**Family Resource Centers Task Force (FRCs TF)**

**Quarterly Meeting**  
September 17, 1-2pm

**Zoom Link:** [**https://zoom.us/j/98609391041?pwd=HhKOs8nUjnLCtYNdo3HRip6kNPFLi6.1**](https://zoom.us/j/98609391041?pwd=HhKOs8nUjnLCtYNdo3HRip6kNPFLi6.1)

**Meeting ID:** 986 0939 1041; **Passcode:** 716121

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| NOTES |
| Welcome and Introductions  Chairs: Daurice Cox, Bay State Community Services and Rosalind Baker, Wayside Youth Members: Ann Pruszynski, Advocates, Carolyn Homan, Old Colony YMCA, Christopher Marques, Advocates, Emily Swalec, Seven Hills, Dolores Torbido, Seven Hills, Gina Blake, 18 Degrees, Hailey MacDonald, Pathways for Children, Holly Lawrence, NFI, Jennifer Cody, NFI, Melissa Harrison, Bay State Community Services CLM: Sue Anamier O’Callaghan, Haleigh St. Hilaire |
| Member Discussion   * **Survey Responses** – *see more highlights in the Survey Response Summary document attached, including:*   + Top Budget Concern: Ability to pay staff and clinicians more to attract and retain more staff   + Policy Concerns: Workload, Staffing, Federal Threats, Need for Prevention   + Top Concerns in General for Each FRC: Services/Family Needs, Staffing Issues, Relationship with Schools   + Other: All against possibility of FRCs billing third-party insurance   + Desired Resources: Funds & Expanded Staffing, Improved data and technology systems, Stronger partnerships with DCF area offices, parenting curriculums based on concrete skills covering the basics/family needs   + Workplan Changes Needed: streamline/decrease redundancy, focus on certain goals each quarter, provide qualitative report based on data measurements relevant to each FRC, eliminate current version for much more usable, valuable tool,   + Benchmarks: state needs to get clear about what their goals for the FRCs are and what benchmarks would truly represent value and quality from the FRCs * **FRC procurement** (for which Rachel was in a concurrent meeting today):   + The DCF procurement management team (PMT) kicked off last week, led by the consultant who is from Public Consulting Group, which has done other consulting with DCF. The team includes people from DCF, OCA, UMass, Children’s Trust, and CLM.   + The expected timeline culminates with the RFR being posted sometime next summer but could be later depending on admin processes. There will be rates setting in conjunction with the new RFR. *DCF will do contract extensions if necessary.*   + The first meeting was a lot of basic level setting about the FRCs current model and status, and some discussion of the key themes that will need to be hashed out.   + The group will be meeting at least every other week for the next few months, and there will be some subgroup work around the key topics so I will have a lot of opportunities for sharing our input.   + Rachel will reach out to the group between meetings if there are specific areas for feedback that we need more information from them to accurately represent.   + MEETING COMMENTS –     - Re-procurement elements they want to make sure DCF is clear on:       * Workplan must be changed, more manageable and not the current tool.         + Consider whether first bullet, Page 3 can be more clear/aligned with FRCs feedback.         + Don’t want to build outcomes off the workplan. Example, say there are 72 initiatives, don’t want to worry about measuring/reporting on 72 outcomes.         + CRM report not reliable; asking FRCs to measure things that aren’t reliable     - Consulting group is likely involved due to restructuring.   + QUESTIONS:     - What are the preventative factors we’re going to measure? Can identify certain interventions as good preventative efforts but how are other states quantifying that financially? (re: last bullet of PowerPoint page 2).     - Some have heard FRC rates/RFR are getting pushed to 2027? Yet, FRCs RFR was out of extensions?   + Post-meeting Notes: Re-procurement Team is starting with a very open dialogue and at ground zero with questions on the role of FRCs, how to structure that work, and how to measure those outcomes. Again, the tentative RFR release date continues to be next summer with a rate hearing to be scheduled accordingly. DCF is committed to extending contracts if timing requires it. * **FACRA**: Last week the FACRA Board met and invited Rachel to give a brief presentation on the feedback/input we have collected from the FRC’s and others over the summer going into the procurement process. *See attached PowerPoint.*      * ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITY: keep inviting local legislators to visit your FRCs, talk about what’s working and what needs to be supported to improve each FRC’s ability to serve the needs of the surrounding community. |
| Public Policy Updates *Budget*   * *9c cuts possibility (possibly Oct.), don’t expect much heads up or room for change when they come down unilaterally from Governor who must keep Massachusetts budget balanced.* * *Will advocate at each iteration of FY27 Budget Advocacy and share opportunities as relevant.*   *Legislation -* [CLM Legislative Agenda](https://www.childrensleague.org/advocacy/advocacy/)  Bills we are supporting relevant to family supports/staffing   * An Act Regarding Families and Children in Need of Assistance [S.141](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S141) / [H.265](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H265) - [Fact Sheet](https://www.childrensleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Factsheet-An-Act-Regarding-Families-and-Children-in-Need-of-Assistance.pdf) - [CLM's testimony](https://www.childrensleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/CLM-Testimony-CRA-Bill_July-2025.docx)   + - Answer to a meeting question: The bill requires school districts to refer a family to an FRC at least 45 days prior to filing a CRA petition and clarifies that schools shall not initiate a CRA petition to address responsibilities that fall within the schools’ legal responsibility under federal and state law. * An Act Relative to Social Work Uplifting Practices and Exam Removal (the SUPER Act) [S.218](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/SD1765) /[H.1423](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD877) - [CLM's testimony](https://www.childrensleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/CLM-Super-Act-Testimony-July-2025.pdf) * Lift Our Kids [S.118](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S118) / [H.214](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H214) - [FACT SHEET](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d3f36da291b36000176a90f/t/67bded401ea7e955bb7323bc/1740500288530/Lift+Kids+Out+of+Deep+Poverty+Fact+Sheet+-+2025.pdf) - [CLM’s testimony](https://www.childrensleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/CLM-LOK-Testimony-Sept.-2025.pdf) * Language Access [S.2125](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/SD1757) / [H.3384](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H3384) - [FACT SHEET](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1R2iXvZbxIAzjjCZtv1cbxdnhCmdqycch/view) - [CLM's testimony](https://www.childrensleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Aug.-2025_CLM-Testimony-for-Language-Access-Bill-1.pdf) * Livable Wage [S.130](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S130) / [H.223](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H223) - Currently drafting testimony * Loan Repayment [S.119](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/SD1820) / [H.283](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H283) - [FACT SHEET](https://providers.org/assets/2025/06/Loan-Repayment-Fact-Sheet-June-2025.final_.pdf) |
| CLM Upcoming Meetings   * CLM Member Meeting – Sept. 22, 10am – 12pm (JRI, Needham) - EOHHS Secretary, State Agency Partners, and Members will join – great opportunity for networking * Next FRC Task Force Meetings – Dec. 18, 10am (if you have any suggestions on what will make this meeting most meaningful for your agency and the Task Force feel free to call or email Sue@childrensleague.org) |