

Hi Everyone,

What a beautiful couple of days, huh? Above is a photo I took of the tree down the street from CCS that always lights up this time of year.

### Time to meet to talk about finance reform again...

CCS (in collaboration with Howard Center) will be hosting a couple of **Virtual Town Halls** to restart the conversation about Vermont DS finance Reform. Most of you will remember that we were hosting Town Halls prior to the pandemic, too. Tentative dates to hold are: **Monday November 8<sup>th</sup> at noon**, and **Wednesday November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**. We wanted to provide two options for you to attend. ANYONE on this email list is welcome to join us. Delaina Norton (Director of Long term services at Howard Center) and I will be presenting the history of the finance reform process, why it's happening, what has happened so far, and what important work still needs to happen. *This is an incredibly important redesign of the system and we want to make sure you're fully informed. There will be plenty of time for questions.* Please choose one of the times to join us. We will be sending links soon

### CCS Respite House has closed

I'm sorry that have been delayed in passing along this information. We are sad to share that the CCS respite house been owned and run by the Greeno family in Sheldon will be closing at the end of this week. We are going to miss them so much! Please join us in thanking them for over a decade of service and friendship. They're such fun, caring people – we'll miss them so much.

We will be advertising for a new home, of course.

### Hiring crisis continues – but some wonderful new hires!

While we are still having a difficult time recruiting for new DSPs, we have hired two new Service coordinators - Welcome Jonae and Kristan! - and the Way2Work team is totally full!

### Booster Shots

Staff and people in services - **Please keep us updated if you get your booster shot.** We are required to keep track of it, along with the first round of vaccinations.

According to this article people who have Down's Syndrome are eligible for boosters. It also appears that staff working in congregate settings are, too. I will look into that more.

[https://vtdigger.org/2021/09/28/frontline-workers-high-risk-people-and-vermonters-over-65-eligible-for-pfizer-booster-friday/?utm\\_source=VTDigger+Subscribers+and+Donors&utm\\_campaign=73f9615f86-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_09\\_29\\_03\\_25&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_dc3c5486db-73f9615f86-405583557](https://vtdigger.org/2021/09/28/frontline-workers-high-risk-people-and-vermonters-over-65-eligible-for-pfizer-booster-friday/?utm_source=VTDigger+Subscribers+and+Donors&utm_campaign=73f9615f86-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_09_29_03_25&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dc3c5486db-73f9615f86-405583557)

[Frontline workers, high-risk people and Vermonters over 65 eligible for Pfizer booster Friday - VTDigger](#)

Health Commissioner Mark Levine discusses the effect of vaccines in suppressing case fatality in long-term care facilities at a Covid-19 press conference on Tuesday, Sept. 28. Photo by Mike ...  
[vtdigger.org](http://vtdigger.org)

## Vaccinations – including the booster - for People who are homebound

Homebound means you are not able to leave your home for scheduled medical or non-medical appointments. If you are homebound, you will be able to get the vaccine in your home.

- If you are in the service of a local home health agency, the agency will reach out to you to schedule an appointment.
- If you are not in the service of a home health agency, you may request an appointment by calling **802-863-7240** (toll-free 833-722-0860) Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

[Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine | Vermont Department of Health \(healthvermont.gov\)](#)

## PIZZA for CCS

The annual **CCS Benefit Bake at American Flatbread Burlington** (115 St. Paul St) is on **Tuesday, Oct. 26 between 5 and 10 p.m.**

A portion of the price of EVERY flatbread sold (dine there or carryout) will be donated to CCS by our friends at AFB. We also hope to hold an on-site raffle.

If it's nice weather, there are expanded outdoor dining options, but inside has been renovated with more spacing and ventilation.

I will provide the latest details and any in-house protocols as we get closer. But if you call ahead and pickup, it still raises \$ for CCS either way!

Thanks to AFB and all of you!

## First Quarter Conversions:

As you may recall, for those who qualify conversions are available to people who are experiencing hardship due to loss of services. The state has approved a new round of conversion for home providers and guardians/parents. It's virtually the same as the last few quarters with some small differences. We'll send out more clarifying information soon. This conversion project will cover July to September 2021.

## From our friends at the Racquet's Edge

Dear EDGE Community,

The EDGE has always placed the health & safety of our staff, members, program participants and guests as its highest priority. The EDGE has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to reinvent the facilities to allow Vermonters the ability to safely continue to pursue a healthy and active lifestyle in the face of the pandemic. The clubs continue to be a welcomed distraction from the outside world, and we are proud of the role we played to support both the physical and mental health of our community over the last 18 months.

The recent news regarding the Delta variant is certainly weighing heavily on everyone's mind and we again find ourselves evaluating the best ways to protect our patrons.

As Vermont's preeminent wellness and fitness company, keeping our community safe is paramount. **For this reason, the EDGE affirmed on August 13, 2021, all eligible EDGE employees must have the COVID-19 vaccination by October 1, 2021.** Upon writing this, we are delighted to report that 99% of the existing staff have been fully vaccinated.

As a further step, we recently polled our members and learned that of the 1,000 people who responded, 97% are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. This is wonderful news showcasing that our EDGE community has embraced the importance of being vaccinated to stay healthy and continue to do the activities they enjoy. Therefore, in keeping with our pledge to do everything we can to create the safest environment for our staff, members, program participants and guests, the EDGE will be instituting the following:

**Effective October 18, 2021, all members, guests, patients, and program participants entering an EDGE facility who are eligible (12 years or older) must provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination.**

Beginning on Tuesday, September 28th, our EDGE Team Members will ask you to kindly stop by the desk with your vaccination card to be properly verified (the physical vaccination card or a clear photo of the vaccination card will be accepted). This one-time process should take a few minutes and we will not be storing your vaccination card. **Patrons that do not provide proof of vaccination by October 18, 2021, will not be allowed entrance to any EDGE facility until this process has been completed.** Should

you have a qualifying medical or sincerely held religious exemption, we ask that you submit the request form linked here: [Vaccination Exemption Request Form](#) .

It is clear the COVID-19 pandemic is still in our communities, however we have the ability to manage this next phase if we can again “work together”.

At every turn our EDGE Team has stepped up in amazing ways. The support and follow through of our EDGE Team has been critical in our ability to execute our COVID-19 response plan. Equally important was the pivotal role our members have played in assuring the safest environment possible. Everyone embraced the “we are in this together” frame of mind and took to wiping down equipment at a feverish pace, washing and disinfecting hands, remaining physically distant and when necessary, even wearing a mask while exercising. We could not have done it without your support! This approach has been successful as we have logged over 400,000 visits without an in-club transmission.

On behalf of everyone at the EDGE I truly thank you for your continued understanding, support, and dedication.

Best,  
Mike  
Michael Feitelberg  
Chief Executive Officer

*Beth*

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