



Welcome to the **One Sky Quarterly Newsletter!** Where we can share updates, news, and important information with everyone affiliated with One Sky

February 2017

SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

MARCH IS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH
Watch for a special One Sky Raise Awareness Kit in your email/mail box
One Sky has a number of activities planned during the month to raise awareness and if we all get involved, it will go a long way in helping to develop better understanding and support within the communities we serve and live

MAY 17
FlatBread Pizza Company in downtown Portsmouth Is hosting a Fundraiser for One Sky
Bring your friends, family, colleagues Prepare to eat a lot of pizza!

Friday, June 16
One Sky Annual Picnic at Stratham Hill Park

Sunday, September 10
Jesse Gage's Challenger's Cup
Portsmouth Yacht Club

WELCOME ABOARD TO OUR NEW ONE SKY STAFF MEMBERS!

Lindsey Abbott/DSP Futures
Shannon Cote/Service Coordinator
Frank Lanigan/ DSP Futures
Jeffrey Symes/Service Coordinator
Ashley Wilson/Family Support Respite Coord-Admin Asst

Tasha Cilley/DSP Futures
Nathan Gray/Staff Photographer
Jill Salow Smith/DSP Futures
Kathleen Weber/DSP Futures



Memorable Moments from our Annual Meeting in December 2016

Chris Muns and Karen McLaughlin with Years of Service awards recipients Peggy Lawrence (30 years), Alicia Sherwin (25 years), Kathleen Valeri (10 years), and Martha Fenn King (10 years) who was also recognized but couldn't attend

CONGRATS and THANK YOU TO OUR FELLOW COWORKERS!!

The panel who had a great discussion after the showing of the documentary, "Bottom Dollars"

From L to R: Chris Muns, Sandy Hunt (NH Bureau of Dev Services), Sara Frost, Jordan Melograna (film producer), Lisa Hinson-Hatz (NH State Dir. For Voc Rehab) and Chris Rueggeberg (NH Council on Developmental Disabilities)

ONE SKY CLIENT NEWS:

One Sky Community Services is partnering with Seacoast Media Group on the publication of a monthly article that will profile an individual we serve. This is a wonderful way to dispel myths and misconceptions, while raising awareness and promoting a better understanding of the needs of those individuals with developmental disabilities and acquired brain disorders throughout the 24 communities that One Sky serves. The articles will appear in all newspapers that SMG publishes, as well as on Seacoastonline.com. We will also be able to make use of their new radio station, EDGE, in doing follow up to each article.

We are pleased to announce that **Michael Parsons has consented to be our first guest profile.**
Way to go Michael!

CSNI Update:

As many of you might know, CSNI has prioritized Early Supports and Services (early intervention) for legislative advocacy. They have been working since last fall on the sponsorship of a bill to increase revenue to this important service. Last week, in the Concord State House, several families testified before the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, after which the Committee voted and passed SB153 unanimously.

This is good news, as there has not been an increase in funding rates to ESS in over 10 years.

The bill will next go the Senate for a vote, but early indications are positive.

THE GERKIN REPORT / GOVERNMENT AND LEGISLATIVE NEWS:

Audrey Gerkin, One Sky Family Advocacy and Education Liaison

A.Gerkin@oneskyservices.org

- The **Legislative Workshop** held on January 26 at the One Sky Offices was very well attended. The workshop offered information on how the Legislature works along with State Representative Mark Pearson discussing his experiences working in the State Legislature.
- The **Instagram Project** is off to a great start with UNH interns Ceara Tavares and Heather Hotchner coordinating its efforts. Our own Nathan Gray is now the official photographer for the Project (he will also help out Billie Tooley with special events).
The purpose of the project is to highlight a day in the life of a client to raise awareness and bring a greater understanding to the issues they face daily. Right now, the girls are looking for interested families to sign up for future months. They are planning on 2-3 carefully chosen pictures to post a week for a month. At the end of the month, the family will receive a CD with all the pictures used.
- **Pink Letter Campaign:** Over 250 letters were sent to our new Governor Sununu from all 10 agencies in the state. We will know soon if the letters had an impact on the new state budget.
- **Current Senate Bills:**
 - **HB387:** An appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services. Sponsored by Rep. Charles McMahon
Rate increase Bill for Direct Service Professionals
Right now, the House Finance Committee wants to wait until the Governor's budget is released and will review this bill during the budget process. CSNI is working with area agencies to gather requested information for the committee. The next step will be to go to the full Finance Committee.
 - **SB153:** An appropriation for Early Childhood Intervention Services. Sponsored by Senator Jeff Woodburn
Approved unanimously on February 8th in the Senate Health and Human Service Committee in a rare on the spot vote. Many families came out during the snow to testify. The bill asked for \$1.5 million in funding towards Early Support Services. (See the CSNI Update above for additional information)
 - **Governor Sununu** has recommended a \$57 million increase in developmental disabilities funding for the next two years, beginning July 1, 2017 (ending June 30, 2019). The actual increase for the next fiscal year (July 1, 2017) compared to the current fiscal year is roughly \$18 million. If that is spread across all ten agencies evenly, that would mean \$1.8 million in additional funds for One Sky. We are evaluating what the impact this would have against our increased needs. Stay tuned.

Go to the One Sky website and watch One Sky CEO Chris Muns, Robin Carlson, Dianne Winchell among others participate in a "Don't Dis My Ability" show last November at the Portsmouth Public Media TV station (PPM TV)
You can also catch it on Youtube.

Hope you enjoying our newsletters! If you have any suggestions, ideas, or information to add to the next one please let me know. Signing off for now.....Billie b.tooley@oneskyservices.org