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MONADNOCK DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

INCLUSION • PARTICIPATION • MUTUAL RELATIONSHIPS

THE CLIPBOARD

FALL 2026



Letter from the Executive Director

MONADNOCK DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

INCLUSION • PARTICIPATION • MUTUAL RELATIONSHIPS



Mary-Anne Wisell
MDS Executive Director

Person-Centered Planning: Why Should I Care?

We talk a lot about person-centered planning in developmental services. But what does it really mean, and why should you care?

Simply put, it's about making sure your life reflects what matters to you, not just what others think is best for you.

Person-centered planning focuses on a person's interests, strengths, choices, and goals. Maybe it's finding a job, making friends, trying something new, or simply having more say in everyday decisions. The goals don't have to be big. They just need to be meaningful to the person.

Families play an important role in person-centered planning. They often know their loved one better than anyone and can help others understand their needs, preferences, and how they communicate. But it isn't always easy. Many families have spent years advocating, making decisions, and keeping their loved ones safe. Sometimes what a person wants may be different from what their family would choose.

Supporting person-centered planning means listening, encouraging choices, allowing opportunities to try new things, and finding a balance between independence and safety. It's about supporting someone in making decisions, rather than always making decisions for them.

Without meaningful person-centered planning, decisions can become driven by what's available, what's convenient, or what others believe is best. That can lead to missed opportunities, less independence, and a life that doesn't truly reflect the person's interests or wishes.

Person-centered planning isn't just an annual meeting or a document that needs to be completed. It's an ongoing conversation about what's working, what isn't, and what someone wants for their future.

At the end of the day, it's not really about the plan. It's about helping someone live the life they want.

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

Find us on Instagram

Find us on Facebook

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.

Send your comments or articles to:

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Icon-Based Voting Accommodation

by Angela Fletcher

The Icon-Based Voting Requests Sheet helps voters communicate what they need at the polls by pointing or looking at pictures. It can help voters and others who rely on visual aids request accommodations such as an accessible voting system, a new ballot, a chair, or help voting.

Angela Fletcher created this resource with support from the NH Leadership Voting Education Team and the Disability Rights Center. The information was reviewed to make sure it was accurate and accessible.

Everyone has the right to vote. Needing an accommodation should never be a barrier to having your voice heard.

The sheet is designed to be taken to the polling place and includes alt text to support people who use assistive technology. That version can be found on the NH Developmental Disability Council website here.







Sean Tease Memorial Award
by Sheila Mahon

The Sean Tease Memorial Award was presented on September 10th to Curtis McGill and Charles “Pete” Tenny, both of whom work in the Monadnock Developmental Services (MDS) Community Supports Department.

Presented annually, the Sean Tease Memorial Award recognizes MDS Direct Support Professionals and Home Providers who exemplify exceptional professionalism, dedication, and reliability. The award was inspired by the crucial role caregivers played in the life of Sean Tease, a young man who suffered an acquired brain injury at age 17. It seeks to honor those who have chosen this vital profession and who make a profound difference in the lives of the individuals they serve.

This year's co-recipients were recognized for their outstanding contributions:

- Curtis McGill was celebrated for his exceptional work as a primary provider for the past five years. His nominations highlighted him as the "go-to" person for the individual he lives and works with. Curtis was specifically recognized for his deep commitment to the individual’s health, wellness, and community connections, as well as the strong, trusting relationship he has developed with the individual’s family.

- Charles “Pete” Tenny has dedicated over 25 years of service to MDS, working with numerous individuals throughout his tenure. His nominations praised his unwavering commitment to putting individuals first, ensuring that their needs, preferences, and voices remain at the center of all supports.



Pictured Curtis McGill, Brandie Wells, Cameron Tease, Jennifer Paone, Pete Tenney

The Sean Tease Memorial Award was presented to Curtis and Pete by Cameron Tease, Sean’s father. Also in attendance were two of Sean’s former staff, Brandie Wells and Jennifer Paone.

On behalf of all of us at MDS, we are grateful for the work that Curtis, Pete and all the other DSP’s and Home Care Providers do! Thank you!

Graduation and Growth

by Sarah Stinehour



Cassie has reached a huge milestone and was able to move her tassel to the left, tossing her cap as she graduated from high school this past June 2026. She is now "free" and ready to take her next steps into adulthood!

Her love of animals is her drive for volunteering and her love for children has her considering where she might be able to work at some point. For now, everyone in her circle is encouraging her to take the time to explore everything the world has to offer, take it all in, and celebrate every step of the way as she achieves her dreams.

Building Connections and Community

by Kris Madore



Dan Lake and Nathan Lafreniere, both supported by Hope Way Community Services (HWCS), have found more than a new community since moving to Manchester where they've found friendship, new opportunities, and healthier lifestyles.

Both came from Region 5 but didn't meet until they began living in the Manchester area. Now, they meet several times a week to play cards, exercise, and enjoy the gym and pool. Dan has made great strides with his mobility, including walking more and attending physical therapy, while Nate has also made progress with movement and exercise.

The Disney Scrapbook: Preserving Disney History, One Story at a Time

by Nolan Reilly



For Nolan Reilly, Disney history is a passion for uncovering forgotten stories and preserving the magic of the past. Since 2021, Nolan has shared his discoveries through his Youtube channel, The Disney Scrapbook, exploring Disney's film and entertainment history, particularly from 50 years ago. Through extensive research, interviews, and conversations with Disney historians, animators, and imagineers, Nolan has created 70 videos highlighting overlooked films, music, and stories. His favorite part of the process is discovering hidden gems of information that have not been previously published.

With the support of family, friends, and technology, Nolan continues to bring Disney history to life, offering audiences a deeper appreciation for the people and creativity behind the magic.



The Monadnock Family Council is looking for new members.

For more information, please email familycouncil@mds-nh.org

Monadnock Family Council and The Giving Tree

MONADNOCK DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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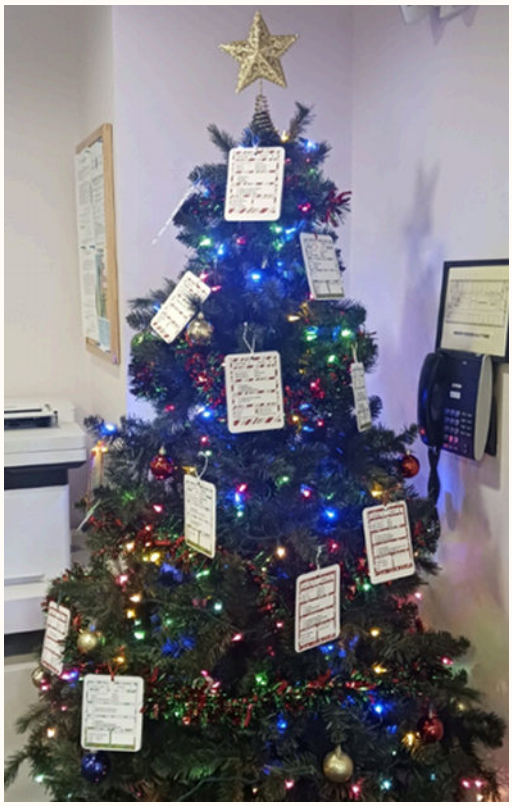
MDS Family Council Beach Day
by Alissa Delaney

The MDS Family Council gathered for a beautiful Saturday afternoon on August 29th at Camp Spofford on Spofford Lake. With warm water and sunny skies, families enjoyed a peaceful day at the beach. Families enjoyed swimming, kayaking, volleyball, and relaxing together. There were also plenty of yummy snacks, including fruit cups, cookies, brownies, scones, and muffins.

A huge thank you to the staff at Camp Spofford for helping make this event possible and welcoming our families to such a beautiful location. We truly appreciate all that you do! Thank you to everyone who joined us! We look forward to hearing your feedback and using your ideas to make next year's event even better and encourage more families to attend.

The ASC "Giving Tree"
By Alison Scalia

Over the past few holiday seasons, the MDS Adult Service Coordination (ASC) Department identified an unmet need among adults who receive few or no holiday gifts due to limited family involvement or financial barriers. Many individuals served by ASC do not qualify for other community programs that support children, seniors or families.



To bring holiday cheer to these adults, the ASC "Giving Tree" was created. Information about each individual's interests and needs was gathered and turned into gift tags displayed in the MDS lobby. Donated items were wrapped by ASC staff and delivered to recipients.

In its first year, the Giving Tree supported 20 individuals and received an overwhelmingly positive response from recipients, families, guardians, and provider agencies. Many shared how meaningful it was to feel remembered and cared for during a difficult time of year.

The ASC Department hopes the Giving Tree will continue to grow and thanks everyone who made this effort possible. If you are interested in making a donation for the Giving Tree, please send a check with "Giving Tree" noted in the memo section. If you know someone who might benefit from the giving tree from MDS or have questions you can also reach out to the ASC Department at ASCdept@mds-nh.org to get more information. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Project SEARCH at Cheshire Medical/Dartmouth Health

WHAT IS PROJECT SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is an unpaid Internship program where individuals will gain work experience and marketable employment skills

Are you:

- Between the ages of 18-35?
- Receiving services from Monadnock Developmental Services (MDS) and Vocational Rehabilitation New Hampshire (VRNH)
- Receiving Medicaid and eligible for the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver?

Check out the MDS website for more information!
www.mds-nh.org

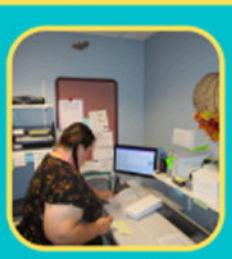
Interns in various sites



Collecting Soiled Linen for Supply Chain



Sanitizing in Orthopedics



Posting in the Mailroom

INTERNSHIP SITE POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

Orthopedics	Mailroom
Enviromental Services	Physical Therapy
Medical Records	And More!

OUR PARTNERS

Cheshire Medical Center Dartmouth Health

Monadnock Developmental Services

Vocational Rehabilitation New Hampshire

ATTEND AN INFORMATION SESSION

October 12, 2026 (Monday)
- 10:00am & 1:00pm - In person and Zoom
- 6:00pm - Zoom only

December 29, 2026 (Tuesday)
- 10:00am & 1:00pm - In person and Zoom
- 6:00pm - Zoom only

November 11, 2026 (Wednesday)
- 10:00am - In person and Zoom

January 18, 2027 (Monday)
- 10:00am & 1:00pm - In person and Zoom

TO REGISTER/MORE INFORMATION

Call: 603-352-1304

Email: ProjectSEARCH@mds-nh.org

Project SEARCH is holding information sessions to recruit for the class of 2027-2028

Attend an information session to learn more.

October is National Disability Employment Month!



Finding Community Through Self-Advocacy

Members of the Region 5 Self-Advocacy Group at Monadnock Developmental Services shared how being part of the group has helped them build confidence, strengthen connections, and take greater control of their lives. In attendance were Ryley Smith, Allison Pickering, Catherine Bergeron and Becky Lydon. Becky is the Assistant Director of New Hope.

For Ryley Smith, the support of the Self-Advocacy Group played an important role in his journey toward greater independence. After previously living with his mother, Ryley now has his own apartment and is enjoying the experience of living independently.

Allison Pickering shared that the group has helped her become more aware of the tools and resources available to her, as well as her rights. She recently created a picture as part of the Self-Advocacy Group about her rights, providing a creative way to express what self-advocacy means to her. Allison also appreciates the opportunity to connect with others, make friendships, and meet people who share her interests.



Pictured: Catherine Bergeron. Ryley Smith, and Allison Pickering

The group also provides plenty of opportunities to gather and enjoy time together. Over the summer, the Self-Advocacy Group held a cookout at Wheelock Park that drew a huge turnout. Members also participated in a potluck, with everyone bringing something to share.

Looking ahead, the group is also talking about future field trips and new opportunities to explore the community together. Members are hopeful that, someday, they will have the opportunity to attend a Self-Advocacy Conference. These future plans reflect the group's enthusiasm for learning, meeting new people, and continuing to grow together.

The Region 5 Self-Advocacy Group is creating more than opportunities to learn about rights - it is creating a place where people can build friendships, share experiences, support one another, and discover new possibilities. Through self-advocacy and connection, members are finding their voices and helping shape their own futures.

The CSS Departments Open House
by Deb Franco

The Residential and Supported Employment Departments have joined forces to give our individuals a more streamlined support system. Visitors were invited to the first floor to see the changes that have been made and to meet new people. Most managers' offices are located on the side that was Supported Employment and the former Residential offices have become a large conference room and a place for folks to gather for lunch and attend some of the many classes offered each week. This visit also gave employees an opportunity to view paintings from a local artist, Curtis McGill.

Keene State College Volunteer & Internship Fair
by Sheila Mahon

MDS participated in the Keene State College Volunteer & Internship Fair on September 11th with the goal of recruiting college students and educating them about the disability field and employment. MDS also promoted participation in Run~Walk~Smile during the event.



Pictured Maddy Desrosiers and Mike Clark

If you know a college student interested in an internship, contact us at mike@mds-nh.org.

Revo Casino

MDS extends its heartfelt thanks to Revo Casino in Keene for its generous $19,758 contribution through charitable gaming proceeds. We are honored to have been selected as a charitable partner and deeply grateful to Revo Casino and everyone whose participation made this donation possible. This support will help MDS continue providing person-centered services, advocacy, and community support to more than 1,600 individuals and families across the Monadnock Region, promoting inclusion, participation, self-determination, and meaningful community relationships. Thank you, Revo Casino, for your continued commitment to supporting local nonprofits and making a difference in our community!



Northeast Delta Dental Foundation Grant

Monadnock Developmental Services extends its sincere thanks to the Northeast Delta Dental Foundation for its generous $7,500 grant. This support will help address unmet dental needs and improve access to dental care for adults with developmental disabilities in the Monadnock Region. We are grateful for Northeast Delta Dental's commitment to making a difference in our community!

DELTA DENTAL®

Northeast Delta Dental



LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

RUN~WALK~SMILE!

REGISTER ONLINE
FLUTIE5K.COM

REGISTRATION OPEN THROUGH FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH



NH Resources

ABLE NH
2 1/2 Beacon Street
Concord, NH 03301
(765) 4ABLENH
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, 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
54 Regional Drive, Suite 5
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
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3236
www.nhddc.nh.gov
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.

Resources and Opportunities

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Medicaid False Claims Act

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

- Not rendered
- Not supported by billing for service
- Part of a previously submitted claims
- Upcoded

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

Rights & Responsibilities Concern?

Concerned about paid support to you, a family member, or services provided? Contact the Office of Client and Legal Services at 855-450-3593 or ask your Service Coordinator or other trusted person to assist you in calling.
Concerned about abuse, neglect, or exploitation, by people who are not paid to provide support? Contact the New Hampshire Bureau of Adult and Aging Services (BAAS). Their phone number is 603-271-7014.

Here is the link to the brochure



Mack's Lunch Stop

Mack's Lunch Stop meets at UCC in Keene on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 2pm. For more information and to become a member, contact Robb Hobbs at: robb22281@gmail.com.