**Family Preservation Coalition (FPC)**

**Quarterly Meeting**  
September 11, 10-11am

**Zoom Meeting Link:** [**https://zoom.us/j/94252399420?pwd=qbvbwnFn3bzVgB1aD5ADwKAiNR7O68.1**](https://zoom.us/j/94252399420?pwd=qbvbwnFn3bzVgB1aD5ADwKAiNR7O68.1)

**Meeting ID:** 942 5239 9420; **Passcode:** 191474

|  |
| --- |
| NOTES |
| Welcome and Introductions  Many thanks to Kari Beserra, JRI for serving as an incredible co-chair for years! Thank you for all of your valuable guidance and input that has supported our Family Preservation Coalition (FPC). As a thought partner and leader, Board Member and Policy Committee Member, Kari will keep helping to guide and advance CLM’s Policy Strategy. Thank you!    Welcome and thank you to Stephanie Sladen, JRI our new FPC Co-Chair! And we are also happy to introduce you to CLM’s new Communications & Public Policy Specialist Haleigh St. Hilaire. We are lucky to have her on board, expanding our ability to influence public policies.    Attendees  Chairs: Doga Keith, Youth Villages, Stephanie Sladen, JRI Members: Kari Beserra, JRI, Carolyn Homan, Old Colony YMCA, Imani Seunarine, HopeWell, Ann Pruszynski, Advocates, Holly Lawrence, NFI Massachusetts, Emily Rouleau, Edinburg Center  CLM: Rachel Gwaltney, Sue O’Callaghan, Haleigh St. Hilaire |
| * S&S SURVEY RESPONSE SUMMARY   + FPC Consensus on Top 3 Challenges to Family Preservation:     - Human Services Workforce     - Accessible Treatment Services     - Families’ Ability to Meet Their Basic Needs   + Scope of Services     - Not in Every Region: Caregiver Response, Brief Strategic Family Therapy, Multisystem Therapy, Family Crisis/Trauma Intervention     - Services in Every Region: Safe & Stable, Comprehensive Services, Substance Use Interventions, Therapeutic, Motivational Interviewing, Preparation Support, Youth Support   + Repeated Concerns:     - Federal threats to funding/Medicaid, SNAP, immigrants, etc.     - Need cash assistance to cover basic needs, including for TAY     - Need affordable housing, food security, and utility support/forgiveness     - Need increase in S&S budget line item     - Need livable wage for human services workers (supports hiring and prevention efforts)     - Age cut off for TAY services     - DCF Referrals pursuing multiple providers at same time vs. evaluating best fit for family * SUPPORT AND STABILIZATION LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING   + Advocacy Planning     - Critical Funding Needed for: Family Support and Stabilization Budget Line Item     - Potential Bills to include in resources...       * An Act Enhancing Child Welfare Protections ([S.148](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S148) / [H.262)](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H262) - [Fact Sheet](https://www.childrensleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Child-Welfare-Omnibus.pdf)     - Members recruit speakers for this event to share about the great impacts and potentially challenges faced by S&S that supports the need for adequate funding     - Members host legislators in the fall (pre-event) at your programs   + Event Timing – January or March 2026 (Room request out, waiting to hear back from Senator/Lobbyist)   + Planning Meetings Schedule (we’ll dive deeper together – Sue will send Calendar invites)     - Oct. 9, at 10am (all FPC members who can make it) – CLM brings Run of Show Draft and Resources List/Outlines; Providers let us know their Legislator Fall Program visit plans     - Nov. 13, 10am (all FPC members who can make it) – Review More Developed Resource Drafts updated by CLM; And discuss any updates to our plans     - Dec. 10 at 10am – regular FPC Meeting with full group |
| Member Comments During Meeting   * Oct. 15 Next Revenue Estimate for state comes out – could trigger cuts as early as late fall * Health Care Finance Committee Chair Sen. Friedman painted a not so positive picture   + (1) acknowledge need to pay now or later – prevention is key. (2) doesn't want small cuts everywhere then no one can do what they need to * Utilization – demand for these services needs to be shown. Does anyone have a true read on the demand? Most providers have openings and can't get enough referrals; are they not getting processed like at DMH – some things with utilization are not directly in our control; how to work with DCF to shift that * CBMH 6 mos. wait w/ DCF; openings in same place for others??... * NFI underutilized by DMH – OK w S&S – multiple contracts; worry great disorganization with portal requiring more communications, less efficient which is murky to needs/utilization); Waitlist: fams are waiting due to confusion/data may not be accurate; started in Fall 2024 vetting for family therapy – DCF just came online on training – stalled and worry about difficulty capturing data from that too...; the hurry up and wait process is challenging * In S&S mtgs there is still a lack of clarity w DCF and lead providers; lead asks provider for info. but DCF says no they have to come to us. Recent comment was “we have room”, but where are the referrals? What may have worked in the old system with smaller number of providers, may not now. With over 700 providers/options now, vetting referrals about the same family and becomes a little competitive, which can get in the way of consistent and prompt servicing; They ask providers to share what they’re doing differently (but there is little variation).. it's not the best use of peoples' time... * Not hearing they are evaluating service needed, time/place, cost effectiveness |
| Other Upcoming Meeting: CLM Member Meeting – Sept. 22, 10am – 12pm (JRI, Needham) |