



Transition Age Youth Coalition Meeting

Dec. 12, 2023 | 1 – 2PM

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/91305152340?pwd=VGkwVFBNRzlCL2Nwd3FNYUdpblZ3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 913 0515 2340; Passcode: 11888; Call-in option: +1 305 224 1968 US

NOTES

Welcome and Introductions

CLM Staff: Sue Anamier O'Callaghan, CLM; Rachel Gwaltney, CLM; Tasmiah Ahmad, CLM

Co-Chairs: Lesli Suggs, LUK Inc; Matt Stone, Youth Villages

Members: Craig Gordon, CFP; Joshua Grant, the Home for Little Wanderers; Kaitlyn Viola, Youth Villages; Cat Quirion, HopeWell; Shaquita Ogletree, Youth Villages; Mia Alvarado, RYI; Jodi Rosenbaum, More Than Words; James Mackey, More Than Words; Jane Bergeron, CFS; Cindy Powers, NFI

State Agency Partners: Teona Beromelidze, DCF; Molly O'Neil, DCF

>TAYC Legislative Updates

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.
 - **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; (617) 722-1544 and Jay.Livingstone@mahouse.gov; (617) 722-2011
 - **Full List of CLM Bills here:** [CLM's 2023-2024 Legislative Agenda](#)
 - **KEY for bills below:**
 - **Blue highlights – Committee Deadlines Extended**
 - **Green highlights – Received Favorable Committee Reports**
- **An Act to eliminate disproportionality and inequities for at-risk children** [S.120 / H.153](#) - [Fact Sheet](#) (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
- **Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care** [S.68 / H.164](#) (Sen. Comerford; Rep. Finn) Codifies and creates rights for children in care, such as regarding sharing documents, promoting connection to family, community, and identity, prioritizing families first with placements, duration/frequency of visits, positive contacts/languages maintained, health care accessibility, right to school of origin/education supports, age-appropriate activities, milestones, being informed of supports/services available, access to case worker/attorney, participation in planning, notice,



records, and complaints. Bill also promotes siblings connections. (Content of this bill is also in the Child Welfare Omnibus bill).

- Committee: Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities; Deadline: May 2
- **Protecting benefits owed to foster children** [H.157](#) / [S.65](#) (Sen. Comerford; Rep. Farley-Bouvier) Ensuring kids eligible for benefits are getting them; “Benefits of a foster child shall not be used by the department to offset the cost of providing foster care”; make sure benefits aren’t being used for things DCF purchases for other children in care; providing financial literacy training (Additional supporters include The Disability Law Center and Child Protection and the Committee for Public Counsel Services).
 - Committee: Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities; Deadline: May 2
- **An Act promoting diversion of juveniles to community supervision and services** [S.940](#) / [H.1495](#) (Sen. Creem; Rep. Oakley) A 2018 statute on judicial pre-arraignment diversion excluded several offenses, including low-level conduct. This bill expands the list of offenses that are eligible for judicial consideration but continues to prohibit judicial diversion for offenses, for which adults would be subject to a mandatory exp incarceration of five years or more. See Massachusetts Coalition for Juvenile Justice Reform's [Fact Sheet](#).
 - Committee: Joint Committee on the **Judiciary**; Deadline: April 30
- **An Act to provide identification to youth and adults experiencing homelessness** [S.2251](#) / [H.3360](#) / [H.3388](#) (Sen. Kennedy; Rep. Khan; Rep. O’Day) Creates a process for a person who is homeless or is an unaccompanied homeless youth to apply for a Massachusetts identification card and to waive any fees associated with obtaining the identification card. Led by [MA Coalition for the Homeless](#).
- **An Act Relative to Safer Schools** [S.300](#) / [H.517](#) (Sen. Kennedy; Rep. Khan); now attached to [S.290](#) Clarifies conduct requiring disciplinary or law enforcement responses; creates a grant program (administered by Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) to transition to police-free schools; increases data on school policing; prohibits SROs (school resource officers) from being assigned to a district if a superintendent doesn’t publicly report that data. See the Coalition for Smart Responses to Student Behavior: [Fact Sheet](#) on School Policing Bills.
- **SENT TO STUDY (aka tabled this session): An Act Improving Juvenile Justice Data Collection** [S.931](#) / [H.1802](#)

>Budget

CLM’s House Ways and Means advocacy letter going out today with blog post. You can ask your Representatives to support the bills above and our budget priorities. After the House Budget comes out, we will engage everyone on the Senate Budget advocacy.



Keep your eyes out for our newsletters and action alerts for advocacy opportunities/requests. Please email tasmiah@childrensleague.org if you haven't been getting CLM's newsletters and action alerts and would like to.

>Federal Updates - See Shaquita Ogletree, Youth Villages' slides as additional attachment – some broad strokes noted below

- Increasing Access to Foster Care Through Age 21 (CLM signed on to advocacy letter on this; may be able to get companion bill on Senate side; some states might have challenges to meet this – let Shaquita or Matt know of challenges to serve older youth)
- State of Union Address Highlights:
 - o Tax: Child Tax Credits
 - o Social Security – protections/strength
 - o Kids Online Safety Act (S.1409)
- **FY25 Budget:**
 - o evidence-based foster care prevention services
 - o Incentives to place children in foster care with relatives or other adults with existing bond and additional funds to support youth aging out of care
 - o Flexible funding for state/community-based organizations – respond to and prevent child abuse (Title IV B, Part II) - \$195M
 - o Establish housing voucher program for all 20K youth aging out annually - \$9B (heard from HUD the current vouchers are underutilized which is a concern)
- **Appropriations Bills should be finalized next week:** not much being increased; expect CTC, TAY youth wins, and some funding for research
- HUD has designated the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) as the technical assistance provider for FUP and FYI. HUD has instructed CSH that they have to subcontract the funding to organizations that have a track record in FYI and FUP. Encouraged us to apply:
<https://www.csh.org/2024/02/request-for-proposal-rfp-special-voucher-product-training-and-technical-assistance/>

TAYC Hill Brief Updates

- Logistics: 3/14 10:30am-12pm, State House Room 428
- Resources
 - o <https://linktr.ee/childrensleague> (will be linked again for event)
- Attendees – over 100 registered
- Legislative Meetings – please input meetings in our list to coordinate or at least track outreach:
 - o <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kVg5HFPieKycToAZPV8HVx1P2mhlRSx - jIKsFaISkU/edit?usp=sharing>

Member Input/Updates/Best Practices NA

Agency Updates

- DCF to increase number of housing authorities (4 want to come on board) and service providers – started Mansfield Housing Authority – started with 25 youth already and looking for referrals; we are ready to submit voucher request just find us a service provider; member noted need more money for this



- Related note: HUD doing some “road shows” in local communities like they did for military vouchers – doing some Public Housing Authority and child welfare; Region 1 and 2: NY or Boston – looking for space (trying to do before end of FY/Oct.)

Next Steps

- Legislative Outreach: see above
- Consider how to promote this opportunity for MA and email Matt, Lesli and Sue with any input: <https://www.csh.org/2024/02/request-for-proposal-rfp-special-voucher-product-training-and-technical-assistance/>
- Next TAYC meeting: June 11
- CLM TAYC Hill Day Briefing: March 14 (Room 428; 10:30am-12pm)
 - **Coordinate your legislative meetings and/or simply let us know about them here:** <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kVg5HFPieKycToAZPV8HVx1P2mhlRSx - jIKsFaISkU/edit#gid=0>
- Member Meeting March 25 **in person at JRI** with the Co-chairs Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities Co-Chairs – advocacy opportunity
- CLM State House Day: May 16, Hall of Flags (10am)
 - 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. <https://www.childrensleague.org/clms-awards-ceremony-nominations-deadline-is-march-15th/>