



Monadnock Views

Helping people with developmental disabilities live and work in their communities

Message from the Executive Director



Mary-Anne Wisell
Executive Director

Funding Challenges Grow

In recent years, Area Agencies have experienced a decline in flexible funding to provide support to individuals with developmental disabilities. Area Agencies are critical in providing essential services, including employment support, community integration, and safeguards to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). However, budget constraints have resulted in leaving many agencies struggling to meet the increasing demand for services and other unfunded needs.

Monadnock Developmental Services

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Fiscal challenges, including reduced revenue, increased needs and rising healthcare costs, have placed a strain on the availability of resources for individuals with IDD. Area agencies, which rely heavily on Medicaid funding, have struggled with staffing shortages which has resulted in a limited capacity to offer comprehensive care. As a result, individuals with developmental disabilities face longer wait times for services, reduced hours of services, and less access to critical programs.

Medicaid rates have made it difficult for agencies to recruit and retain qualified staff. With the increased demand for services and the added pressure of fewer financial resources, many agencies are unable to offer competitive wages or benefits to attract skilled professionals. This has led to high turnover rates and burnout among existing staff, further exacerbating the challenges faced by individuals with developmental disabilities.

These reductions in funding not only impact the agencies and their employees but also directly affect the individuals they serve. People with developmental disabilities and their families often face emotional, physical, and financial stress as they try to navigate a system that is under-resourced.

We are reaching out with a heartfelt request for your support. As we continue our work toward inclusion, participation and mutual relationships, your contribution can make a meaningful difference. Every donation, no matter the size, helps us move closer to our goals and expand the impact we're making in our community. If you're able, please consider giving today—your generosity fuels the change we're striving to create. Thank you for standing with us.

Monadnock Developmental Services provides supports and services to people with developmental disabilities so that they can live and work in their community.

MDS serves people with...

- Intellectual Disabilities
- Cerebral Palsy
- Autism
- Epilepsy
- Severe Learning Disabilities
- Acquired Brain Disorders

Ways MDS Can Help...

- Family Support
- Housing & Transportation
- Respite
- Employment Support
- Benefit Information
- Information & Referral Services

How YOU Can Help...

- Explore employment opportunities at MDS. Scan this QR code for MDS job opportunities for you or someone you know:



Adults with Developmental Disabilities and the Importance of the MDS Dental Fund

In 2023, after years of advocacy, NH expanded Medicaid dental benefits to include preventive and restorative dental care for adults. While this has allowed some adults on Medicaid to access dental care, provider availability remains a significant hurdle.

One major challenge is the shortage of dentists who accept Medicaid. Low reimbursement rates and administrative hurdles discourage providers from participating in the program. This results in long wait times, and difficulty finding a qualified dentist, particularly one trained to accommodate the unique needs of patients with developmental disabilities.

Additionally, many individuals with developmental disabilities require specialized care, such as sedation or behavioral supports, to undergo dental procedures. Medicaid often does not fully cover these additional services, making it even harder for patients to receive the care they need. Families and caregivers may struggle to find providers willing and able to treat individuals with complex medical or behavioral conditions.

Advocates continue to push for improved reimbursement rates, expanded provider participation, and better accommodations to ensure that adults with developmental disabilities are able to receive the dental care they need for overall health and well-being.

The MDS Development Committee is tasked with major fundraising efforts to help address unmet dental needs not covered by Medicaid. Funding primarily comes from the annual Run~Walk~Smile road race, as well as individual, community and corporate donations. The generous support of our donors has been crucial to providing critical dental care to the adults that we serve. Through your support, hundreds of individuals have received the dental care they so desperately need.

At Monadnock Developmental Services, our mission is to work toward inclusion, participation, and mutual relationships for all people who are at risk of isolation from community.

MDS welcomes any contributions you wish to make to help us provide quality services to individuals with disabilities and their families in southwestern NH.

If you would like to make a pre-planned legacy gift or give in memory of someone whose life has been touched by MDS, please call Linda Amaral at 352-1304. We thank you for your generosity.

Run~Walk~Smile Continues to Promote Dental Health While Having Fun!



The 10th Annual Run~Walk~Smile 5K/10K/1 Mile road races were held in November 2024 with nearly 300 runners and walkers participating. Last year's event raised almost \$27,000 to fund critical and emergency dental care for adults with developmental disabilities. It was our first year collaborating with the Flutie Foundation which was a great success. All of us at MDS greatly appreciate everyone who supports the MDS Dental Fund, with a big "Thank You" going out to our event sponsors, participants, donors and volunteers. Dental care is essential to overall good health. Your generosity impacts the lives of people in so many ways!

How MDS Puts Your Donations To Work For Unmet Needs

Clothing

Over the past several years, we have provided clothing for more than a dozen individuals who would otherwise go without. Medicaid doesn't cover clothing expenses.

iPad

A middle-aged woman with cerebral palsy and spinal bifida used a very old tablet that consistently froze on her. This limited her ability to email and face time with longtime friends. An new iPad would improve the clients life and ability to connect with the greater community. Medicaid doesn't pay for personal devices like I Pads.

Speech Generating Device

A child with cerebral palsy, blindness, seizure disorder and a g-tube feed had been using a Talk 9 Speech Generating Device that was a short term rental from their school. She is non-verbal and had been using the device to effectively communicate their wants and needs. This device had offered this child a "voice" which allowed them to engage in social interactions and offered the ability to control and direct communication in their environment. This type of device is not covered under Medicaid.

10TH ANNIVERSARY MDS RUN~WALK~SMILE

Thank you to our 2024 sponsors!



Bellows-Nichols Agency, Inc. • Bowman Dental • Drower Dentistry • Fairfield's • GFA Federal Credit Union • Keene Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram • Mascoma Bank • Mathew Cielinski, DMD • Miller Orthodontic Specialists • Monadnock Food Co-Op • NBT Bank • Nucar Nissan of Keene • The Richards Group

SAVE THE DATE

The MDS Run~Walk~Smile 10K/5K/1 Mile is on
Saturday, November 1, 2025



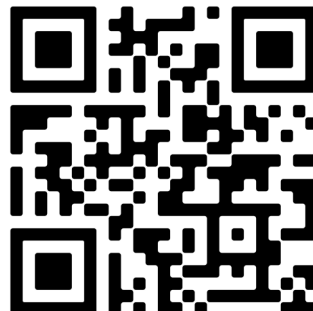
Your donation would mean so much to the individuals that we serve. To support MDS, you can mail your donation to:

Monadnock Developmental Services

121 Railroad Street

Keene, NH 03431

Or you can donate online by scanning this QR code:



Sponsor Levels

PRESENTING SPONSOR - \$10,000

FINISH LINE SPONSOR - \$5,000

ADVENTURE SPONSOR— \$2,500

PLATINUM SPONSOR— \$1,500

ENDURANCE/ PREMIER SPONSOR— \$1,000

ROAD RUNNER/ CO-SPONSOR— \$500

RACER/ PARTNER SPONSOR—\$250

For details regarding sponsor benefits and to register as a sponsor : https://secure.qgiv.com/for/2025flutie5ksponsorship/event/keene_runwalksmile/ or email Linda Amaral at linda@mds-nh.org.