

Family Support Newsletter



Community Partners

Issue # 52

New NH Law Strengthens Special Needs Trusts

Special Needs Trusts are an option that allows an individual with a disability to be eligible for SSI, and APTD/Medicaid, even if he or she is the beneficiary of a trust worth thousands of dollars. A properly set up Special Needs Trust will exclude the trust from being used for basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. The trust can then be used to purchase items and care beyond what SSI and Medicaid provide. Proceeds do not have to be used only for health related expenses such as dental care and therapies, but could also be used for trips or vacations, home ownership, additional respite and/or recreation.

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The legality of these trusts were shored up during the 2007 legislative session by a new law resulting from the passage of House Bill 273. In effect, the new law provides that if distributions from Special Needs Trusts do not violate federal SSI eligibility rules, then the distributions will not be disqualifying for New Hampshire Medicaid either. See the below article to understand why protecting Medicaid is so important for individuals who use or expect to use our services in the future.

Do you have a family member that receives Medicaid through Healthy Kids, Katie Beckett or APTD?

Every year Health and Human Services sends a re-determination form for you to fill out to keep your Medicaid open. If you do not return this form you risk having your Medicaid closed and a long delay in getting it open again. You also risk losing important services funded through Medicaid.

In addition to paying for doctor visits and prescriptions, Medicaid can also pay for occupational and speech therapy services, disposable diapers and transportation. Medicaid also funds many of the services offered through Community Partners including respite, home modifications, early supports and services and adult services.

Family Support will be glad to assist you if you need help completing paperwork for Health and Human Services. Please call us at 516-9300.



New Community Partners Main Phone Number to connect to all offices and all staff:

(603) 516-9300

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A Thank You....



When our daughter Sarah was born in Boston at 24 weeks gestation, weighing just 1 lb 6½ ounces, it was a long time (4½ months) before we were able to bring her home. We were fortunate enough to be in contact with Community Partners in Dover, where we felt very welcomed and put at ease. Sarah qualified for Early Intervention which began a month after she came home from the hospital. She was seen weekly for OT and PT until she turned three, and also had speech therapy for about six months. Community Partners helped with the process of transitioning into the school system at three

years of age. Since then we have been involved in varying degrees with the Partners in Health Program. We enjoy attending some of the outings (Family movie Saturday) and we love to go to Emery Farm every fall. We also attended our first NH Family Support Conference in 2006 and again in 2007. I recently became more involved by joining the Family Advisory Council and enjoy meeting other parents and discussing issues our children may have and finding information/resources for families. Sarah also helped “design/make” the artwork at the new Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD) wing at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital in Dover. Partners in Health has been involved with CHaD to make it easier for families in the Seacoast area see the specialists they need to see without traveling to Lebanon, New Hampshire or Boston, Mass. Partners in Health also obtained a grant which helped create the Family Resource Center for CHaD at WDH. The Family Resource Center provides information and resources, books and computer access to help local parents learn more about their children’s needs. We truly are thankful to Community Partners and Partners in Health for all they have done for our family.

Thank you all. Sincerely, L & B and Sarah (now 5 ½ and in Kindergarten!)

Thomas Liseno Wins Gold at World Games



Thomas Liseno represented the United States at the Special Olympics World Games held in Shanghai, China. He was best in the world in the running long jump competition with a jump of 2.35 meters or 7 feet 8½ inches. Thomas’ mother Renee and his sister Adria accompanied him on the trip and were there to cheer him on. He also placed seventh in the world in the 100 meter run. His lifelong interest in athletics has certainly paid off in this remarkable achievement. Thomas and his family were able to enjoy some sightseeing and learned about Chinese culture. He also said he really enjoyed the social activities that always accompany all Special Olympic competitions. Congratulations go out to Thomas and his family. You must be very proud of him.

New Recreation Options Planned

If you and your child have an interest in having increased recreational events in the Rochester area, please make your needs known. Some people have taken advantage of the FRIENDS project in Portsmouth for those aged 15-24. If you would like to see activities like those they provide take place closer to home, would you be willing to work at making it happen? If so, please contact Betsy at 516-9300 to be part of an emerging group that plans to work with other interested parties including New Hampshire Connections and The Transition Resource Network



Remember Margaret Mead’s words: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Family Support Hayride 2007

We couldn't have had better weather for the Family Support Hayride 2007 at Emery Farm. Over 100 people came this year for cider and donuts and all the activities they have to offer. Once again the UNH Psychology Club did some face painting for the kids and had supplies for young artists! Deirdre, Suzanne, Judy, Marcia and Betsy were on hand to welcome families and help parents meet others who are connected with Community Partners either through Partners in Health, Early Supports and Services, or Family Support. Check out the pictures!



Ready for the ride



Deirdre, Felicia, Mike, and Suzanne



Cider and Donuts



The Hay Wagon



Face Painting



Oliver and Ben enjoying crafts



Alexa with just enough Pumpkins



Petting the Animals



Obrey Family

Family Support Newsletter

Got Respite?

Our 34 host hotels and inns continue to ask: “When will more parents be coming?” We would love to make the host hotels and inns wishes come true. Parents have celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, a quiet evening out or just a time to relax and enjoy their special “Gift of Time”. If you have not already reserved your Respite stay for this year, please call Jena Brown at 516-9300 for more information.

New Host Partners: Homewood Suites by Hilton located in Manchester and Wyndham Boston Andover Hotel located in Andover, Massachusetts.

Host Partner Name Change: Comfort Inn in Nashua is now the Granite Inn

Loss of Host Partners: Mount Washington Hotel (including Bretton Arms Country Inn and Bretton Woods Motor Inn), Sheraton Nashua Hotel (Both hotels have new owners and they are currently deciding whether to continue to provide Respite stays. So for now, they are both not available as a host hotel choice.) Also The Inn at Ragged Edge Farm has closed their business.



Need a Break???

Welcome Amy Cook

As the Family Support Service Coordinator, Amy will work with individuals and their families to explore their dreams and goals, and to access resources and services that may be available through the agency, locally or in New Hampshire. She will facilitate and document the agreements between the individual receiving supports and those providing them, and monitor service delivery and individual satisfaction with supports and services. Amy will work hand-in-hand with families to identify the unique needs of each individual/family being served and then assist, when necessary, in coordinating appropriate services to meet those needs. Amy has been employed at Community Partners as a Case Manager for five years before joining Family Support.



*We wish to
welcome Amy
and Jena to our
Family Support
Team!*

Welcome Jena Brown



Jena is our new Respite Coordinator and will assist individuals and families in locating interested and qualified respite providers. She will be in regular contact with families to assess their needs, to help them find resources and to manage their respite budgets. Respite is an integral and necessary service for families raising a child with a disability. Jena will be available to ensure these families have their needs met. Jena has worked with families as well as adults with disabilities in Pennsylvania for several years before relocating to the seacoast area. Welcome to Community Partners, Jena!



Special Olympics Bowling—October 2007



Julie enjoying her event.



Tyler wins a medal.

Group for Parents of Children with Down Syndrome

This group continues to meet on a monthly basis. Thursday, November 29, will be a Mom's Night Out!! And Friday, December 14 will be a holiday celebration and activities at the Flinkstrom's home in South Berwick. Please contact Marcia at 207 384-5041 or mflinkstrom@communitypartnersnh.org for further information.

Recreation programs strengthen the fabric of our neighborhoods. They contribute to healthier, safer communities.

Thomas Menino

Group for Parents of Children with Cerebral Palsy

The group for Parents of Children with Cerebral Palsy (and any kind of neurological concerns) also continues to meet. The next meeting will be a combination of both November and December and will be on Friday, December 7. This will be a holiday dinner out at the Fish Shanty in Dover! Please contact Alison at 749-4051 for details or call Betsy in Family Support at 516-9300.

PIH Family Advisory Council

The PIH Family Advisory Council meets monthly, the first Tuesday of each month, at 113 Crosby Road in Dover. Current Council members include Alison Graham, Nancy Sirois, Michelle Peabody, Gail Lockhart, Cristina Jones, Loretta McGrail, Elaine Menard and Tammy Munroe, Chair. The two Family Support Advisory Councils from PIH and Family Support are planning a SPA DAY for caretakers sometime in late winter or spring. If anyone is interested in becoming an ad hoc committee member for this event, or providing raffle prizes, please call Judy Saddler at 516-9300. If you know of families in your community who have a child between the ages of birth to 21 with a chronic health issue, your referrals will be appreciated.



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Changes for Autism Support Groups

Informed Hope ASD is a group supporting anyone that is caring for a person on the Autism/Asperger's Spectrum. They are going to be meeting at the Emmanuel Advent Christian Church on Eastern Avenue in Rochester on the second Tuesday of the month from 6-8 PM. Community Partners will continue to support this group although it will no longer be held at our community office. Child Care is provided. For more information, please contact Kyle at 335-5286 or Suzanna at 942-8386 or Deidre at 332-8683.

There is also a new group starting up for parents of younger children (0-8 years) on the Autism Spectrum. There was a planning meeting recently and the next group meeting is to be on Saturday, December 1 from 9:30 to 11AM at Community Partners' Rochester Community Office at 25 Old Dover Road in Rochester. Please call Amanda Helinski at 755-3442 for further information or Betsy in Family Support at 516-9300.



Holiday Party—YADS

Young Adults with Down Syndrome throughout NH who are 15 years old and older are welcome. There is an exchange of gifts, photo opportunities and lots of fun. This is sponsored by the Northern New England Down Syndrome Congress.

Plus there will be pizza, desserts, music, and crafts and time to meet new friends. The party will be at Holy Cross Center in Manchester on December 1 from noon until 4 PM. Please call Maria at 622-2841 for further information.

Children's Museum Passes

Family Support has free passes to the Children's Museum of Portsmouth! Please contact anyone in ESS or Family Support to request these. With the colder weather coming, this is a wonderful activity for your children and you! Call us at 516-9300.

Children's Museum News

Free Family Fun Nights return October 5th. Thanks to generous funding from the Citizens Bank Foundation, the Children's Museum will open from 5:30 - 8 PM on the first Friday night of each month through April 2008. The entire museum will be open for 2.5 hours for families to explore and enjoy together at no cost. For more information call 436-3853. The museum is located at 280 Marcy Street in Portsmouth, NH.



Raffle: We Need Your Ideas to Help Us Plan!

To help us get them, we are asking you to please answer the following three questions in order to enter this month's raffle to win a \$50.00 Gas Card to use at any local Irving Gas Station. Please return entire page to Gerry Riecks, Community Partners, 113 Crosby Rd Suite 1, Dover, NH 03820. Thanks!



1. What areas do you think the Family Support Program should set for priorities this coming year? Please number in order of importance to you (1 = highest).

Respite Providers

Sibling Support

Community Outreach

Support in School Meetings

Recreation

Early Intervention

Legislative Advocacy

Social Opportunities for Families

Options for Day and Vocational Programming for Young Adults

Other Ideas:

2. What topics would you like us to concentrate on for speakers or trainings for the coming year? Please number in order of importance to you (1 = highest).

Special Education Law

Information on: _____
(specific disability)

Medicaid and other Benefits

Stress Management

Financial Planning

Futures Planning

Keeping my Child Safe

Other Trainings for Families:

(Specify)

3. Newsletter suggestions or Comments:

Return Entire Page to Enter Raffle — Send to Gerry Riecks, 113 Crosby Rd, Suite 1, Dover NH, 03820

Name:

Address

Phone #

Deadline is December 19th



Community Partners
113 Crosby Rd Suite 1
Dover NH 03820

New Phone Number:
(603) 516-9300

(Connects to all offices—all staff)

November Raffle and Survey

In order to enter this month's raffle for a \$50.00 Gas Card from Irving, you will need to complete and return the survey located on the reverse side of this page.

Congratulations to Charlotte Moody , winner of our \$50.00 Target Gift Card raffle in our August Issue.

