



# Community Connection Newsletter

resources for the community

August 6, 2020



Easthampton Office  
¡Hola! Hablamos español  
116 Pleasant Street, Suite 366  
Easthampton, MA 01027

Berkshire Office  
75 South Church Street, Suite 402  
Pittsfield, MA 01201



41 Russell Street  
Hadley, MA 01035



220 Brookdale Drive  
Springfield, MA 01104

## THE PATHLIGHT COMMUNITY

### Whole Children's theater program documentary "This is Me" world premiere available for viewing!

Thanks to everyone who tuned in to watch the world premiere of Whole Children's "This is Me"! For those of you who weren't able to join us, you can still watch the documentary [here](#). The showing also includes a bonus interview between Cammie McGovern (Board Member and a founder of Whole Children) and Michael Schwartz, director of the movie Peanut Butter Falcon, which includes stars Zack Gottsagen (an actor with Down syndrome), Dakota Johnson and Shia LaBeouf. **NEW**

### Whole Children Summer Session 2

Summer Session 2 will run from August 17 to September 19. Sign up soon for your favorite classes! Learn more about Summer Session and find instructions on how to enroll on the [Whole Children website](#). **NEW**

## IMPORTANT UPDATES

As schools are finalizing plans for reopening, families are struggling with difficult decisions about whether to send children back to school (if that is an option). To assist in this decision-making process, FCSN (Federation for Children with Special Needs) created a [list of questions](#) you may want to ask your school and your child's pediatrician. **NEW**

New Pandemic [Unemployment Assistance verification instructions](#), August 6 **NEW**

[DESE Commissioner's Weekly Update](#), August 3 **NEW**

[Expanded Family and Medical Leave: Parents and](#)

**[#DontCutUsOut: Act Now To Ensure Funding For Services For Adults With I/DD During Re-Opening.](#)**

Adults with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, or other intellectual and developmental disabilities served by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will lose services if funding and policies don't meet requirements of the re-opening period and there-after. The campaign **#DontCutUsOut** is to ensure that our safety net continues. **YOU CAN HELP!** (from the Arc). The process of informing your legislator of your concerns takes just a minute with the Arc's forms. **Priority**

caregivers of DDS eligible children and adults may be eligible for expanded family and medical leave. These expanded options are currently authorized through December 31, 2020. **NEW**

Baker-Polito Administration Announces Expansion of Targeted [Free COVID-19 Testing Sites](#), including Springfield and Agawam, **THROUGH AUGUST 14, July 27** **NEW**

[COVID-19 Travel Order: requirements for individuals entering Massachusetts](#), August 1 **NEW**

[Why is the unemployment rate so high in Massachusetts?](#) from WGBH July 31 **NEW**

[Guidance on Fall 2020 Special Education Services](#), from DESE July 30 **NEW**

[Protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school, on the bus, or in community settings](#), July 17 **NEW**

Baker-Polito Administration Announces [COVID-19 Funding for Special Education Programs](#), July 13

[All updates, emergency orders, and guidance associated with the COVID-19 State of Emergency](#). **UPDATE**

Are you voting by mail? Get more information [HERE](#).

## IMPORTANT ONGOING RESOURCES

[Western Massachusetts COVID-19 Case Numbers](#)

**UPDATE**

[Mass.gov: state COVID-19 info](#) **UPDATE**

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) **UPDATE**

[The Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#)

[Information and resources to help DDS families](#) **UPDATE**

[MA Department of Education](#) **UPDATE**

[The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services CMS](#)

[Domestic Violence Resources](#) **NEW**

[Call 211](#): informational and referral hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days. Interpreter services available in multiple languages.

[Massachusetts Crisis Hotlines](#) **NEW**

[Look4help](#), extensive resources in Franklin and Hampshire Counties

Massachusetts Advocates for Children Hotlines: ENGLISH 617-357-8431 x3224, ESPAÑOL: 617-357-8431 x3237

### Small Businesses

[New temporary loan resource](#) **NEW**

### Job Loss/Unemployment

[New Pandemic Unemployment Assistance verification instructions](#), August 6 **NEW**

[Pathlight Job Opportunities](#) **NEW**

[COVID-19 and Unemployment Benefits](#) - from MassLegalHelp

Full unemployment information: call (617) 626-6338 to request weekly benefits, daily from 6 a.m. – 10 p.m. [File a claim online](#).

## HEALTH SERVICES

[Masshealth Information](#), **800-841-2900**

**PCA services:** MassHealth PCA Consumers who have unfulfilled PCA hours and would like to be connected to a local Home Health Agency that can fill those hours, should call [MassOptions](#) at (1-844-422-6277) for live support.

### MassHealth Prescription services:

MassHealth is allowing early refills and 90 day supplies. Contact your pharmacist to order medications.

**Telehealth services:** Telehealth services are covered by MassHealth. Discuss with your provider for more information.

[Step-by-Step Guide to Using TeleMedicine](#)

[MassHealth Telehealth Services for Behavioral Health](#)

### General Health Related Information

Health Coverage Helpline: 800-272-4232

Disability COVID-19 Healthcare Support Advocacy Hotline 800-626-4959

### Mental Health Resources

Franklin County Crisis Services: 413.774.5411 (CSO)

Athol/N. Quabbin Crisis Services: 978.249.3141 (CSO)

Hampshire County Crisis Services: 413.586.5555 (CSO)

Berkshire County Crisis Hotline: 1-800-252-0227 (Brien Ctr)

[Western MA Mental Health Resources](#), Very complete resource organized by Community Action

[NAMI \(National Alliance on Mental Health\) Navigating a Crisis](#): You can find the ESP serving your area, by calling 1-877-382-1609 and entering your zip code.

**Samaritans** is continuing operations 24/7, as always. Call or text their 24/7 helpline any time at 877-870-4673.

**National Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 1-800-273-825

## HEALTH DISABILITY RIGHTS

[Civil Rights, HIPPA, and the Coronavirus Disease](#)

[COVID-19 COMMUNICATION RIGHTS TOOLKIT](#)

This toolkit: (1) explains your communication rights; (2) provides tips on advocating for them, and (3) has an accommodation request form you can bring to the hospital.

## IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR IS SICK

Forms to have on hand for hospital admission of someone with a disability **UPDATE**:

- [DPH June 6 guidance](#) (includes the following language: "companions for patients with intellectual and/or physical disabilities are not considered visitors")
- [Covid-19 Disability form](#)
- [Communication First form](#)

[Should I be tested? \(from Mass.gov\)](#)



Autism Connections, Family Empowerment, Whole Children, Milestones, Whole Selves, Adult Family Care, Shared Living

[CDC Testing Information](#) **UPDATE**

[Interactive Map of testing sites](#) **UPDATE**

[Caring for someone sick at home](#), from the CDC

[Plain language medical information form](#)

[Healthcare Passport](#)

Critical Care Covid-19 [Communication Chart](#) to help patients communicate in hospital and critical care

Plain language [sample advocacy letter](#) about patients with intellectual or developmental disabilities having a support person with them when they are in the hospital.

## DOCUMENTS FOR SELF ADVOCATES

[A Self-Advocates Guide to Covid-19](#): Green Mountain Self-Advocates have created this toolkit about the Coronavirus written in plain language. **UPDATE**

[What is the Census?](#) A plain language document.

## SOCIAL STORIES

A wide variety of free school related COVID [Social Stories](#) from *Autism Little Learners* **NEW**

## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

[Western Mass listing of school lunch programs](#): note that there may be updates to this information. **UPDATE**

## RESOURCES IN OTHER LANGUAGES

This [social story](#), made for children under 7 and in many languages, communicates important prevention information about the coronavirus without focusing on fear. **NEW**

<https://www.usa.gov/español/coronavirus>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index-sp.html>

Mass Advocates for Children [Para familias que hablan español](#)

[Preguntas y respuestas sobre el cierre de la escuela](#)  
[COVID-19 Reuniones del equipo del IEP](#)

[Servicios de intervención temprana durante COVID-19](#)

[Reuniones del equipo del IEP Una guía paso a paso para usar la telemedicina](#)

[Muestra de Agenda de Reunion Virtual de IEP](#)

[Hacer un plan médico durante el COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19 Fact Sheets in Multiple Languages](#): These materials are reviewed and vetted by physicians and medical school faculty members at the Harvard hospitals and are created in collaboration with Harvard Health Publishing.

[Guía de Asistencia para Beneficios de Desempleo por Pandemia](#)

[Recursos para familias de niños con necesidades especiales que están confinadas en casa](#)

[Federación para Niños con Necesidades Especiales](#)

[Información de COVID-19 Por y Para Personas con Discapacidades](#)

[Special Education Family Resource Toolkit](#) from the Department of Education.

<https://switchboardta.org/blog/a-round-up-of-multilingual-resources-on-covid-19/>

## FOOD PANTRIES & OTHER RELATED SUPPORT

[Berkshire Food Project](#)

Find a food bank or food distribution site near you [HERE](#), or contact the Food Bank of Western MA at 413-247-9738.

[Extra SNAP Benefits](#): Additional COVID-19 benefits. Call 877-382-2363.

If you or your family is facing hunger right now, [Project Bread](#) wants to help. Call the Food Source Hotline at 1-800-645-8333.

Some school districts have expanded meal programs, like [Springfield's service](#), which now offers evening meals. **NEW**

[Dealing with food allergies at a food pantry](#). **NEW**

[Dealing with food allergies when eating in a classroom](#). **NEW**

Many Farmer's Markets accept SNAP. Here are two examples, but please check your local farmer's market.

[Amherst Mobile Food Market](#): SNAP is accepted. **NEW**

[Holyoke Farmer's Market](#), Veteran's Memorial Park,



Autism Connections, Family Empowerment, Whole Children, Milestones, Whole Selves, Adult Family Care, Shared Living

536 Dwight Street, Thursdays in August, September and October. 1:00 - 5:30p.m. HIP and SNAP are accepted.  
**NEW**

## SUPPORT FOR THE HOMELESS

Local Emergency Shelters in Western MA during COVID-19, including options for isolation.

Community Action: Call the Community Resources and Advocacy program at 413-475-1570 or 413-582-4237.

RAFT- Residential Assistance for Families in Transition

## VETERAN SERVICES

What Veteran's Need to Know about Coronavirus, from the US Department of Veteran's Affairs.

## HEAT AND ELECTRIC SERVICES

National Grid: call customer service for COVID-19 programs, 1-800-322-3223.

Eversource; Learn more HERE.

Las respuestas a las preguntas frecuentes están disponibles en español.

Fuel assistance; Call 413-552-1548 (press 1 for English, 2 for Spanish and then 4 to speak with a live person).

## INTERNET/PHONE DISCOUNTS

MassHealth Directory of Internet and Phone discount programs.

## THE CENSUS

What is the Census? A plain language document.

Complete the Census online.

## GENERAL INFORMATION/RESOURCES

Franklin and Hampshire County Resources from Community Action **UPDATE**

Franklin County/North Quabbin COVID-19 Wi-Fi and Personal Care Resources. Includes HotSpot and charging locations, public bathrooms, public hand washing stations, Food/shelter/shower locations, Narcon info, Helplines.

**UPDATE**

Strategies to support teens/young adults with autism during COVID-19, from Harvard Health Publishing

Mass Advocates for Children **UPDATE**

Greater MA Special Needs Events **NEW**

COVID-19 Resources for families: includes excellent information that may not be included elsewhere.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services: excellent toolkit with specific need relations resources

## LEGAL RESOURCES

Community Legal Aid provides free civil (noncriminal) legal services to low-income and elderly residents of Central and Western Massachusetts. (resource is in English and Spanish)

Disability Law Center: Know your rights

Mass Legal Help: A variety of resources about your rights during the COVID-19 breakout.

## TRANSPORTATION

Registry of Motor Vehicles: general information. **UPDATE**

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (Bus schedule changes effective August 31) **NEW**

PVTA: Service Update. Call 413-781-7882 for more information. **UPDATE**

## CHILDCARE

Massachusetts Child Care **UPDATE**

Mass Options: MassOptions connects elders, individuals with disabilities and their caregivers with agencies and organizations that can best meet their needs.

## EDUCATION RELATED

How Safe Is Your School's Reopening Plan? Here's What To Look For, from WBUR. August 6 **NEW**

Thursday August 20, Home-schooling Panel for Special Needs Families. In this webinar from the Massachusetts Home Learning Association, you will hear from homeschooling parents and experts in the industry to help guide you on how to work with your school district and how to work with your child. We will hear from Evan Colbert,





Autism Connections, Family Empowerment, Whole Children, Milestones, Whole Selves, Adult Family Care, Shared Living

behavior expert, Sara Rodrigues, Autism expert, Dawn Cordiero, Special Education Advocate and Leslie M. Leslie, MassPAC Director for the Federation for Children with Special Needs. **NEW**

[COVID-19 Related DESE School Guidance pages, including Special Education Services](#) **UPDATE**

[How to "Distance Teach" Tutorials](#) (for educators but helpful resources for parents also)

Early Intervention (EI) Services during COVID-19 [ENGLISH, ESPAÑOL](#),

[Moving Assessments Forward](#), May 20

[PBS Learning Media](#)

[Sample Virtual IEP Agenda](#)

[Remote Learning Record](#)

[Remote Learning Plan](#)

[SEPAC Best Practices During Covid-19](#)

[WGBH - Distance Learning Center Tools](#): Well organized and not overwhelming!

[Family Resource Toolkit from the Department of Education](#): multiple languages

[MatchUs](#), part of MFOFC, is working with families and educators ANYWHERE to support 1:1 conversations on how best to support students at home.

## ADVOCACY/SURVEYS

### TAKE ACTION: Dedicated Home & Community Based Services Funding

The Senate's latest Covid relief package, dubbed the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection, and Schools Act (the HEALS Act), was proposed as a counter to the House's HEROES Act, which passed in May. But whereas the HEROES Act included dedicated Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) funding, which would provide critical assistance for people with disabilities and aging adults, the HEALS Act does not. Furthermore, to date, Congress has approved absolutely NO HCBS FUNDING during this entire pandemic.

HCBS funding is absolutely essential for our community as it pays for services and supports the service providers who employ the human services workforce, which is necessary for our loved ones to live safely in their homes and communities. In the absence of these funds,

people with disabilities and the agencies that support them are at grave risk.

**What can you do?** The House and Senate will meet shortly to hash out the differences between the HEALS and HEROES Acts. We NEED our voices as a powerful, important community to be heard!

PLEASE take just a few minutes to ASK YOUR SENATORS TODAY to include increased HCBS funding in the final COVID-19 package. Just call Senator Markey's office at (202) 224-2742 and Senator Warren's at (202) 224-4543. **Information from The Arc NEW**

NAMI Massachusetts & MA Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) is developing a training for emergency department staff to help improve the ways they respond to people in mental health and/or substance use crises. The survey deals with the treatment of people experiencing mental health and substance use crises, as well as those who sought medical treatment and felt the focus was on their prior mental health or substance use history rather than their medical condition. Feedback from the autism community about experiences visiting Massachusetts Emergency Departments in the past four years is needed! Complete the survey [HERE](#) to share your experience. **NEW**

## CONFERENCE

August 15 10:00 a.m. - August 16, 2:00 p.m., [AANE's Summer 2020 Virtual Conference \(Asperger/Autism Network\)](#): Students in Distress: School-Based Anxiety from Professional, Parent & Student Perspectives. Register [here](#). **NEW**

## WEBINARS: UPCOMING

August 12, 1:00 p.m. [Evidence Based Sensory Integration Strategies](#). Tune in to hear Roseann Schaaf, Ph.D., professor chair in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Thomas Jefferson University, share evidence-based sensory integration strategies for supporting individuals with autism. **NEW**

August 20, 1:00p.m. [Home-schooling Panel for Special Needs Families](#). In this webinar from the [Massachusetts Home Learning Association](#), you will hear from homeschooling parents and experts in the industry to help guide you on how to work with your school district and how



Autism Connections, Family Empowerment, Whole Children, Milestones, Whole Selves, Adult Family Care, Shared Living

to work with your child. You will hear from Evan Colbert, behavior expert, Sara Rodrigues, Autism expert, Dawn Cordiero, Special Education Advocate and Leslie M. Leslie, MassPAC Director for the Federation for Children with Special Needs. **NEW**

**August 27, September 9, September 24, DDS Self-Directed Services**. This is an opportunity to hear how participants and their families can design individualized services to meet their needs through the Participant Directed Program or Agency with Choice. **NEW**

**September 8, 2:00 p.m. Debunking the Myths of Supported Decision-Making and Guardianship**. This webinar will describe guardianship and less restrictive decision-making alternatives, as well as help debunk some of the myths that persist about guardianship and supported decision-making. **NEW**

**September 16, 7:30-9:30, Human Service Forum Breakfast** with Secretary of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance Michael Heffernan,, and Secretary of Health & Human Services Marylou Sudders. Join the Zoom meeting to hear about current priorities and other issues relevant to human service organizations and Western MA.

## WEBINARS-PREVIOUS

**DESE updates and special education news, July 30**. Director of Government Affairs Maura Sullivan for The Arc welcomed Russell Johnston, Senior Associate Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). **NEW**

**Filing for Guardianship during COVID-19, July 17** from The Arc and Attorney Karen Mariscal. PDF Presentation. **NEW**

**Turning 18, What you need to know in a nutshell**, from Family Empowerment with Frederick Misilo Esq., Fletcher Tilton PC, June 9. **English Powerpoint, Spanish Powerpoint, English Recording**, use password 2z?n8dS7.

**Charting the LifeCourse for Transition**, Laurel Peltier.

## SUPPORT GROUPS/CONTACT A SPECIALIST

▶ **Pathlight Coffee and Conversation**: Meet virtually with a specialist to discuss the topics of your choice, including transitioning out of high school during Covid-19,

virtual IEP meetings, remote learning, behavioral challenges, managing isolation or the topic of your choice. Click on FB event for instructions to schedule. Hours available: Sunday mornings, Facebook event, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Thursday mornings, Facebook event, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Thursday evenings, Facebook event, 8:30-10 p.m.

**Special Needs Family Alliance**: This is a group of parents and concerned caregivers in the Franklin County area who seek to support, educate, and provide resources to each other to improve the quality of our loved ones' lives and make our journey just a little bit easier! The group meets twice per month on the first Wednesday evening and the third Thursday morning, and often has guest speakers. Email caroline.wenck@pathlightgroup.org for more information. **NEW**

**Autism Connections Western MA Support Group**: This support group is open to all family members of children and young adults with autism and meets virtually on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Contact Linda at wynne92@aol.com for more information. **NEW**

**Bereavement Support Group** (For adults remembering someone who died during COVID-19), Wednesdays through September 16. **NEW**

## YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITIES

Whole Children/Milestones Rec activities **SUMMER SESSION**

Springfield JCC **NEW**, AANE events for AUGUST **NEW**

The Bridge Center CSO, August calendars. **NEW**

## RECREATION/FUN!

August 22, **Buddy's Sunshine Angels Golf Tournament For Autism**. This tournament is a third party event which will benefit Autism Connections in the Berkshires and will practice social distancing and all safety measures. There are spots for teams, and sponsors. Safety protocols will be followed. **NEW**

Stanley Park's playground area is now open to the public and includes new apparatus for children of all abilities. **NEW**

Montague Public Library Zoom events for kids **NEW**

Camp Communicare (virtual) **NEW**

Children's Museum in Holyoke is opening August 18! Schedule a visit HERE. **NEW**



Autism Connections, Family Empowerment, Whole Children, Milestones, Whole Selves, Adult Family Care, Shared Living

**Our team is using a variety of technology to stay connected to you - email is our first choice. If we return your phone call our calls may show as restricted in some cases, so please check your messages if you are expecting to hear from us.**

## TEAM DIRECTORY

**Karen Serra**, Director Family Services,  
karen.serra@pathlightgroup.org, 413-588-1052

**Katie Drumm**, Associate Director Family Services,  
katie.drumm@pathlightgroup.org, 413-529-4056

## AUTISM CONNECTIONS

**Ben Breton**, Autism Specialist,  
benjamin.breton@pathlightgroup.org, 413.443.4780

**Kansas Brown**, Easthampton Program Manager,  
kansas.brown@pathlightgroup.org, 413.779.5091

**Lora Cortis**, DESE Coordinator,  
lora.cortis@pathlightgroup.org, 413.779-5091

**Amber Curry**, DESE/Autism Waiver, Specialist,  
amber.curry@pathlightgroup.org, 413.779-5089

**Carla Doyle-Florence**, Autism Waiver Broker,  
carla.doyle-florence@pathlightgroup.org, 413-779-5088

**Nancy Farnsworth**, Educational Advocate/Information  
Consultant, nancy.farnsworth@pathlightgroup.org,  
413-779-5087

**Elizabeth Flaherty**, Autism Specialist,  
elizabeth.flaherty@pathlightgroup.org, 413.443.4780

**Lee Guilbault**, IFFS Specialist,  
lee.guilbault@pathlightgroup.org, 413-779-5086

**William Liverpool**, Autism Waiver Broker, Habla  
español, william.liverpool@pathlightgroup.org, 413-779-  
5085

**Joanne Lucey**, Project Manager/Marketing and  
Communications Coordinator, Autism Connections and  
Family Empowerment, joanne.lucey@pathlightgroup.org,  
413.779.5084

**Joemary Rodriguez**, IFFS Specialist, Habla español,  
joemary.rodriguez@pathlightgroup.org, 413.779.5083

**Stephanie Seitz**, Autism Specialist,  
Stephanie.Seitz@pathlightgroup.org, 413.443.4780

**Rhonda Setkewich**, IFFS Program Manager,  
rhonda.setkewich@pathlightgroup.org, 413.779.5080

**Kelly Summers**, Autism Specialist,  
kelly.summers@pathlightgroup.org, 413.443.4780

**Kim Wyckoff**, Autism Waiver Broker,  
kim.wyckoff@pathlightgroup.org, 413.779.5079

## FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

**Donna Kushi**, Program Manager,  
donna.kushi@pathlightgroup.org, 413-585-8010, x105

**Michelle Mendes**, Family Support Specialist,  
michelle.mendes@pathlightgroup.org, 413-585-8010, x128

**Caroline Wenck**, Family Support Specialist,  
caroline.wenck@pathlightgroup.org, 413-585-8010, x122

**Tanya White**, Agency with Choice Coordinator,  
tanya.white@pathlightgroup.org, 413.585.8010, x127

**Joanne Lucey**, Project Manager/Marketing  
and Communications Coordinator, joanne.lucey@  
pathlightgroup.org, 413.779.5084

## ADULT PROGRAM

**Danielle Scibelli**, Adult Program Manager,  
danielle.scibelli@pathlightgroup.org, 413-585-8010

**Rosie Chau**, Adult Program Assistant,  
Hong.Chau@pathlightgroup.org, 413.779.5078

**Tanya Celetti**, Adult Program Assistant,  
tanya.celetti@pathlightgroup.org, 413.779.5076

**Hector Rodriguez**, Adult Program Assistant,  
hector.rodriguez@pathlightgroup.org, 413.779.5077

**Tammy Wright**, Adult Program Assistant,  
tammy.wright@pathlightgroup.org, 413.779.5082

## WHOLE CHILDREN & MILESTONES RECREATION

**Julie E. Hooks**, Associate Director,  
Whole Children and Milestones Recreation,  
Julie.Hooks@pathlightgroup.org

**Chris Harper**, Program Manager - Milestones Day,  
Teacher - Whole Children and Milestones,  
Chris.Harper@pathlightgroup.org

**Gina Battista**, Marketing and Communications  
Coordinator, Gina.Battista@pathlightgroup.org

**Sam Gregoire**, Teacher,  
Samantha.Gregoire@pathlightgroup.org

**Eddy Hougen**, Teacher,  
Edward.Hougen@pathlightgroup.org

**Amanda Kent**, Teacher and Volunteer Coordinator,  
Illustrator - Whole Selves, Amanda.Kent@pathlightgroup.  
org

**Liana Marks**, Teacher, Liana.Marks@pathlightgroup.org

**Brian Melanson**, Teacher, Trainer, Curriculum Developer  
- Whole Selves, Teacher - Whole Children and Milestones,  
Brian.Melanson@pathlightgroup.org

**Jenna Perna-Elias**, Teacher - Milestones Day,  
Jenna.PeraElias@pathlightgroup.org

**Nick Vogt**, Teacher, Nick.Vogt@pathlightgroup.org

## FAMILY BASED LIVING

**Terri Presby**, Assistant Vice President, Family Services,  
Terri.Presby@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4551

**Darlene Giroux**, Program Director,  
Darlene.Giroux@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4554

**Suzanne Laba**, Program Director,  
Suzanne.Laba@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4649

**Lakesha Ruth**, Program Director  
Lakesha.Ruth@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4541

**Michael Aguda**, Placement Coordinator,  
Michael.Aguda@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4542

**Wendy Bousquet**, Placement Coordinator,  
Wendy.Bousquet@PathlightGroup.org,  
413-731-4538

**Lorrie Brown**, Registered Nurse,  
Lorrie.Brown@PathlightGroup.org,  
413-731-0531, ext 255

**Mary Davila**, Homestudy and Family Resource  
Coordinator, Mary.Davila@PathlightGroup.org,  
413-731-4548

**Mirna Davis**, Placement Coordinator,  
Mirna.Davis@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4546

**Deborah Herbert**, Placement Coordinator,  
Deborah.Herbert@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4555

**Brianna Kring**, Placement Coordinator,  
Brianna.Kring@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4571

**Dawn LaBarre**, Placement Coordinator,  
Dawn.LaBarre@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4545

**Dennis LaFleche**, Placement Coordinator,  
Dennis.LaFleche@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4561

**Sarah Mason**, Placement Coordinator,  
Sarah.Mason@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4539

**Jennifer Maybar**, Registered Nurse,  
Jennifer.Maybar@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4541

**Tereza Perez**, Administrative Coordinator,  
Tereza.Perez@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4549

**Sara Robitaille**, Placement Coordinator,  
Sara.Robitaille@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4533

**Michelle Sullivan**, Registered Nurse,  
Michelle.Sullivan@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4543

**Connie Topor**, Administrative Manager,  
Constance.Topor@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4550

**Faruma Williams**, Placement Coordinator,  
Faruma.Williams@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4575

**Mary Zagula**, Development, Communication, and  
Recruitment Coordinator,  
Mary.Zagula@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4552

**Laura Zawisza**, Administrative Coordinator,  
Laura.Zawisza@PathlightGroup.org, 413-731-4661

## FAMILY BASED LIVING PITTSFIELD

**Catharine Dollase**, Program Director,  
Catharine.Dollase@PathlightGroup.org,  
413-443-4780 x11

**Mary Bedient**, Placement Coordinator,  
Mary.Bedient@PathlightGroup.org,  
413-443-4780, x20

**Ian Coyne**, Homestudy and Family Resource Coordinator,  
Ian.Coyne@PathlightGroup.org, 413-443-4780, x17

**Donna Krutiak**, Administrative Coordinator,  
Donna.Krutiak@PathlightGroup.org,  
413-443-4780 x10

**Marilyn Lysobey**, Placement Coordinator,  
Marilyn.Lysobey@PathlightGroup.org,  
413-443-4780 x12

**Meghann Marcella**, Placement Coordinator,  
Meghann.Marcella@PathlightGroup.org,  
413-443-4780 x18

**Gerri Ravlich**, Registered Nurse,  
Gerri.Ravlich@PathlightGroup.org,  
413-443-4780 x14

**Justin Roccabruna**, Placement Coordinator  
Justin.Roccabruna@PathlightGroup.org,  
413-443-4780 x13

**Alene Walter**, Registered Nurse  
Alene.Walter@PathlightGroup.org,  
413-443-4780 x14






A Pathlight Program  
41 Russell Street  
Hadley, MA 01035

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## How can we help you?

Contact any of us at the Pathlight programs and we will do our best to help you with your requests and needs. Email [info@pathlightgroup.org](mailto:info@pathlightgroup.org), [familyempowerment@pathlightgroup.org](mailto:familyempowerment@pathlightgroup.org) or [autismconnections@pathlightgroup.org](mailto:autismconnections@pathlightgroup.org). If you don't have email, call the program managers listed on our team directory on page 7.

Please share this newsletter with families and other individuals you think may need help.

 Life can be tough,  
but so are you,  
and we can help.

*This newsletter is for informational purposes only; it does not constitute legal, medical or other advice. All resources are subject to change as the situation evolves. Contact [joanne.lucey@pathlightgroup.org](mailto:joanne.lucey@pathlightgroup.org) with any questions.*



### Demand Surges For See-Through Face Masks As Pandemic Swells

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this month declared face coverings a “critical tool” in stopping the surge in COVID-19 cases amid growing scientific evidence that they can significantly reduce viral spread, “particularly when used universally within communities.”

But most masks come with significant social downsides: They hide smiles and obscure expressions and can telegraph suspicion or danger. And they can be a serious impediment for the 10 million Americans like Jessica Cournoyer who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Cournoyer abandoned sign language in middle school after a cochlear implant restored most of her hearing. But she still relies on a clear line of sight to see what people are saying.

“I cannot understand people whenever they turn or keep moving around,” she says.

Read the entire article from NPR [HERE](#).