

## Theresa Utton-Jerman

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**Subject:** FW: Thank you for your support over the years

**From:** Elizabeth Sightler

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Dear Rep. Townsend/Maida,

Thank you for your incredible and continued work to support Vermonters! I sincerely appreciate how attentive you were at the recent budget hearings – as always.

I am writing to request a **3% increase to developmental disabilities and mental health services**. The designated and specialized service system has endured too many years of level-funding and increased financial pressures. As the executive director I see how this impacts people every day, from turnover (currently 27%), burnout (because staff cannot take vacations) and homelessness of the people we serve (we are currently housing high needs people in area hotels with 24 hours staff because we cannot find homes for them). We need to show our staff that their work is valuable.

My agency, CCS, is part of the larger healthcare and mental health system (over 60 percent of the people in CCS services have multiple co-occurring mental health needs, almost 70 percent have complex health care needs). **I would like to see Vermont commit to regularly investing in this critical service system.**

Thank you, Maida. Please be in touch if you would like more information. I welcome you to come visit us at any time.

*Beth*

Elizabeth M. Sightler | Executive Director

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers



Champlain Community Services

[www.ccs-vt.org](http://www.ccs-vt.org)

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Champlain Community Services provides essential supports to people with intellectual disabilities and autism, building a community where everyone participates and belongs.

CCS is located at 512 Troy Avenue, Suite 1, Colchester, VT 05446

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