



Dear Colleagues, Community Partners, and CSHN Families,

Here in the Northern Hemisphere, March marks the start of Spring. Even when we are still shoveling snow and bundling the kids to go outside, the promise of warmer days and spring flowers is just beneath the surface. We begin to get hints of a change. This year the spring equinox is March 20th – new beginnings and new growth.

How fitting that the *March edition of CSHN Connections is the first newsletter edition to not only include the voice of our family partners, but also to be sent to our CSHN families across the state!*

We are beyond excited to have the opportunity to further collaborate with our CSHN family partners as contributors to our newsletter. So, without further ado, a word (or a few words) from one of our family partners:

"Hi everyone, it is such an honor to be a part of the newsletter team at CSHN. I love how much input we get to have as parents of complex kiddos. Our voices are getting to be heard even more now. I'm excited to take this next journey with them and all of you! In the words of John Michael Montgomery, "life's a dance, you learn as you go" and being a special needs parent feels exactly like that. We learn as we go, so here's to learning more in our newsletter this month. We hope you enjoy the read!"

CSHN Connections Team and Family Partners

*If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact
AHS.VDHCSHN@vermont.gov*

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Program Spotlight

Children's Personal Care Services

Children's Personal Care Services (CPCS) is a Medicaid program for children under age 21 that provides financial assistance to families to hire one-on-one support for eligible children and youth with a long-term health condition or disability, who need help completing their age-appropriate, medically necessary activities of daily living (bathing, grooming, dressing, eating, toileting, mobility, and transfers).

CPCS is an Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) service, which means Vermont Medicaid beneficiaries birth up to age 21 are entitled to medically necessary services needed to achieve proper growth and development, or to prevent the worsening of a health condition.

Some program activities include:

- Ongoing training to Designated Agencies and community partners to administer CPCS assessments.
- Collaborative work across AHS to strengthen the system of care, through policy work, rulemaking, and workgroup participation and leadership.
- Administrative and clinical review of approximately 600 CPCS assessments annually; writing/mailling notice of decision letters; prior authorizations for CPCS budgets in Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS).
- Resource consultation and support for families of enrolled children and transition age youth to access adult services.

Calendar year 2025 program data:

- 1,274 children and youth were enrolled in CPCS
- 701 CPCS assessments processed
- 4-day average to process a complete application and send a decision letter

What we're excited for in 2026

- Updating our program documents and website to be more accessible.
- Continuing to work with CSHN Family Partners to seek input and family expertise on program documents and processes.

To learn more about our program and available resources visit our [website](#).

Community Partner Spotlight



Red, green and yellow cord wrapped on white surface. Yellow cord leading to ball of cord.

Community Partner Spotlight: **ARIS Solutions**

ARIS Solutions (ARIS) is a non-profit organization that provides financial, administrative, and tax related services for multiple programs across the state of Vermont. They serve as Vermont's contracted fiscal agent offering payroll and administrative services to employers who hire and supervise their own employees.

As part of their mission, ARIS is committed to providing innovative, high-quality and efficient services to individuals and families with a person-centered approach.

As the fiscal agent for [Children's Personal Care Services](#) (CPCS), ARIS offers families easy access to necessary program forms directly through their website. These resources help manage the care for children authorized for CPCS.

Forms available include:

- [Printable Employer Packet](#)
- [Electronic Employer Packet](#)
- [Printable Employee Hiring Packet](#)
- [Electronic Employee Hiring Packet](#)
- [CPCS Timesheet](#)
- [CPCS Legally Responsible Adult Info Form](#)
- [CPCS Legally Responsible Adult Payment Form](#)
- [CPCS Payroll Schedule](#)

Did you know that families who are accessing Legally Responsible Adult payments can do so through an ARIS online portal? Learn more [here!](#) This is much more convenient than

having to mail a timesheet each pay period.

Have more questions? Visit the ARIS [website](#) , give them a call at (800) 798-1658 or send them an email: financial@arissolutions.org.

CSHN Updates



Two youth working together on tablet, both wearing blue sweatshirts.

CSHN Updates

- New Resource Alert Our website now has a [Medical Homes Resource](#) to share about what Medical Homes and some of their benefits are.
 - There is proposed policy for CSHN's High-Tech Nursing Program. If you'd like to know more, see the policy summary; public comment is open through March, 26, 2026: [High-Tech Nursing Services Reimbursement Rate Alignment](#)
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Resources for Families



Adult in red sweat shirt adjusting settings on tri-wheeled chair, youth in grey shirt seated in chair.

Resources for Families

- Spring is around the corner! Along with the flowers and warmer temperatures come less pleasant aspects of the season. Tick season is just about year 'round now in Vermont. Whenever you spend time outdoors, its possible ticks are nearby. Taking simple steps to protect yourself and loved ones from tick bites and the illnesses they spread is important. Check out the updated information for how to [Prevent Tick Bites & Tick Bite Illnesses](#). For detailed age specific information about tick prevention, see this link: [Preventing Tick Bites](#).
- **Vermont intake and eligibility for Developmental Services (DS) is now centralized through [Public Consulting Group \(PCG\)](#).** For more information about this change for Developmental Services intake, check out their website for more details on programs and how to reach out. [PCG DDSD Intake Process](#)

Developmental Disabilities Services Division (DDSD) Intake & Eligibility Team

PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP

Helping Vermonters Apply for Developmental Disabilities Services

Who We Are

The DDSD Intake & Eligibility Team provides statewide, centralized support to help individuals and families apply for Developmental Disabilities Services in Vermont

Public Consulting Group (PCG) has served as Vermont's DS Intake & Eligibility Team since August 2025.

Programs We Support

- Bridge Care Coordination
- DS Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)
- DS Targeted Case Management (TCM)
- Flexible Family Funding
- Family Managed Respite

Key Responsibilities of the DDSD Intake and Eligibility Team:

- Sharing information about DDSD services and available resources
- Confirming financial eligibility
- Coordinating records and evaluations to determine clinical eligibility
- Submitting clinical information to DDSD for eligibility decisions
- Assist with scheduling and completing SIS-Needs Assessment
- Providing unbiased options counseling for case management services
- Support an individual with choosing a CMO
- Coordinate any evaluations for redetermination cases

<https://ddsd.vermont.gov/apply-dd-services> (833) 426-5668 VTDDSDIntake@pcgus.com

PCG flyer with blue background, white lettering.

- The University of Vermont Occupational Therapy program in collaboration with the Physical Therapy, Communication Sciences, and Biomedical Engineering programs are creating a **Go Baby Go** chapter serving children and families in Vermont.

- Looking for **food access** resources? Check out CSHN Connections Newsletter from November 2025 for articles and links to resources. You can find that newsletter here: [CSHN-Connection-November-2025.pdf](#). And don't forget the Vermont Foodbank website [Find a Food Shelf - Vermont Foodbank](#).

Want to reach the **CSHN Care Consultant** for your area? Local contact info is available on our website: [CSHN Service Area](#).

Please consider sharing these resources with the families you serve and others at your organizations.

Policy Corner



Green shamrocks.

Vermont Policy Updates

No applicable policy updates to share.

However, there is a note in the February 20, 2026 Gainwell Banner about MD Referral is Not Required for Outpatient Re/hab Therapy services. To read that Banner, please visit the Vermont Medicaid Website, Banners, at [Vermont Medicaid Portal](#).

If you have questions about any of the GCRs above or wish to be added to **email notifications for Global Commitment waivers** please email AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov.

Community Happenings

EVENTS

Chittenden County - [Market 32 & Price Chopper Adaptive Programs/Events](#) – Monthly activity offered (guardian participation required). Free, but registration required. March 21st, Spare Time Bowling. April 23rd will be Gardening, location TBD check back on website for details as it gets closer.

Chittenden and surrounding counties: **VCHIP** with partnership from **UVM/Golisano Children's hospital at UVM** are gathering input from patients *age 12 and older* and their caregivers who carry a diagnosis of intellectual disability, developmental delay, and/or autism spectrum disorder in the inpatient hospital setting. We are particularly hoping to understand what individuals are experiencing during their hospital stays and how these experiences may differ as patients move from pediatric to adult care environments. The insights gained will directly guide improvements in how we deliver inpatient care for neurodivergent young adults and their caregivers.

Patients can find the survey here: <https://redcap.med.uvm.edu/surveys/?s=K78HXP3XECA8XRAL>

Windsor County: [Montshire Museum of Science Sensory Hour](#)

- March 21st, 9:00-10:00am, free
- April 18th, 9:00-10:00am, free
- Sensory Friendly Hours offer a quieter and less crowded visit with sensory support supplies.

Windsor County: Saturday, MARCH 21st 10-12 ❄️ **FREE Nature & Sensory-Based Winter Play** ❄️

This nature-and sensory-based snowy winter play experience is designed for children *ages 3–6 and their caregiver*,

offering hands-on winter activities that support learning, development, and meaningful connection through play.

Where: North Springfield, VT Reservoir

Meet at parking lot on Maple Street, near backside of airport

To register: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/z40wskqNMyurZEY3cmuGxg
[\[secure.lglforms.com\]](#) or krista.wilson@sapcc-vt.org, (802) 886-5242

Windsor County: **Special Needs Support Center** in White River Junction is starting a new support group beginning in April. This support group is for any members of the community, not just folks with disabilities. The support group is for those feeling isolated or alone. Space is limited and requires sign up: richard@spsc-uv.org or 603-448-6311.

PACT is back!! 4-5:30, (Monthly) Parenting topics and playgroup for children with neurodiversity.

TOPIC: Nutrition for Selective Eaters

Each event begins with playgroup and time for families to freely connect with others.

PACT (Parenting Autistic Children Together) is open to any families regardless of diagnosis- anyone who feels they may benefit from an inclusive environment and want to meet other families/ learn more are welcome!

Where: TLC 62 Pleasant St, Claremont, NH

Registration required (for needed preparation): ess@pathwaysnh.org

From **Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center:**

Help to improve care for children with chronic health conditions at DHMC

Are you a parent or caregiver of a child with special health care needs who has undergone outpatient procedures, tests, or imaging at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center? Researchers at Dartmouth College want to hear your story. **Your experiences and insights are important to helping us better support families like yours.**

WHY?
Dartmouth College is conducting a research study about the experiences of children and youth with special health care needs and their families when they have outpatient procedures and tests (such as X-rays, sleep studies, EEGs, EKGs) at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Your experiences and insights are important to helping us better support families like yours.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?
Parents or primary caregivers (18 and older) of children and youth who:
● Have special health care needs
● Have had outpatient procedures, tests, or imaging at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

- One 45-60 minute interview, conducted by phone or Zoom
- Sharing your experiences and thoughts about your child's care
- Your privacy will be protected, all identifying information will be kept confidential
- You will receive a \$50 gift card as a thank you
- Your participation is voluntary and will not affect your child's care

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact the research team directly or scan the QR code:

Joel King, Research Coordinator
Email: joel.king@dartmouth.edu Phone: (603) 646-5639



Statewide: **Brain Injury Alliance of Vermont Support Groups:**

Manchester VT 5:00PM - March 9th, April 13th

Burlington VT 4:00PM - March 10th, April 14th

Young Adult Burlington VT 6:00PM - March 12th, April 9th

Virtual 5:30 PM - March 16, April 20th

Morrisville VT 11:00AM - March 17, April 21st

Barre VT 12:00PM - March 17, April 21st

In the month of April, we are partnering with Farmhouse Tap and Grill to fundraise for BIAVT with their Special Burger. Contact support@biavt.org for more information.

Vermont Family Network Annual Conference: "Pathways Through Change:

Empowering Families at Every Stage": April 28, 2026, 8-3:30 at the UVM Davis Center.

Vermont Family Network's annual conference will be held on Tuesday, April 28th, 2026, between 8:00 am – 3:30 pm at the UVM Davis Center. This conference brings together families, professionals, advocates, and youth to share in a day of learning and connection. Workshop descriptions, agenda, and a link to register can be found at: <https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/events-news/annual-conference/>

Statewide: **Vermont Family Network's Leadership Café Series**

Free food + real talk with families who get it? Yes, please.

Join Vermont Family Network for a relaxed gathering designed for families of children with special health care needs. Share stories, make connections, and pick up practical tools to navigate the tough stuff—together. Food is on us!

- St. Johnsbury – March 24, Cobleigh Public Library
- White River Junction – April 7, Hartford Library

More dates coming in the future.

Questions or to RSVP: emmy.hilliard@vtfn.org

Statewide: **ICC & Access Day Conference** Friday, April 3, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The Capitol Plaza, Montpelier, VT

Presented by the Community College of Vermont. RSVP at Link:

<https://admissions.ccv.edu/register/ICC-AccessDay26>



ICC flyer with white and pastel colored background, black lettering.

Join us for a collaborative, informative, and fun-filled day focused on two CCV initiatives that support middle and high school students: **Access Days** and the **Introduction to College & Careers** course.

Everyone is welcome to attend, including counselors, teachers, ICC faculty, CCV staff, and others who are interested in learning more.

If you have questions, please contact James.Wolfe@CCV.edu. Lunch will be provided.

WEBINARS

Webinar Live - April 16, 4pm – Right on Time!

Considerations for Prescription of Adaptive Equipment in Young Children with Developmental Delay

Registration Link: <https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/5BYZYqw2S2CDOK7PILhSlg>



Right on Time flyer with blue background, yellow banners and varied colored lettering.

Webinar: **All Brains Belong: 5th Annual Shifting the Autism Narrative: The Impact of Stigma on Health**

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 6-7pm ET

Tickets by donation supporting free neuroinclusive community programs for kids and adults. Register at <https://allbrainsbelong.org/autistic-stigma>

CSHN supports children with complex, chronic health conditions and/or developmental disorders, ages birth to-21, and their families, with flexible, experienced, and proactive services. If you'd like to learn more about CSHN programming and resources, please see the [CSHN Website](#).

Do you have feedback or content for this newsletter? Please let us know!

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