



United Services, Inc.

Creating healthy communities

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Dayville, CT 06241

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# Community CONNECTIONS

Issue 12 • Summer 2022

## Behavioral Health Resources and News

### Primary Care to Launch at United Services



**Diane L. Manning**  
President/CEO  
United Services

#### Message from the President

We really can't say it enough. The past two plus years have brought an unprecedented increase in the number of people seeking mental health services from United Services, and a correlating increase in the number of services we have delivered.

At the same time, we have seen increased recognition of mental health as important to maintaining our overall health. This is a positive, and long overdue, development.

As we have done for more than 55 years, United Services continues to respond to the needs of the clients and communities we serve.

We are growing more than ever. This year we expanded programming to assist individuals experiencing mental health crises and established more robust partnerships with our law enforcement partners. Early next year we will mark the very exciting addition of Primary Care to our more than 30 programs.

We could not do what we do every day without the support of our community. Thank you for partnering with us.

Diane L. Manning  
President/CEO

Thanks to a Congressionally Directed Spending project, United Services will add Primary Care services to its suite of programs by January 2023.

U.S. Senators Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal co-sponsored United Services request, and \$461,000 was included in the 2022 Omnibus Appropriations Bill for the project.

"It just makes sense to have health providers who can do both primary care and mental health care. These new wraparound services will allow United Services to expand access to physical health care and improve outcomes for the thousands of people they serve," Murphy said in March when the funding was announced.

Through Integrated Primary Care, United Services clients will receive wraparound healthcare that addresses both their physical and mental health in one location. All of their providers, as well as their case managers and peer support staff, will work as a collaborative team with the client to improve their health and meet their wellness goals.

Only 23% of United Services clients have a Primary Care Physician listed within the agency's Electronic Health Record, and in the past two years the agency has seen an increase in Emergency Department admissions for all conditions (physical and behavioral health) among its consumers. The agency's Primary Care Program seeks to serve clients without an existing primary care physician.

Blumenthal visited United Services Dayville clinic on May 31 and held a press conference on site to announce the new program.

"After the deep anxiety, loss and isolation of these past two pandemic years, the need for mental health services has never been higher.

This federal funding enables United Services Inc. to expand critical – often vital -- mental health and behavioral health resources across Northeastern Connecticut to serve our most vulnerable residents," said Blumenthal. "I will continue to fight for more funding to address the mental health crisis facing our communities."

**Blumenthal described  
the launch of  
primary care as  
"the start of a new era"  
for United Services.**



U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal with United Services staff at the agency's Dayville Clinic.



Senator Blumenthal held a press conference on the federal funding on May 31.

## Community Connections Behavioral Health News & Resources for the Quiet Corner



United Services Windham Regional Health and Wellness Center at 140 North Frontage Road, Mansfield Center.

#### INSIDE:

- ❖ United Services to Add Primary Care to Suite of Programs
- ❖ Innovative Project Expands Police Partnerships
- ❖ Older Adults Mental Health Awareness
- ❖ Medication Assisted Treatment Program





USI's Forensic Services Manager Ashley Foster, LMSW, (center) with the Plainfield Police Department.

## Innovative Project Expands Police Partnerships

### Program Pairs Social Workers with Police Departments

One of United Services newest initiatives expands the agency's partnerships with local police departments with a dedicated Forensic Services staff.

Forensic Services Manager Ashley Foster, LMSW, has been working directly with Connecticut State Police Troop D and the Coventry, Plainfield and Putnam Police Departments, deploying with police on mental health emergency calls and conducting follow ups and referrals with individuals following police contact.

Since the start of the pandemic United Services has seen dramatic increases in the number of people seeking mental health services. Requests for crisis services has seen the largest increase. At times during the last two years, USI's Crisis team has been operating at a more than 230 percent increase over pre-covid times.

To address this large community need, United Services sought additional funding to expand our crisis programs. Also known as the CRISIS program, this pilot program was supported by our state legislative delegation.



New decals displayed at the entrances to our clinics and buildings

## Older Adults Mental Health Awareness

### Senior Center Conversations on Depression

For the second year in a row, United Services held free conversations at local Senior Centers in May as part of our Mental Health Awareness Activities.



USI's Medical Director, Dr. Sarah De Asis and Clinical Services Division Director, Melissa Demma, LCSW, held conversations at the Plainfield Senior Center and the Quinebaug Valley Regional Senior Center about signs of depression, how to get help and treatment options.



Dr. Sarah De Asis and Melissa Demma, LCSW, at the Plainfield Senior Center for Older Adults Mental Health Awareness.



Particle Accelerator 2022 was held June 11.

## Particle Accelerator Raises \$13,000, Awareness for Mental Health



Particle Accelerator marked its 16th year in 2022 and the June 11 concert raised more than \$13,000 for mental health programs at United Services.

Particle Accelerator is an annual benefit concert that raises awareness for suicide and depression. Thank You to this year's sponsors: United Lens, NAMI Windham County, SERAC, Jewett City Savings Bank, Byrnes Agency, Bank Hometown, Deary's Gymnastics Supply, Quality Resourcing Services, Brooklyn Cares, WIN Waste Innovations, Daniel R. Santos CPA, Archambault Insurance Associates, Gilman and Valade Funeral Homes & Crematory, WINY Radio, Bill's Bedding and Furniture Showroom, D.H. Copeland Builders, Inc., Rawson Materials, 85 Main, Ann Tetreault, Four G's Restaurant & Pizza, Knights of Columbus Cargill Council, Quinebaug Valley Regional Rotaract Club, Quiet Corner Consulting, Gerardi Insurance Services, Saw Dust Coffee House & Dessert Bar, Deary Bros. Stand and Jimmy's Kids Foundation.



## Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program Openings Available

United Services currently has openings in our Medication Assisted Treatment program, an outpatient program for adults who are dependent on opioid drugs, alcohol or tobacco.

USI's program focuses on the "whole patient" and includes therapy, medication management, peer support, employment support and empowered recovery, prevention and education.

Treatment can be planned around your needs with a focus on your unique recovery goals. Services are available at the agency's Dayville and Mansfield Center clinics.

For more information, call 860-774-2020 or 860-456-2261.



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Visit [facebook.com/UnitedServicesCT](https://facebook.com/UnitedServicesCT) for news and tips on keeping your community, your family and yourself happy and healthy, as well as the latest on United Services' news, programs and events.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Sunflowers for Kids Sunday, September 4th 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Join us at Lapsley Orchard in Pomfret for our 18th annual Sunflowers for Kids fundraiser to benefit United Services' Children and Family Programs. Proceeds from sunflower and wildflower sales will benefit programs such as the Child Guidance Clinic, parenting programs and support groups such as Kinship Care, and the region's Youth Service Bureau, Juvenile Review Board and Domestic Violence Program.

## The Risks of Vaping and Your Child: What We All Need to Know

Wednesday, August 3 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. United Services Dayville Center 1007 North Main Street, Dayville

Join us for a free community in-person training for youth (age 12 and older), parents and caregivers to learn more about the current vaping crisis in our communities. Presenter will be Kelsey Hust, LMSW, Community and Worksite Wellness Manager at United Services. Registration is required. Space is limited. To register contact Lori Bergstrom at 860-412-8665 or email [lbergstrom@usmhs.org](mailto:lbergstrom@usmhs.org). All families who register and attend will receive a \$25 Walmart gift card.



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## SAVE THE DATE:

### 20th Annual Irish Night

Our 20th Annual Irish Night will be held at Wright's Mill Farm in Canterbury on March 10, 2023 and will support our critical Children and Family Programs in northeastern Connecticut, including mental health, domestic violence and family support programs.

Stay tuned to [Unitedservicesct.org](https://Unitedservicesct.org) for details.