



### Adoption Taskforce Meeting

March 7, 2023 | 1 – 2pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94911747254?pwd=SXpleGFmZlIIZZWlNz01RUWVrZGtQT09>

Meeting ID: 949 1174 7254; Passcode: 356208; Phone call option: +1 646 931 3860

#### NOTES

##### Welcome and Introductions

**CLM Staff:** Sue Anamier O'Callaghan; Tasmiah Ahmad

**Co-Chairs:** Bridget Chiaruttini, MARE; Stephanie Steed, 18 Degrees

**Members:** Audrey Reffie, Child and Family Services Adoption Journeys; Barbara Beckmann, Child and Family Services; Wendy Botelho, Child and Family Services; Mary Liz Nogueras, MARE; Sybil Turk, MSPCC; Missy Tarjick, MAFF; Alison Mengel, 18 Degrees

**State Agency Participants:** Carol Murphy, DMH

##### Equity & Disproportionality

##### Bills (equity & disproportionality lens)

- **REACH OUT TO YOUR LEGISLATORS to advocate for the passage of priority bills this session.**
  - **Legislators contact info.:** Find [your state legislator's contact info. here](#). You can compare it to the [Committee Members' list here](#).
  - **Let them know the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities still needs to report out by May 2 priority bills including:**
  - **Priority Bills:**
    - An Act to Eliminate **Disproportionality** and Inequities for At-Risk Children [S.120](#) / [H.153](#) (Sen. Susan L. Moran; Rep. Paul J. Donato) Requires child-serving state agencies to report on disproportionality and inequity in services. Fact Sheet.
      - Committee: Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities; Deadline: May 2
    - An Act **minimizing trauma** to court-involved children and families [S.71](#) / [H.204](#) (Sen. Creem; Rep. Meschino) Promotes foster care placements with relatives, that keep siblings and half siblings together, and preserve/promote cultural, racial, ethnic, religion, and linguistic identities. It also updates DCF reporting requirements.
      - Committee: Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities; Deadline: May 2
    - An Act relative to **parentage** to promote children's security [S.947](#) / [H.1713](#) (Sen. Tarr; Rep. Khan & Rep. Scanlon) The Massachusetts Parentage Act (MPA) will update Massachusetts' outdated parentage law so that it is clear, equitable, and provides legal protection for all families, including LGBTQ+ families. GLAD is the lead on this bill. Here's a Fact Sheet.
      - Committee: Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities; Deadline: May 2

- <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2024/01/31/metro/we-know-there-are-many-ways-make-family-why-doesnt-state-law-see-it/>

- **Outreach Templates** - for all the bills still needing Committee Reports: [Outreach Templates](#)
- **Joint Committee** on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities Chairs:  
[Robyn.Kennedy@masenate.gov](mailto:Robyn.Kennedy@masenate.gov); (617) 722-1544 and [Jay.Livingstone@mahouse.gov](mailto:Jay.Livingstone@mahouse.gov); (617) 722-2011
- **Full List of CLM Bills here:** [CLM's 2023-2024 Legislative Agenda](#)

### Budget Priorities

- Mostly supporting the Governor's budget and asking for 5M money for flexible funding for FRCs & 20% increase to Temporary Assistance for Families with Dependent Children and Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children

### Post-Adoption Support

- Federal Grant Opportunity for DCF/whole state – [home page](#) & [resource library](#) (through the National Center for Enhanced Post-Adoption Support is funded by the Children's Bureau) – 5 year collaborative agreement through Children's Bureau – 3 components: (1) resource sharing around post-adoption supports for professionals – close to up and running (partly accessible already); (2) peer-to-peer CW offering post-adoption support; (3) on-the-ground training and assistance for state agencies (could also give ideas to get state agencies support) -- 25 states will receive this funding (5 state agencies/year) - goal: build more robust system of post-adoption supports (a provider can't go get it; it has to originate with the state agency – *we'll share with DCF*). Could be solid piece of RFR.
- RFR Advocacy – where is it stuck and what can we do to get it to move forward; *Sue talk to RG for feedback on next steps regarding EOHHS relationship and/or can our DCF relationship/discussion help move it; will connect with our Chairs and Policy Committee if desired and will update the group and reach out for feedback as appropriate.*

### Member Input/Updates/Best Practices

- **Voice of Adoption event** - an 18 Degrees staffer who wasn't present went; no one else chimed in on how it was
- **DMH** – grant/RFR for innovative respite ideas and there's only 1-2 child ones; there is going to be a caregiver-to-caregiver network (matching) and they could give respite back-and-forth to each other – need to get word out and have people sign up (EOHHS Respite Workgroup – Federation for Children with Special Needs is hosting this) - *See info./links below and share them.\**
- **State House Advocacy Day - Awards Ceremony/Nominations:** [please nominate staff](#) (program leadership and/or front-line who exemplify commitment and excellence (Deadline March 31)

### Next steps and closing

- Next Adoption Task Force meeting: June 6
- **CLM State House Day: May 16, Hall of Flags (10am)** (reminder: [please nominate staff](#) for awards ceremony)
  - Training during member forum in advance:
    - May 5/10: Hill Day Prep

- **CLM's Awards Ceremony:** Nominate program leaders and direct service staff for CLM Awards by March 31st. You [can circulate this link](#) with your staff, so they can self-nominate/nominate their peers, as well.

**\*Caregiver to Caregiver (C2C) network** - Caregivers apply to join the network. We will match families to one another based on:

- The child's medical and support needs
- Where families live
- Language and cultural identities and preferences

Staff provide initial and ongoing support to anyone involved in providing and receiving respite. CORI and SORI background checks will also be performed. A virtual learning platform will enable caregivers to participate in trainings, discussion forums and other learning opportunities. Once caregivers have been matched to one another, check-ins will be provided at least monthly. See links below and attached information sheets in multiple languages.

**Now Accepting Applications!** Submit a match request <https://fcsn.org/c2c-match/>  
Sign up for C2C updates <https://fcsn.org/c2c-survey/> & Learn about C2C <https://fcsn.org/c2c/>