

Annual Report 2019

CHILDREN'S LEAGUE
OF MASSACHUSETTS





Letter from the Executive Director

Fiscal Year 2019 was a year of continued transitions and restructuring, resulting in many successes for the Children’s League of Massachusetts (CLM). We launched a new Adoption Task Force, celebrated legislative wins, and saw significant increases as a result of our budget advocacy! Our members also voted unanimously to restructure the agency for the first time since CLM was founded almost 25 years ago.

This restructure improves the efficacy of our advocacy, strengthens our commitment to our members, promotes opportunities for member participation, and elevates our role as a leader and champion for children and families in the Commonwealth. CLM staff and several of our members visited our Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., to discuss the impact and implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act and worked with national partners to advocate on behalf of immigrant children and families at the Southern border.

We are proud of all that we have accomplished this year, which is highlighted in this report. As we reflect on this year and the one ahead, CLM remains focused on building a strong continuum of supports for children and families that is trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, data-driven, and centralized on safety, permanency and well-being. We continue to encourage our members and our partners to hold ourselves accountable to centering the voices and experiences of children and youth in our work.

TAMMY MELLO

Executive Director

LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET SUCCESSES

We are only 9 months into the 2 year (2019 – 2020) legislative session, but we have already made significant inroads with our priorities:

- Our Continuous Healthcare Coverage for Youth who have Aged out of DCF unanimously passed the House as part of the Children’s Health and Wellbeing bill – ensuring continuity of healthcare for former foster youth.
- The Child Marriage ban bill unanimously passed the Senate.
- We surpassed our goals for our FY20 State Budget priorities.
- CLM has become a resource hub for implementation information about the federal Family First Prevention Services Act.
- It is now illegal to use Conversion Therapy on minors in Massachusetts. Massachusetts is the 16th state, plus D.C. and Puerto Rico, to outlaw the abusive practice.
- We worked with the Coalition for Special Education Funding and our partners at Massachusetts Association of 766 Approved Private Schools (maaps) to successfully increase the line item for the Special Education Circuit Breaker by \$26M.



OPERATIONAL SUCCESSES

- We have restructured the CLM bylaws for the first time since the organization was founded almost 25 years ago. This restructure improves the efficacy of our advocacy, strengthens our commitment to our members, and promotes more member participation.
- We restructured staff, cut costs, recruited new members, and balanced the budget for FY20.
- We moved our office from Beacon Hill to a beautiful space in Government Center.

PARTNERSHIPS

- We strengthened our relationships with key state agency stakeholders and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS).
- CLM and other partners have been meeting with EOHHS on a weekly basis to begin addressing the human services workforce issues. As a result of this work, certain rates have already been increased and more rate increases are in the pipeline.



GOALS

- Pass our Continuous Healthcare Coverage for Youth Who have Aged out Of DCF and our Expanding Access to Adoption bill in 2020.
- Monitor and measure the effects of the Department of Early Education and Care's new background record check regulations in order to educate and advocate around its impact on children's services.
- Grow and diversify our membership, increasing our influence as a hub for providers, advocates, and other stakeholders to collaborate on ideas, best practices and solutions to key child-welfare challenges.
- Increase CLM's visibility & exposure as an expert on children welfare issues in the Commonwealth for over 25 years.
- Continue to provide members with access to legislators, child-serving experts, and state agency officials.
- Strengthen our united voice, representing our members at coalitions, task forces, and meetings across various sectors.

Membership Snapshot

67

TOTAL MEMBERS IN FY19

6

NEW MEMBERS IN FY19

\$15K

NEW MEMBERSHIP
REVENUE INCREASE
FROM FY18



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

2

Number of bills filled

12

Number of bills endorsed

5

Number of internal CLM
taskforces and coalitions

12

Number of outside coalitions
and taskforce CLM sits on

\$7.3M+

Increase for specific child,
youth, and family services
achieved by CLM's advocacy

CLM TASKFORCES

PARTNER COALITIONS

Transition Age Youth Coalition

Family Resource Coalition

MA Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Taskforce

Family Preservation Coalition

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Commission

Children's Trust, Office of the Child Advocate

Intensive Foster Care Taskforce

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Children's Health Access Coalition

Adoption Taskforce

Children's League of Massachusetts

Healthcare for All

MA Kids Count Advisory Council

Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee

Child Welfare Data Working Group

MassBudget

Juvenile Justice Coalition

Department of Mental Health

Department of Children and Families

Citizens for Juvenile Justice

Mandated Reporter Legislative Taskforce

MA Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Leadership Forum

51A Workgroup

Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities

Juvenile Court

Department of Children and Families

STATE COALITION MEETINGS

CLM TASKFORCE WORK

Family Preservation Coalition

FPC is our newest coalition, launched in the summer of FY19. The coalition is committed to providing advocacy and support for a continuum of services and focuses on strengthening the supports that stabilize families and allow children to remain safe and at home.

Family Resource Coalition

The Family Resource Coalition was created to share best practices across Family Resource Centers, work on legislative and budget advocacy, and raise awareness among member organizations. The taskforce hosted a feedback forum with members of the FACRA advisory board in order to outline the successes and challenges FRC programs are facing around the state.

Intensive Foster Care Taskforce

IFC is comprised of member organizations who provide comprehensive foster care services for children who need a higher level of support than is available through departmental foster care. The Task Force is focused on identifying trends and best practices and developing recommendations to improve the delivery of IFC services. The taskforce has prioritized developing recommendations to support the critical role IFC has in the continuum of placement services.

Transition Age Youth Coalition

TAYC has been raising awareness regarding youth that age out of state care— over 800 young adults annually—leaving them with limited resources to manage adult tasks, complete education, secure employment, and maintain their physical and mental health. The coalition launched a research partnership with UMass Medical School, the Office of the Child Advocate, and CLM to develop a blueprint that will map out TAY services across the state.

Adoption Taskforce

Launched at the end of FY18, the taskforce focuses on innovative and practical solutions that have a proven track record to promote permanence when reunification is no longer a goal, and improve adoption and guardianship preservation and support.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SUCCESSES

Continuous Healthcare for Former Foster Youth

CLM's Continuous Healthcare for Youth who have Aged out of the Department of Children and Families bill unanimously passed the House on July 31, 2019 as part of the Speaker of the House's child health and well-being omnibus proposal (H. 4012).

This legislation includes provisions to ensure that those youth transitioning out of DCF and former foster youth have access to healthcare until they are 26. This goes beyond just codifying the current MassHealth practice of covering kids as they age out of DCF at 18. It addresses the current challenge of youth falling off of MassHealth because of a burdensome annual reapplication process, and ensures continuous coverage until age 26.

Child Marriage Ban

On July 31, 2019, the Massachusetts State Senate unanimously voted in favor of Senate Bill S.2294 to ban child marriage in the state.

Massachusetts law currently allows children under 18 to marry with parental consent and judicial approval. When those conditions are met, there is no statutory minimum age. More than 1,200 children in Massachusetts were married between 2000 and 2016, primarily girls marrying adult men. Marriage places girls – who are far more likely to be subjected to child marriage than boys – at a risk to their health, curtailed education, poverty, and domestic violence.

The bill that passed the Senate unanimously prohibits marriage below the age of 18 with no exceptions.

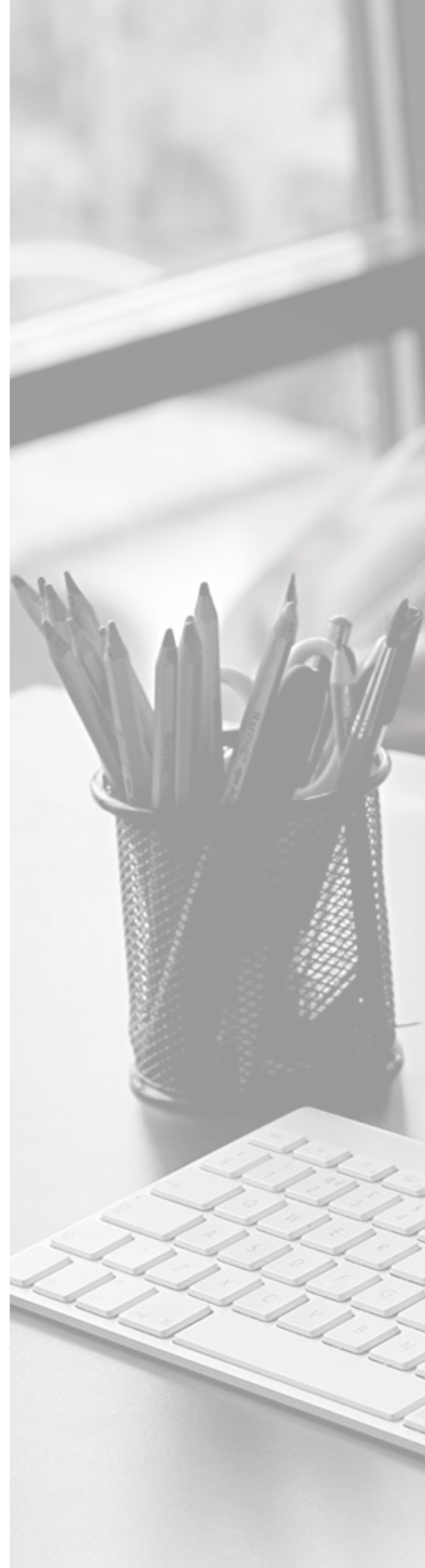
Finances

This fiscal year 2019, CLM was able to increase revenue by over \$12K and trimmed expenses by over \$60K. Our commitment to eliminating last year's deficit was not only achieved, but CLM closed out the year with a \$21K surplus.

Snapshot of Revenue

- Overall, revenue increased this fiscal year by \$12K.
- Organizational membership revenue decreased by \$2K.
- Individual membership revenue decreased by \$600.
- New membership revenue increased this year by \$15K.

Revenue	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual
Interest & Dividends	\$57	\$192
Agency Member Dues	\$361,601	\$359,197
Individual Member Dues	\$721	\$129
New Member Dues	\$0	\$14,740
Total Revenue	\$362,322	\$374,258



Snapshot of Expenses

Training & Conferences

- Networked and advocated on behalf of CLM and its members by attending:
 - CWLA conference, focusing on Family First Prevention Services Act
 - NOSAC conference, national organization of State Associations representing children services

Office & Admin

- Moved offices, resulting in a significant rent increase
- Donated to Rise Above’s Youth Excellence Award’s Dinner and Celebration, honoring foster youth graduating from high school or college
- Donated to BAGLY, a youth-led, adult-supported social support organization, advocating for programs, policies, and services for LGBTQ youth

Events & Outreach

- Hosted Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and other guest speakers at member meetings throughout the year
- Awarded annual Art Contest winners

Personnel

- Hired new Operations & Public Policy Specialist
- Said farewell to Communications & Public Policy Specialist

Lobbying

- Switched lobbying firm, slashing our lobbying expenditures by \$13K

Communications

- Hired Communications Consultant to provide website and project support

Expenses	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual
Total Personnel Expenses	\$316,770	\$269,416
Total Office & Admin Expenses	\$43,840	\$52,455
Total Events & Outreach	\$6,899	\$8,659
Total Lobbying Expenses	\$25,933	\$12,693
Total Communications Expenses	\$17,282	\$8,853
Total Training & Conferences Expenses	-	\$1,160
Total Expenses	\$410,724	\$353,236



Annual Art Contest

CLM's Annual Art Contest came to a close in December 2018 and we're happy to announce the first-place winners in the following categories:

Healing: Sam N. (*The Victor School*)

Holiday: Coco L. (*The Victor School*)

Thank You: Sam N. (*The Victor School*)

Social Justice: Sam N. (*The Victor School*)

Congratulations to all the children and youth who submitted their beautiful art work and a special thanks to the Art Directors for coordinating with CLM staff. All submissions, as well the second and third place winners in each category, can be found on CLM's website.

All winning submissions were turned into CLM note cards for staff to use throughout the following calendar year. Our members' youth are often proud to know that their work is adorning the front of cards that reach the desks of every legislator, CLM member, and state official at EOHHS - even the Governor!



2019 CLM Members

Bay State Community Services	Family Services of the Merrimack Valley	National Association of Social Workers - MA
Berkshire Children and Families	Friends of Children	NFI Massachusetts
Bob Gass	Gandara Mental Health Center, Inc.	North Suffolk Mental Health Association, Inc.
Boys Town New England	The Guild for Human Services	Old Colony YMCA
Brandon Residential Treatment Center, Inc.	Heading Home	Open Sky Community Services
Cambridge Family and Children's Service	The Home for Little Wanderers	Parent / Professional Advocacy League (PPAL)
Center for Human Development	HopeWell, Inc.	Parents Helping Parents
Centerboard	James F. Farr Academy	Plummer Youth Promise
Child and Family Services, Inc.	Justice Resource Institute	Rise Above
Children's Study Home	Kennedy-Donovan Center	Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps.
Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)	The KEY Program	Roxbury Youthworks, Inc.
Citizens for Juvenile Justice	Latham Centers, Inc.	Sophie Wadsworth
Clinical and Support Options	Lower Roxbury Coalition	St. Ann's Home, Inc.
Communities for People	LUK, Inc.	St. Vincent's Home
Community Action	Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE)	Stetson School
COMPASS	MA Children's Alliance (MACA)	Stevens Treatment Programs
Cotting School	Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI)	Treehouse Foundation
Devereux	Massachusetts MENTOR	UMass Medical
Doctor Franklin Perkins School	Massachusetts Organization for Educational Collaborative (MOEC)	Walden School of The Learning Center for the Deaf
Fall River Deaconess Home	Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC)	Walker
Family & Community Resources	More Than Words	Wayside Youth and Family Support Network
Family Continuity		Y.O.U., Inc.
Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts		Youth Villages, Inc.

2019 State Partners

Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)

Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH)

Massachusetts Department of Youth Services (DYS)

Massachusetts Office of the Child Advocate (OCA)

CLM Staff

Tammy Mello, Executive Director

Kathryn Cohen, Public Policy Director

Shayna Parker, Operations & Public Policy Specialist

2019 Board of Directors

Officers

Anne Sampaio, LICSW, Executive Director, Child and Family Services, Inc.
Chair - CLM

Bill Lyttle, President, The Key Program
Treasurer - CLM

Shaheer Mustafa, President & CEO, HopeWell
Vice Chair - CLM

Daurice Cox, President & CEO, Bay State Community Services
Clerk - CLM

Immediate Past Chair

Matthew Stone, Executive Director - Massachusetts and New Hampshire, Youth Villages, Inc.

Nominating Committee Co-Chairs

Eric Masi, President & CEO, Wayside Youth and Family Support Network

James Lister, President, Plummer Youth Promise

At-Large Members

Mia Alvarado, Executive Director, Roxbury Youthworks, Inc.

Michael Ames, President & CEO, Doctor Franklin Perkins School

Beth Barto, CEO, LUK, Inc.

Kari Beserra, Executive Vice President, Justice Resource Institute

Bob Gittens, Executive Director, Cambridge Family and Children's Service

Joseph Leavey, Executive Director, Communities for People

Mary McGeown, Executive Director, MSPCC

Jackie Moore, CEO, North Suffolk Mental Health Association, Inc.

Lesli Suggs, President & CEO, The Home for Little Wanderers