefore, the information contained in these articles is not necessarily the opinion of MDS.

Your suggestions are welcome. Send your comments or articles to:

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Message from Mary-Anne (continued from page 1)

Here's an overview of what's happening with the BDS Systems work:

Conflict Free Case Management

The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) states that an individual may not get both direct service and case management (service coordination) from the same agency. Specifically, anyone who receives traditional service from MDS-ISO or MDS-MCST now must choose either a new service coordination company or a new provider agency. The deadline for full compliance is July 2023. Currently MDS is at 95% compliance so we are well on our way!

Direct Billing

CMS also requires that all provider agencies be allowed to bill Medicaid directly. Our current system is designed with all provider agencies contracting through area agencies which do all billing. In the future, all provider agencies will have the option of doing their own billing or choosing to have the area agency provide their billing service.

Statewide Rate Development

In order to come into compliance with direct billing, the way in which funding is allocated to individuals must change. The current rate structure is outdated and does not always align with the needs of the individuals being supported. The goal is to create a rate structure that will have a more transparent methodology and ensure service costs are accurately accounted for.

Waiver Redesign

Currently the waiver system in New Hampshire offers only one Developmental Disability waiver. Moving forward, BDS is looking to separate the current DD Waiver into two waivers: a Supports Waiver – focused on supporting individuals whose needs are best served with more community-based services; and a Comprehensive Waiver – focused on supporting people who have complex needs, and need to access 24/7 residential and/or community-based services. BDS states the goal is to “improve access to the services that most effectively meet each individual’s needs and goals”.

Seems like a lot of changes, right? You are not alone if you are feeling somewhat overwhelmed with all this information! I would encourage you to check out the [BDS website](#) which speaks more specifically to each initiative.

More information and additional links can be found at <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/bds/systems.htm>.

How to find out more about BDS Systems Work:

- Attend bimonthly BDS Information Sessions via Zoom the first Thursday of every other month. The next session is scheduled for May 5, 2022, 6-7 p.m. As the date gets closer, we will be sure to send out the link. To catch up on earlier meetings, recordings of previous sessions can be found at: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/bds/system-of-work-sessions.htm>.
- Listen in and ask questions at the monthly Stakeholder Work Group sessions: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/bds/systems-stakeholders.htm>. You'll also find meeting minutes and Work Group stakeholder members listed.
- Sign up to receive email updates about BDS Systems Work. Email Maureen DiTomaso at Maureen.E.DiTomaso@dhhs.nh.gov.

People at MDS

MDS welcomes the following new staff members and those who have changed positions:

Sheila Mahon, formerly MCST Director, is now serving as MDS Director of Operations.

Martha Dougherty has been hired as Associate Director of MDS-ISO.

In Adult Services, **Greer Knowlton-Binns** and **Amy Lesko** have joined MDS as Adult Service Coordinators. Greer is working out of the Peterborough office. **Daniel Carney-Olmstead** has returned to the Adult Services department as an Adult Service Coordinator, after several years as Associate Director of MDS-ISO. **Christina Desrosiers** now serves as Administrative Assistant for the ASC department.

Nicole Dubriske has taken the position of Director of the Monadnock Center for Successful Transitions (MCST).

Kathryn (KC) Cotter has joined the Self-Directed Services team as an SDS Coordinator.

Billiejo Sweeney is the new Early Supports & Services Program Coordinator at MDS, working with families on early intervention.

Thinking about joining our team at MDS?

Monadnock Developmental Services offers a wide range of positions and opportunities, whether for those looking for a few extra hours a week, or those hoping for a lifelong career in the social services industry. MDS provides a positive environment in a professional setting which allows you to grow your skill set, and we often promote from within! We are a family-friendly employer and willing to work with those needing flexible schedules.

When working full time at MDS you are eligible for an array of benefits, while you help people be part of their community. Not only do we offer medical, dental, vision, and a 403(b) plan, we also automatically enroll you into our group life insurance and do a 5% match for 403(b) contributions! If that isn't enough, maybe our 11 paid holidays, up to 35 days of paid time-off, 12 sick days, and a \$750 signing bonus might pique your interest?

Employees of MDS directly impact the lives of the people we serve, not only working alongside them but building relationships within our community as well. If you want to make a positive impact in someone's life, call or email MDS at 603-352-1304 or employment@mds-nh.org.

~ In Memory ~

Over the past year, we have lost cherished members of our MDS community. Our condolences to the families and friends of those who have gone before us, all of whom are greatly missed.

Francine Marchand (February 2022)

Michael MacGregor (January 2022)

Jocelynn Marshall (January 2022)

John McDonald (January 2022)

David Hinckley (December 2021)

Paul Lefebvre (December 2021)

Norma Elliott (October 2021)

Bernice Rollins (October 2021)

Kevin Russell (October 2021)

David Collins (September 2021)

Steve Sherwin (September 2021)

Alexander Lafontaine (August 2021)

Cassandra Foley (June 2021)

Rita Farwell (May 2021)

Free Tax Help!

Call 211 or visit nhtaxhelps.org to schedule a virtual appointment with an IRS certified tax preparer.

Visit MyFreeTaxes.com to prepare your own return for free online (income limits may apply)

LOCAL RESOURCES:

The River Center rivercenternh.org

603-924-6800

Vose Farm Road, Peterborough NH

VITA (Larry Schwartz)

603-525-3312

Depot Square, Peterborough NH

From Our Community

My life...

Hi, my name is Charlene Scott and I just want to share with you about myself, if you don't mind. You see, I just turned 66 years old last August and I am beyond blessed. Who would expect that I am still happily alive and kicking? I had a ruptured brain aneurysm in 2002 that caused me to have short-term memory loss, and according to my family back then, almost everyone thought I wouldn't make it. But God has other reasons.

I was in a coma for three months with a tracheostomy and one day I heard the voice of my daughter who had already passed away, who said: "Mom, open your eyes, you have family and friends waiting to take you home." And just like that...I woke up from my coma.

So, despite having a physical disability, short-term memory loss, and now I'm in the middle of my radiation and chemo treatments, I still have the tenacity, strength, and drive to accomplish my dreams. I am beyond grateful as God allows me to breathe this far. This is my testimony — I want to encourage everyone to have the courage to "Accept what is, let go of what was, and have faith in what will be." I can definitely say that I am a fighter! I can do this again! I am ME and I am unique!

I became a Christian after my aneurysm and then I cut some things out of my life that were harmful to me. I pray that I will remain with Jesus for the rest of my life. I also would like to stay with Peter and Rachel, my Home Providers, until I die. I have been with them since 2008 and consider them my family.

I don't want to move to another place anymore. Both my parents died a long time ago. I have two children (a son and a daughter) but my daughter died in a horrible fire. She died instantly and went to heaven. On the other hand, my son and I had a conversation several months ago and I'm praying that he'll find a place of his own and that his family is doing well and are safe.

One of the things that makes me happy is that I volunteer at Community Kitchen every Wednesday.



On the occasion of her 66th birthday, Charlene shares her journey over the past 20 years following a brain aneurysm. During a recent trip to Mohegan Sun, she was able to explore, relax and enjoy!

I've been doing this since 2008. My job or assignment there is to distribute groceries/goods to people that come to get things and I have to make sure that they get the correct number of items, as instructed to me by the management.

Helping distribute goodies makes me useful to the community and I am proud of it. However, due to the COVID-19, the Community Kitchen is not allowing some volunteers (and I'm one of them) to come for safety reasons. I am looking forward to when all things are back to normal.

Oh, how I love Dunkin' Donuts coffee, and Friday is my favorite day of all because that's my restaurant lunch out. My hobbies are doing coloring books, word hunt, and playing rummy, which I am good at. I also love mathematics. I am a math wizard. Ask me about math and I'll give you my answer.

Last September, I went for vacation at Mohegan Sun with Peter and Rachel, and as usual we all had a blast. I'll tell you that Mohegan Sun makes me a joyous woman. That place is impeccable... great service, lots of great restaurants, band shows which I was able to watch, and just a place to relax and enjoy. I rented a scooter that helped me to explore that beautiful place. Though I couldn't get a win on any slot machines I played, what is important is that I had fun.

I am forever grateful, thankful, and blessed for all the people that support me, Rachel and Peter, who I consider my family, Vikki - RRI Program Manager, Beth - MDS Case Manager, and Eric - my Guardian.

My friends, remember that today will never come again. So be a blessing, a friend, and be kind always. Stay healthy everyone.

Contributed by Charlene Scott, reprinted with permission from RRI's January 2022 newsletter

From Our Community

Cindy's Sugar-Free Pumpkin Pie

Cindy Bunszel has been working hard over the last two years to learn how to manage Diabetes. As a result, she has learned a lot about healthier eating and ways to prepare the foods she likes with healthier ingredients.

Cindy and staff have been cooking together, trying to make healthy, Diabetes-friendly recipes. Cindy feels that this has been very helpful to her and wanted to share this information with others.

Cindy's Pie Recipe

Preheat oven to 425°

You need:

- One 15 oz. canned pumpkin (not pumpkin pie filling)
- 1/4 cup baking Splenda (or store brand)
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. ginger
- 2 beaten eggs
- 1 can evaporated milk
- 1 prepared single pie crust

I usually buy the pumpkin, canned milk, store brand Splenda, and the refrigerated pie crusts in the box that you unroll and put in pan yourself. I shop at Aldi's because it fits my budget!

Put pie crust in a pie pan.

Mix all other ingredients together in a bowl and then pour in pie crust. I put the pie pan on a cookie sheet because sometimes it spills.



Cindy cooks up her sugar-free pumpkin filling and sometimes puts it into six custard cups for a tasty snack in the evening.

Put pie in 425° oven and bake for 15 minutes. Don't open door but turn oven down to 350° and cook for about 45 minutes more. The pie is done when you stick a knife in it and it comes out clean. Let it cool.

For the topping, you can buy sugar-free whipped cream (or just take heavy cream and beat it with a mixer until it becomes whipped cream). Put the whipped cream on one piece at a time as you eat it.

By the way, this pie is really good even if you don't need to watch your diet.

Another great idea: Sometimes I make it in custard cups with no crust. Just cook it for a lot less time, like 20 minutes. It makes six and is really good night time treat!

I hope you like my recipe. I got healthy eating this.

Contributed by Cindy Bunszel.

From Our Community

Preparing to Live On My Own

My name is Brianna and I would like to share with you a little bit about what I have been doing remotely during COVID, to prepare me to live on my own.

What are some of the things you have been doing?

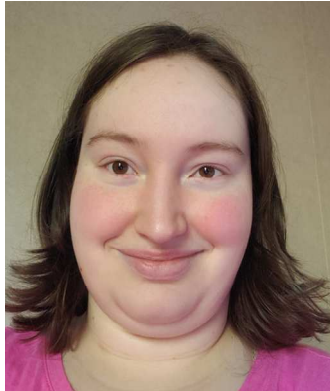
I meet with my MCST staff online using Zoom to practice skills that I will use when I am living on my own. For example, I am using an interactive program called Prodigy where I am practicing my math skills. Because most recipes are made for more than one person and I will only be cooking for myself, I need to know how to reduce the recipes. This is where learning fractions will be very helpful.

We explore the web, sharing screens and searching for instructional videos and articles for things like setting up a budget, organizing my home, and time management for when I get a job. One of my goals is to work and/or volunteer once COVID ends, but I'm not quite sure what will be the best fit for me.

Anything else?

I have been learning how to become more organized and how to schedule my time better by watching YouTube videos to learn how to use Google apps for calendars and timers. I am setting my alarm so that I will be able to get up on time. This is helping me to keep a schedule for any job or volunteering in the future, and to be able to make my own appointments, like the doctor, hair appointments or just getting together with my friends. Managing my time is very important in order for me to get everything done in a day that needs to get done, like my chores. I also use an app called Whisk to help me in the kitchen by keeping a grocery list of things that I need to buy and how long to cook certain foods.

I am continuing to build my interviewing skills that I started at Project SEARCH. I want to work or volunteer when COVID is over. I watch PowerPoint presentations showing how to prepare for an interview and how to answer interview questions. I am also learning how to handle different work and social situations. There are "what would you do if" questions that I answer. These help me when I am out in the community. For example, when I am at the grocery store and I don't know where to find something, it helps me to find the right person and ask the right questions. I am more comfortable "coming out of my shell" and talking with someone I don't know.



Brianna shares what she has been doing during the pandemic to prepare to live on her own. Lots of great tips here!

What are some other ways you are using Zoom?

When I am on Zoom with staff, I can also log into Khan Academy for online learning. Through Khan Academy I have practiced math and measurements, and learned more about career options and financial information. When I am grocery shopping, I need to know how much money I have and can spend. If I have to buy more than one of the same item, I need to know how much it will cost.

I have also joined a self-advocacy group called Connections – All About Us*. We meet once a month on Zoom to learn about how to better advocate for our choices and plan our goals. We have a small group now and would like more people to join us! We have learned how to use a split screen in order to share life skills tools. For example, we have an "All About Me" self-exploration sheet that we worked on together. We use fun tools like an Integrated Strength Star where we talk about what people like and admire about us, what is important to us and how to best support ourselves. We use a Trajectory tool that's like a staircase to find the steps it takes to accomplish our goals. There are virtual workshops for self-advocates and families like Charting the LifeCourse. The skills that I am learning will be very helpful when I am on my own and out in the community. The better I know myself the more self-confidence I have.

Any final thoughts?

I am very grateful for being able to meet on Zoom and continue what I began at Project SEARCH. I have continued to work on the skills necessary for me to become independent and eventually live in my own apartment. I am learning how to comparison shop for groceries, how to get organized and keeping my job search and interviewing skills sharp.

Contributed by Brianna Barnes, with assistance from Marion Langenberg, Vocational Trainer.

* The Connections – All About Us self-advocacy group meets the third Monday of each month from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Come join one of our meetings and see what we do. Meetings are posted on the [MDS Training Calendar](#) with the Zoom link to each session. For information, contact Mari Schacht, mari@mds-nh.org or 603-352-1304, x212.

From Our Community

Last summer Mari Schacht, MDS Training & Quality Coordinator, had surgery to repair her Achilles tendon, putting her off her feet for many weeks. During that recovery period, she wanted to set a goal for getting back on track.

“Being able to participate in Run~Walk~Smile on October 30th became my future wellness and recovery goal — nine weeks post-surgery. Hey, everyone has to have goals and if it helps MDS, all the better!”

At that time she couldn’t promise how she would complete it. “Hopefully on my own two feet, but perhaps with the support of my i-walk/scooter/crutches - or the help of the grandies.”

On race day, Mari walked the 1-mile foot race. Her grandson Ben walked with her to make sure she would be safe.

“He offered to pick me up if I fell and to get the wheelbarrow if I needed a lift!”

What a great accomplishment, and all done for a good cause. Thank you, Mari.

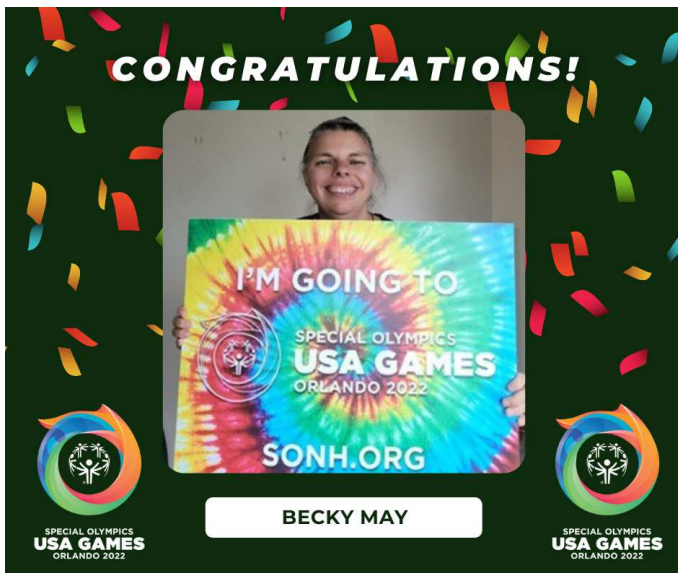


Mari, with grandson Ben, crossed the finish line to complete the Run~Walk~Smile 1-Mile race on crutches. Big smiles behind those masks!

Area Athletes Will Attend USA Games in June

It’s been another big year for local Special Olympians. Seven athletes from the Monadnock Region are headed to Orlando in June for the Special Olympics USA Games 2022.

Emily Edick of Dublin (Monadnock Valley Patriots), **Jack Elkan** of Marlow (Keene High School), and **Russell Putnam** of Alstead (Fall Mountain) are on the Athletics team. **Becky May** of Keene (Keene Parks & Recreation) and brothers **Dylan and Dalton Coyne** of Hancock (Monadnock Valley Patriots) are on the Basketball team. **Sean Anderson** of Alstead (Fall Mountain) and **Gail Jarest** of Peterborough (Monadnock Valley Patriots) will play Bocce. By the way, Becky May has been participating in Special Olympics NH since she was eight years old. Find out more about the NH USA Games Team at <https://fundraising.sonh.org/event/usa-games>.



Penguin Plunge Local Fundraising a Success

For this year’s Penguin Plunge, the Frozen Sections fundraising team once again raised significant funds for Special Olympics NH. Dr. Dan Rath gathered the team for this year’s local plunge, and together they raised more than \$23,000.

Above left, Becky May is going to the Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando in June 2022.

Left, the Frozen Sections raised more than \$23,000 for this year’s Penguin Plunge, local but live!

News & Notes

A Good Reminder for All of Us: 5 Tips on Person-Centered Language

Person-Centered Language may seem a lot like politically correct language, where you replace one word or phrase with a politically correct word or phrase that others have decided to impose on a group, although no one under 5'2" has ever preferred to be called "vertically challenged." This is not that.

Person-Centered Language is about respecting and empowering people with disabilities on their terms. Working with self-advocates, we consider language that communicates "Power With" instead of "Power Over." We may give examples of saying things more respectfully, but we're not just replacing words or phrases. We're demonstrating respect.

Here are five tips to help guide you:

1. Use common language instead of clinical language or acronyms.

Example: Say, "She needs help with day-to-day life," instead of "She is low functioning with ADLs."

2. Don't define people by their disability.

Example: Say, "He has an intellectual disability," not "He is intellectually disabled." Please note that we never correct people with disabilities if they choose to identify this way. Someone with autism may say, "I'm autistic." We would say, "He has autism."

3. Empower People instead of Rescuing People.

We advocate with people, not for them. We don't stand or speak for them; instead, we stand and speak with them. When we rescue, we unintentionally communicate that we are dissimilar to them. We have "othered" them.

4. Let's not suggest that disability equals helplessness.

When we say "non-verbal," we are suggesting that person doesn't communicate. Instead, let's clarify how they communicate. Example: "Mark doesn't use words. He lets us know what he wants with gestures." Additionally, this tip

supports ability rather than disability. Phrases such as "wheelchair-bound" and "suffers from" imply others should pity. While the people we support want compassion and patience with their challenges, they don't want pity. "Jenny uses a wheelchair to get around" is accurate and doesn't illicit pity.

5. Be careful not to patronize.

"Oh my gosh, you tied your shoes! You're so smart!" That can come across as condescending. While some may love it, others may not. Pay attention and learn your audience.

Using Person-Centered Language in your day-to-day support is respectful, professional, and is the right thing to do. By doing so, we have listened and are acting on what we have heard – we are using language that communicates to people.

Reprinted from IntellectAbility, a resource group that provides tools and training for person-centered support of vulnerable populations. Find out more online at replacingrisk.com.

Self-Advocate Connections – All About Us

The Connections – All About Us self-advocacy group is a safe and friendly group that meets the third Monday of each month via Zoom from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

What is Self-Advocacy?

Self-advocacy is about making connections and friendships. It's about learning how to speak up for yourself, thinking about what your own good-life should look like, and how to move in that direction.

The Connections – All About Us group is a safe place to learn about our rights and responsibilities, talk about things that we are struggling with or hoping for, make connections in our communities, and share our thoughts.

For more information, come join one of our meetings and see what we do. We like to have fun and invite you to join us.

You can find meetings posted on the [MDS training calendar](#) which is where you'll find the Zoom link to each session.

Contact Mari Schacht, by email: mari@mds-nh.org or by phone: 603-352-1304, ext 212.

Community Support

Waterhouse in March for MDS—Equinox

There's still time during the month of March to stop in at Waterhouse Restaurant in Peterborough to order an MDS Specialty Drink. For each Equinox sold in the month of March, \$5 goes to MDS.

The Equinox is a deliciously dressed-up version of a spritzer, featuring Absolut Citron vodka, Sauvignon Blanc, Bianco vermouth, and Maine Root hand-crafted mandarin orange bubbly, spritzed with fresh lemon juice.

Be sure to stop by Waterhouse Restaurant and order your Equinox cocktail, where you can sip away in the happy knowledge that you've made a donation to support the critical needs of those served by MDS.

Our thanks to Waterhouse for their support!



Sheila Mahon enjoys an Equinox, the nonprofit specialty drink created by star bartender Fenia (left) at Waterhouse Restaurant. Delish!

WONDERING IF YOUR CHILD IS MEETING THEIR DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES?

Early Supports & Services (ESS) are available for children birth to age three with developmental concerns. Families can receive a developmental evaluation for their child at no cost to the family. Call 603-352-1304 for more information.

MILESTONES MATTER: LET'S TALK ABOUT THEM!

MILESTONES AT 4 MONTHS

- Begins to babble
- Responds to affection



MILESTONES AT 6 MONTHS

- Likes to play with others
- Responds to own name



MILESTONES AT 9 MONTHS

- Has favorite toys
- Understands "no"



MILESTONES AT 1 YEAR

- Tries to say words you say
- Waves "bye-bye"



MILESTONES AT 2 YEARS

- Begins to run
- Begins to sort shapes, colors



MILESTONES AT 3 YEARS

- Knows name and age
- Climbs and runs well



Get free milestone checklists for these ages and more at www.cdc.gov/Milestones or by calling 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

Developed in partnership by the University of Missouri and the US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Legislative Update

NH House and Senate Still Working on Bills in Preparation for Crossover on March 31st

This is a busy time for legislators and advocates, and it will stay that way through June. As of the second week of March, the NH House and Senate are almost to the half-way point in the 2022 NH Legislative Session.

The next few weeks will see both legislative bodies wrapping up their bills in committees, and then sending those bills to their full legislative body for a floor vote. Generally speaking, any bills that pass the full originating legislative body would then cross over to the other legislative body for consideration. The deadline in the House and Senate for 2022 bills to cross over is March 31st.

Once a bill crosses over to the other legislative body, the bill process begins again. The bill is assigned a committee, a public hearing is held, and amendments can be made on the bill. We are fortunate as NH citizens to have at least two opportunities to speak/weigh in at a public hearing before any bill goes to the Governor.

Update on Bills in Process:

Community Support Network, Inc. (CSNI) has identified nearly 100 pieces of legislation (bills) during the 2022 session that may be of interest to area agencies, individuals and families who are involved with the Developmental Disability services system. Here are a few that we are keeping an eye on.

***Special Education in Charter Schools* HB1141**

HB1141 started described as: "Relative to special education in charter schools". However, a proposed amendment would completely replace the current bill language and change the title to "Relative to the special education process for individual education plans (IEP)". This new language could significantly change the protections of special education here in New Hampshire. We are watching closely.

***Healthcare Facility Workplace Violence Prevention* SB459-FN**

SB459-FN is described as an act relative to a health care facility workplace violence prevention program. We were just made aware of this bill and potential implications for the area agencies, and are still evaluating its impact.

***Adult Dental Benefit Under Medicaid* HB103 and SB422**

Human service advocates have worked for many years to add a comprehensive/preventative adult dental benefit to NH's Medicaid program. The goal is for adults on Medicaid to visit providers for oral health care, and Medicaid would cover those costs.

Last year's dental bills didn't pass. This year, two more bills (HB103 and SB422) seek to get this benefit implemented; the House and the Senate have versions they are working on. The Senate is expected to pass their SB422, with the legislation on the Senate floor for vote in late March. The House has HB103, which also seeks to establish the adult dental benefit. Floor votes in both houses are expected by late March.

***DD Pilot Program for Young Adults* SB430**

Since 2019, there have been various legislative attempts to amend RSA 171-a, relative to school enrollment status and age and how those two factors may affect DD Medicaid waiver eligibility.

DHHS has requested SB430 to address this issue in 2022. One section of this bill establishes a pilot program for individuals with developmental disabilities who are between ages 18-21 and are enrolled in school. SB430 has already passed the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and is awaiting action the Finance committee.

***Requiring Local School Districts to Allow Students over age 21 to Remain in School* SB394 and HB1513**

Two bills would modify the definition of "child with a disability" to include persons up to 21 years of age and for the school year during which they turn 21. Currently, some school districts in NH allow students with disabilities to continue their education beyond age 21. However, many require students to leave school on or near their 21st birthday, regardless of their learning progress. This legislation will provide much clarity to an important issue for students and families in transition.

Contributed by CSNI and Sue Walthour, MDS Legislative Liaison. To get details and progress on bills, visit <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/>.

Resources

New Hampshire Resources

ABLE NH

2 1/2 Beacon Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2336
www.ablenh.org

Advocates for the civil and human rights of all children and adults with disabilities. Promotes full participation by improving systems of supports, connecting families, inspiring communities, and influencing public policy.

Disabilities Rights Center

64 N. Main Street, Suite 2
Concord, NH 03302
(800) 834-1721 (603) 228-0432
www.drcnh.org

Provides advocacy assistance, information and referral services to families and individuals with disabilities.

Governor's Commission on Disability

121 South Fruit Street, Suite 101
Concord, NH 03301
(800) 852-3405 (603) 271-2773
www.nh.gov/disability

Information and referral service, Client Assistance Program for vocational rehab clients, Barrier Free Committee, and newsletter.

NH Council on Developmental Disabilities

2 1/2 Beacon Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3236
www.nhddc.org

Recommends policy and advocates for legislative change on issues affecting people with developmental disabilities. Not a direct service agency, but likes to hear your thoughts.

NH Family Voices

129 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-4525
www.nhfv.org

Family organization that provides services to families and professionals caring for children with special health care needs and/or disabilities. network of families speaking on behalf of children with special health care needs.



People Can't Wait

Make your voice heard during this Legislative Season!

Check the MDS website or sign up for email updates.

Contact Sue Walthour, SueW@mds-nh.org.



Looking for rewarding part-time work?

Are you dedicated, creative, committed, team-oriented, with a good sense of humor?

MDS is hiring part-time Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) for children and adults in Keene and Peterborough.

You could make a huge difference in someone's life!

Call 603-352-1304 or send an email to us at employment@mds-nh.org for more information.



Inclusion • Participation • Mutual Relationships

MDS is hiring! Email employment@mds-nh.org

Medicaid False Claims Act

False claims are not claims with innocent billing mistakes. False claims include services that are:

- Not rendered
- Upcoded
- Not supported by patient's medical record
- Part of a previously submitted claim

Watch a brief video on the False Claims Act to help you understand and comply with this law:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbZ78QTLztQ&feature=youtu.be>

Want to file a complaint?

Call 1-855-450-3593

To file a complaint with the Bureau of Developmental Services, call 1-855-450-3593.

After you file a complaint, an investigator will contact you directly.

Medicaid Care Management

MCM Enrollment Information
(888) 901-4999 dhhs.nh.gov

MCM General Telephone
(603) 271-4344 nheasy.nh.gov

Providers:

AmeriHealth Caritas (833) 704-1177

NH Healthy Families (866) 769-3085

Well Sense Health Plan (877) 957-1300

Respite Providers Needed

Part time hours with flexibility.

Contact hr@mds-nh.org



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What's in this issue? Spring 2022

- BDS Systems Work Impacts You—Stay Informed!
- Self-Advocacy Connection
- Legislative Update
- Thinking About Joining the MDS Team?
- From Our Community
- People at MDS

MDS Offices will be closed:

**Monday, May 30
Memorial**

**Monday, July 4
Independence Day**

March is DD Awareness Month



What's coming up? For upcoming events, visit the MDS Events Calendar at www.mds-nh.org.

Join the MDS email list!

Receive MDS updates and news electronically. To sign up, contact your Service Coordinator or email Lurleen@mds-nh.org.

 Find us on
Facebook