

The good work of the statewide SASH partnership has garnered a lot of attention this summer, both nationally and regionally. This month's issue debuts a new look and name -- *SASH Impact* -- for our monthly missive and shares recent news reports and case studies about SASH.



Center for Health Innovation cites SASH success in national brief

A new issue brief from the national [Center for Consumer Engagement in Health Innovation](#) focuses on SASH and highlights the story of St. Johnsbury participant Regina Fournier, who credits her recovery from a stroke to the [RuralEdge](#) SASH partnership in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. [Read the brief and Regina's story.](#)



Regina Fournier (right) & SASH Coordinator Robin Burnash



SASH shown to reduce growth in costs for ER and specialist visits



A new study published in the national HUD research journal *Cityscape* identifies the traits of SASH groups ("panels") that have the biggest bang when it comes to reducing Medicare expenditures. Among the findings: **Visits to emergency rooms and specialty physicians by SASH participants in nearly all Vermont SASH panels cost less** compared to

the control group, with **statistically significant savings among participants in the early and urban panels who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.** The study, conducted by RTI, was a deeper analysis of data RTI gathered during its most recent evaluation of SASH.

[Read the study.](#)



Attorney general launches 'Elder Protection Initiative'

During April and May, SASH partners throughout Vermont shared their expertise with representatives from the Vermont attorney general's office as the office embarked on a "listening tour" to gather information about older Vermonters' greatest vulnerabilities and needs, as well as how the state's support systems could be improved to address these needs.

What the representatives heard, [detailed by topic area here](#), prompted Attorney General T.J. Donovan to establish a permanent unit within his office called the "[Elder Protection Initiative](#)" (EPI) in June. The first priority of the unit – and a top issue identified by SASH partners statewide – is addressing the exploitation and abuse of vulnerable older adults. The unit is already at work helping Vermont 2-1-1 enhance its referral capacity in this area and collaborating with the Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont "to explore building state capacity to address elder abuse." [Visit the EPI website.](#)



More SASH-in-the-news highlights

- [Contributions of SASH are cited in a report published by the National Academy for State Health Policy](#) about Vermont's model to lower costs and improve population health.
- [Sanders highlights SASH, other Vermont priorities in Senate-passed appropriations bill.](#)
- [SASH success in Rhode Island](#) is described in an interview with director of Saint Elizabeth Community, who now plans to implement SASH at more sites and eventually take it statewide.
- [Windsor County SASH was one of two organizations chosen](#) to receive financial donations this year from [Mt. Ascutney Hospital](#) as part of the hospital's annual "Doctors' Day" program honoring the medical staff there. In addition, [Windsor County SASH is helping revive the free breakfast program "Rachel's Kitchen,"](#) a vital community resource in the region.



The statewide [SASH partnership](#) includes these and other organizations and their affiliates:



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