**Adoption Task Force (TF)**

**Quarterly Meeting**  
September 17, 10-11am

**In-person at MARE** 19 Needham St suite 206, Newton, MA 02461

***Hybrid Option if needed:***   
 **Zoom Link:** [**https://zoom.us/j/92185241531?pwd=FfUf3U6CrMGrdcPl6I4djRaZwwEQCW.1**](https://zoom.us/j/92185241531?pwd=FfUf3U6CrMGrdcPl6I4djRaZwwEQCW.1)

**Meeting ID:** 921 8524 1531; **Passcode:** 490452

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| NOTES |
| Welcome and Introductions  Chairs: Bridget Chiaruttini, MARE, Stephanie Steed, 18 Degrees Members: Audrey Reffie, CFS/Adoption Journeys, Courtney Gomez, Bridges Homeward, Sam Gragg, MSPCC, Matthew McCall, The Home for Little Wanderers, Stephanie DiMichele, 18 Degrees, Sonia Mancini CFS, Susan Rooney, Bridges Homeward, Veronica Listerud, Children's Friend, Inc. State Agency Partners: Sharon Silvia, DCF, Carol Murphy, DMH CLM: Rachel Gwaltney, Sue Anamier O’Callaghan, Haleigh St. Hilaire |
| **Discussion**   * **RFR** – **number one issue of concern in survey** – Sharon notes AMS RFR will be released within next few months (In 2019 DCF collected internal/external feedback; same issues today; contract didn’t move forward then due to COVID) * **Rate setting** – will be totally different (resetting rates now since that had been done prior to this year) * **Liability Insurance** – yes this is a problem; Rachel provided update on CLM’s efforts with the Division of Insurance; a workgroup is looking at hopes of a state/insurance solution asap. * **DCF Intentions with ADLUs** – DCF is not an adoption agency but have children who need permanency through adoption so they do adoption but don’t advertise it; there will be changes but the specifics are still in collective bargaining so they can’t share – staff giving info. to families and providers when they shouldn't and some may be incorrect – time frame can’t be shared either * **Court/Legal Delays** – a legal change that took affect August 4th should address delays moving forward with attorneys and workers being held accountable (parties to a case must give vacation up front when setting trial dates; no changes later for vacation for example) – DCF is thrilled with it – there was desire for a rep. of DCF’s legal team to come to a broader CLM meeting to share more details (Rachel will coordinate) * **MAPP Requirements** – new requirements around number of staff facilitators: 2 workers, 1 parent is ideal but can be discussed/doesn’t have to be done if can’t; also, ignore the 5-family standard as that’s not going to be the standard soon * **DMH Updates** – working with Plummer on a training for providers working with families; aim is to help parents stuck in care who can use empathy with their kids to help their situations. |
| **Public Policy Updates**  **Bills Relevant to Adoption**   * An Act Relative to Adoptions - [*Fact Sheet*](https://www.childrensleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/An-Act-Relative-to-Adoptions.pdf) [*S.1046*](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S1046) */* [*H.1975*](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H1975) * An Act Expanding Access to Higher Education Tuition and Fee Waivers for Adopted Foster Children - [*S.918*](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S918) */* [*H.1431*](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H1431)(currently with SWM – can reach out to urge SWM to pass this) * Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care (includes sibling rights) - [*Fact Sheet*](https://www.childrensleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Bill-of-Rights.pdf)[*S.107*](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S107) */*[*H.235*](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H235) * Livable Wage Bill - [S.130](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S130) / [H.223](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H223) - Currently drafting testimony |
| Member Updates   * **Events** – MARE youth artwork event Saturday, October 25th - public facing, legislators come, encourages Adoption TF member attendance (Bridget will share info.) * Share National Adoption Month events/initiatives and resources for all to share |
| CLM Upcoming Meetings   * CLM Member Meeting – Sept. 22, 10am – 12pm (JRI, Needham) * Next Adoption Task Force Meetings – Dec. 17, 10am |