

Hello Everyone,

Happy New Fiscal year! 😊

And happy summer and easing of the pandemic, too. As you've probably noticed, I am also easing back on the emails I'm sending because, well, there isn't quite as much to say (and you can do with fewer emails, too). I'll still send along information as I think you'll find it interesting and helpful.

DS Finance Reform

Vermont is still working on DS Finance reform and I'll be keeping you in the loop as decision points are coming up for discussion. Some of you have been part of the SIS (support Intensity Scale = the *New Needs Assessment*) "trial" recently – thank you!. The input we received from everyone who as involved has been shared with the state and our network and we'll use it to hopefully make the assessment better. Next a larger group of people in services will go through another piloting phase. We'll keep you updated.

CCS in the News – staffing crisis

Thanks to Mike Reilly communication coordinator for reaching out to VPR to pitch this story about the stresses we're facing at CCS - and statewide – around workforce. In all my years working in his field I have NEVER seen this kind of pressure on our workforce. Just as we're trying to get back to in-person services we are losing staff or we cannot recruit new staff – despite our greatest efforts. We know that CCS is a wonderful place to work, we know how hard we work to keep people here and fairly paid – but CCS, like other agencies, just can't find the staff right now. I hope that when the summer ends and the government incentives ease the workforce will come back, until then please know that we are doing everything humanly - and sometimes magically - possible to get people covered. Another pressure is of course home providers. We have nine people looking for homes right now – more than ever! While this is a statewide issue I also know it's very personal to each one of you, too.

<https://www.vpr.org/podcast/the-frequency-daily-vermont-news/2021-07-06/a-mental-health-care-staffing-crisis>

[A Mental Health Care Staffing Crisis | Vermont Public Radio](https://www.vpr.org/podcast/the-frequency-daily-vermont-news/2021-07-06/a-mental-health-care-staffing-crisis)

A spike in demand for community mental health services meets a shortage of staff. Plus, an ongoing drought, a house on the market, and the reopening of courts. With The Frequency, get up to speed on what's happening in Vermont in under 15 minutes. Hosted by Henry Epp and Anna Van Dine, and available ...

www.vpr.org

But...we do have some leads..

CCS has been running a new commercial and it's been driving interested people to our site to inquire about working here. If you use social media and you'd like to help out, please consider sending folks to our hiring page here – <http://ccs-vt.org/work-at-ccs/> - we're offering \$500 sign-on bonuses right now. 😊 You can always tell people that CCS was Awarded on of the Top 50 Best Places to Work in Vermont again this year for the third year in a row!

Beth

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