

The Children's League Announces New Board Leadership

BOSTON, January 25, 2021—

The Children's League of Massachusetts is proud to formally announce the election of a new slate of leaders to its Board of Directors. Shaheer Mustafa, LICSW, CCDP will serve as chair of the 16-member board for the next two years. Mustafa is the President and CEO of [HopeWell, Inc.](#), one of New England's leading providers of intensive foster care that provides support to young adults transitioning out of foster care, as well as residential settings and support services for adults living with disabilities. Daurice Cox, Psy.D, CAS ([Bay State Community Services](#)) assumes the position of vice chair, having already served a term as the board's clerk. At-large members Michael Ames, PhD, ([Perkins](#)) and Beth Barto, LMHC ([LUK, Inc.](#)) were elected treasurer and clerk, respectively. Rounding out the new appointments, Lois Nesci ([Gándara Center](#)) has been added as an at-large member of the board.

"I'm incredibly honored to lead the board of the Children's League. I've been a member of the board for four years, but a fan of the organization for decades," Mustafa said. "The Children's League fulfills a vital role in the Commonwealth by centering the needs of children, youth, and families in important statewide policy discussions that affect the delivery of services and support to families. With greater public awareness of the deep and urgent need among tens of thousands of families due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this work is more important than ever."

Regarding the appointments, Executive Director Tammy Mello asserts "We have been fortunate to have had strong leadership over the past 25 years and are especially thankful for our outgoing executive team who while tackling the pandemic's impact to their own agencies, did not skip a beat in leading CLM through the storm. As we look ahead to 2021, with Shaheer as our chair and a strong board at our back CLM will continue to set an aggressive agenda that challenges inequities in our systems and communities that directly impact the ability of youth of color to access well-being, a basic human right.

Mustafa replaces Anne Sampaio, LICSW, who served as chair of the board in 2018 and 2019. Sampaio will remain on the board as an at-large member. Bill Lyttle, who previously served as Treasurer, will also remain on the board as an at-large member.

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The Children's League of Massachusetts (CLM) is a statewide non-profit association of over 65 private and public organizations and individuals that collectively advocate for public policies and quality services that are in the best interest of children, youth, and families in the Commonwealth. It is through public education and advocacy that the Children's League promotes the availability, accessibility, and quality of these needed services.