

**Massachusetts
Developmental Disabilities
Council**

Program Performance Report

For Federal Fiscal Year 2013

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Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council

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Quincy, MA

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Section I: Identification

State or Territory: MA - Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council

Reporting Period: October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013

Name of Person to Contact Regarding PPR Information

Contact Last Name: Shannon

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State Authority

State Authority Establishing Council:

Did the State authority change in this fiscal year? N/A

Designated State Agency

Did your DSA change? N/A

If 'yes', Name?

Is the new DSA a service provider? N/A

Section II: Comprehensive Review Update

There are no significant changes to report since the 2012 PPR submitted on December 31, 2012.

Section III: Progress Report - Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Transition

Youth with developmental disabilities will receive the supports they need to develop the prerequisite skills to live as adults.

Area of Emphasis	Planned for this Goal	Areas Addressed
Quality Assurance		
Education and Early Intervention	planned	addressed
Child Care		
Health		
Employment	planned	
Housing		
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports	planned	addressed

Strategies	Planned for this Goal	Strategies Used
Outreach	planned	used
Training	planned	used
Technical Assistance		
Supporting and Educating Communities		
Interagency Collaboration and Coordination	planned	used
Coordination with Related Councils, Committees and Programs		
Barrier Elimination	planned	used
Systems Design and Redesign	planned	used
Coalition Development and Citizen Participation	planned	used
Informing Policymakers	planned	used
Demonstration of New Approaches to Services and Supports		
Other Activities		

Intermediaries/Collaborators	Planned for this Goal	Actual
State Protection and Advocacy System	planned	used
University Center(s)	planned	used
State DD Agency		

Other Collaborators Planned:

MA Advocates for Children, Arc Massachusetts, Secondary School Systems, Higher Education Programs, Easter Seals, the National Youth Leadership Network, Partners for Youth with Disabilities

Other Collaborators Actual:

MA Advocates for Children, Arc Massachusetts, Secondary School Systems, Higher Education Programs, Easter Seals, the National Youth Leadership Network, Partners for Youth with Disabilities, MA Advocates Standing Strong

Objective 1.1:

A minimum of 400 youth with developmental disabilities will improve knowledge and skills needed for adult life by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

1. Develop collaborative partnerships with secondary school systems to identify students and public colleges to provide locations and supports for trainings.
2. Increase from one training team by adding at least one SALS trainer and supporter certified to

- conduct youth in transition training.
- 3. Conduct youth in transition trainings.
- 4. Provide support to the annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF).
- 5. Conduct follow-up activities to measure skill development.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

- 1. 10/1/11 - 9/30/13
- 2. By 9/30/12
- 3. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16
- 4. 10/1/12 - 9/30/16
- 5. 1/1/12 - 9/30/16

Timelines established were: All met Partially met Not met

Annual Progress Report:

The Council has developed four collaborative partnerships with colleges from across the state to provide on-campus classroom space and supports for the Youth in Transition Self-Advocacy Leadership Series. The Youth SALS is a 10-week training program that prepares students with developmental disabilities to gain the skills they need to successfully transition to life as adults in their local communities. Current partnerships include the Bridgewater State University, Lesley University, North Shore Community College and Holyoke Community College. In FFY 13 eight meetings were held with representatives from each of the colleges to arrange for the Council to utilize their respective campuses for SALS classes. The colleges also assisted the Council to connect with 15 area school districts across to recruit students to participate in the Youth SALS. In FFY 13 36 students were successfully recruited through the partnerships. Students identified for FFY 12 have been previously reported on. The target date of 9/13/2013 has been met and the Council will continue work to expand the partnership in FFY 14.

The Council conducted a rigorous search for a self-advocate and support trainer to form a new Self-Advocacy Leadership Series training team. One Self-Advocate Trainer and one Support Trainer were hired by the Council and both individuals completed the Council's extensive SALS train the trainer program and now independently teach the SALS. The timeline has been met as reported on the prior fiscal year.

Three Youth Self Advocacy Leadership Series (SALS) trainings were conducted in FFY 13, successfully graduating 36 students between the ages 18-22. Two of the trainings were held at Bridgewater State University and the third at Holyoke Community College. The Council continues work to develop a pre/post-survey tool for evaluating both the quality of the series and its measurable impact on students. This tool remains under development and will be completed and implemented in FFY 14.

Mass Advocates Standing Strong (MASS), the statewide self-advocacy organization, utilized \$2,500 of a \$60,000 grant from the Council to conduct trainings focusing on self-advocacy and how to advocate for goals in Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and Individualized Service Plans (ISPs). MASS contributed an additional \$3,000 for this project. A total of 81 youth in transition participated in the trainings.

The impact of the trainings is evident in the comments received by participants. One parent commented that “my son is a junior in high school this year and will be graduating next year. If he attends college, he will no longer have many of his special need services. This transition class helped us learn about the resources available and how to get them. I was able to network with many others who are in similar situations and this helped me to know that I'm not alone. It was so wonderful having others to reach out to.”

The Council provided support to the annual Youth Leadership Forum in partnership with MA Easter Seals and nine other collaborating organizations. The Council assisted in preparation meetings and day of conference support. A Council representative participated as a career mentor to the student participants, and Council Fact Sheets and other pertinent materials were disseminated to the 50 attendees. In addition to the forum, Council staff held two meetings with four members of MA Easter Seals to discuss continued collaboration and expanding youth leadership opportunities. The Council will continue to pursue these collaborative opportunities in FFY 14.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	81
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	36
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	0

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	0
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	0
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	14
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	0
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	50
SC06a Other systems change measure:	0
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$3,000
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Objective 1.2:

Standards for transition specialist qualifications will be adopted and implemented by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

1. Award at least one grant to support advocacy efforts.
2. Collaborate with stakeholders on Mass. Advocates for Children's Special Ed. Committee.
3. Develop a position paper on transition services.
4. Educate and solicit the support of individuals, families, providers, policymakers and the general public on the benefits of transition specialist qualifications.
5. Coordinate advocacy activities with partners and policymakers to support transition specialist qualifications.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

1. By 9/30/12
2. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16
3. By 3/31/13
4. 4/1/13 - 9/30/16
5. 4/1/13 - 9/30/16

Timelines established were: All met Partially met Not met

Annual Progress Report:

The Council partnered with Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC) to conduct education and advocacy activities and work collaboratively with transition stakeholders to ensure that youth with developmental disabilities receive the supports they need to develop the prerequisite skills to live as adults. MAC utilized \$18,333 of a \$55,000 grant from the Council and contributed an additional \$10,000 for this project. The primary focus of the project was to educate policymakers, special education administrators, teachers, families, self-advocates and others on the need to expand the expertise on transition in schools, and how adopting and implementing standards for transition specialist qualifications is a significant step toward this goal. The timeline for this activity was achieved by its target date of 9/30/12.

Collaborative efforts to strategize around transition specialist standards were also successfully met during FFY 12. Standards for qualifying a transition specialist were identified and developed. The Transition Coordinator Working Group, comprised of six transition advocacy organizations, played a role in developing the standards through dialogue and information sharing with policymakers at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. (DESE). In addition, the Council engaged in collaboration, advocacy and implementation activities around finalizing regulations and guidelines for the statewide transition specialist endorsement. Nine meetings were held with DESE's transition subcommittee to develop and provide recommendations around transition specialist qualifications.

A position paper on transition, which includes information about transition specialists, is in the final stages of development. The timeline for this activity was partially met, with a slight delay in its September 30, 2013 target completion date. The position paper will be finalized and

disseminated to policymakers and other transition stakeholders early in FFY 2014.

In the fall of 2012, the proposed transition specialist regulations were analyzed and written comments developed with input from the disability advocacy community. These comments were shared at a hearing with the state Board of Education, and other organizations were encouraged to submit comments to the Board. In December 2012, the state Board of Education voted to promulgate final transition specialist regulations, incorporating many of the comments and recommendations provided by the collaborating stakeholders.

Following promulgation of the transition specialist regulations, the Council and Massachusetts Advocates for Children convened transition stakeholder working group meetings to support implementation of the transition specialist law and regulations. Members of the working group spent considerable time researching, developing and revising information to be included in DESE's Transition Specialist Guidelines. They met with policymakers at the DESE to discuss the draft guidelines, and proposed changes were drafted to reflect the agreements developed in the meeting. This advocacy and collaboration resulted in the DESE finalizing guidelines which include the comprehensive and complex competencies necessary to address the transition needs of youth with disabilities.

The Council worked closely with MAC, the Institute for Community Inclusion and other working group members to develop a proposed rubric for the transition specialist endorsement grandfathering process, submitting five rubric related documents to DESE. DESE adopted many of the group's suggestions. The partners also advocated with DESE to ensure that the grandfathering procedures address the full breadth of required skills and knowledge. In FFY 13 five Massachusetts state and private universities have expressed interest in launching a transition specialist program.

One hundred participants at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) Transition Conference were educated on the Transition Specialist Qualifications. Through the Council empowerment Funds program 76 parents were supported to participate in the Parent Consultant Training Series conducted by the Federation for Children. One parent, whose attendance was supported through the Council's Empowerment Funds Program, wrote "My son is in 7th grade and has epilepsy. He has significant learning disabilities. From the conference, I learned about the transition process at approximately age 14 in high schools. I have a better understanding of what types of assessments we can ask for to evaluate what he would be best for, as a career. Also, I now understand how the transition form and vision statement should be written and used with the IEP. This was a very worthwhile conference.

The Council, in partnership with MAC educated 15 policymakers on the Transition Specialist regulations, guidelines, and grandfathering process. This includes legislators and policymakers at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the State Board of Education. In addition, twenty people engaged in individual advocacy activities. One young man with Down Syndrome testified at a hearing regarding required competencies for a transition specialist. Several members of the state Board of Education commented regarding the effectiveness of his testimony, which provided a powerful explanation of the impact of the transition specialist role on a student. In response to this and other testimony, the Board voted to make one additional change to the final regulations, addressing the needs of transition age youth facing linguistic and cultural barriers.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	176
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	0

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	20
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	3
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	6
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	15
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	0
SC06a Other systems change measure: Transition documents issued to policymakers.	5
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$10,000
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Objective 1.3:

The Chapter 766 Individual Education Plan process will be integrated with the Chapter 688 Individual Service Plan process through the Bridges to Success and Passages to Independence initiatives by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

1. Establish advocacy partnerships with the Disability Law Center (DLC), Arc and other transition advocates.
2. Develop a position paper on the importance of integrating Chapter 766 with Chapter 688.
3. Educate and solicit the support of individuals, families, providers and the general public on the benefits of Bridges to Success and Passages to Independence.
4. Coordinate advocacy activities with partners and policymakers for policy and budget initiatives that support the Passage to Independence and Bridges to success initiatives.

Activities undertaken were:

All met

Partially met

Not met

Timelines:

1. 10/1/11 - 9/30/12

2. By 3/31/13

3. 4/1/13 - 9/30/16

4. 4/1/13 - 9/30/16

Timelines established were:

All met

Partially met

Not met

Annual Progress Report:

The Council established collaborative partnerships with the Disability Law Center, the ARC of Massachusetts, and other advocacy organizations as previously reported in the 2012 Program Performance Report. In FFY 13 the Council developed a position paper on the importance of integrating the Chapter 766 Individual Education Plan process with the Chapter 688 Individual Service Plan process. The original completion date of 3/31/2013 was extended due to delays in initiating collaborative partnerships activities and in gathering needed data. The target was amended to 9/30/2013 in the 2013 State Plan amendments. One position paper was developed and completed in the current fiscal year that described the importance of integrating Ch. 766 and Ch. 688 as well as addressed the importance of expanding eligibility for the Department of Developmental Services' adult services. In the paper's conclusion, integrating Ch. 766 with Ch. 688 and expanding eligibility for DDS adult services were both noted as necessary components to improve the post-secondary outcomes of students who have no adult agency ties transitioning from special education services. The position paper and recommendations were reviewed by the Council policy team and shared with 200 MA legislators and their staff.

The Council educated and solicited the support of individuals, families, providers and the general public on the benefits of the Bridges to Success and Passages to Independence bills. In January 2013, the Council held a bill sharing session to provide a forum for disability advocacy organizations and legislators to share information on the disability related bills that they were sponsoring or supporting. The purpose of the bill sharing is to create opportunities for collaborative partnerships around common advocacy objectives. Ten organizations presented disability related bills at the session. The bill sharing provided a platform for the Disability Law Center to discuss the Bridges to Success legislation that their organization is sponsoring. The ARC of Massachusetts provided information on the Passages to Independence legislation. Forty people with developmental disabilities and thirty family members were educated on the Passages to Independence bill and the Bridges to Success bill, and many attendees joined the advocacy collaboration. More specifically, people were educated on the changes needed to improve the system of supports for youth not eligible for adult agency services in Massachusetts. Hearings for both of these bills are slated to be held in FY 14 and additional advocacy activities will commence after the hearings.

The Council trained 70 individuals, parents, and advocates about policy and budget initiatives that support transition and the Passage to Independence and Bridges to Success bills. The significance of efforts to integrate the IEP and ISP processes are well demonstrated by these comments. One mom who was supported by the Council to attend a transition workshop noted "My 18-year-old son, Kevin has severe special needs with autism being his primary diagnosis. He has global development delays, mental retardation & is non-verbal. I wanted to educate myself about transition services and what his transition plan should consist of. In the course of the

training, I realized that his current transition plan is inadequate and needs to be rethought out. I have since held a meeting with his school and district liaison to address the inadequacies & move towards a plan suited to his needs. I have also used the knowledge I obtained to assist a colleague with her son's transition plan.”

Another wrote “Our son just turned 16. We are concerned about his future, adult life. This event on Planning a Life/Transition Planning helped us to understand all the steps we have to take to ensure that our son's development into adulthood is well-planned. We hope to help him be as independent as possible by the time he turns 22. This event gave us hope and a plan to achieve that goal.”

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	0
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	70

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	0
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	0
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	10
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	200
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	0
SC06a Other systems change measure:	0
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$0
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Objective 1.4:

Short-term measurable objectives will be a requirement for all Individual Education

Plans by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

1. Establish advocacy partnerships with MA Advocates for Children, Disability Law Center and other transition advocates.
2. Develop a position paper on the benefits of utilizing short-term objectives for students in special education.
3. Educate and solicit the support of individuals, families, providers and the general public on the benefits of utilizing short-term objectives.
4. Coordinate advocacy activities with partners and policymakers to support utilizing short term objectives.

Activities undertaken were:



All met

Partially met

Not met

Timelines:

1. 10/1/11 - 9/30/12
2. By 3/31/13
3. 4/1/13 - 9/30/16
4. 4/1/13 – 9/30/16

Timelines established were:



All met

Partially met

Not met

Annual Progress Report:

Although Massachusetts has maintained a requirement for short term objectives in the education plan for students with disabilities after it was removed from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Council recognized that this practice was vulnerable to administrative revocation at any time. Under the Council's leadership, the Special Education Collaborative Group was formed. The four partners included MA Advocates for Children, Arc Mass, Disability Law Center, and MA Department of Special Education. Meetings were open to legislators, parents and students with disabilities. The establishment of the partnerships and frequency of meetings were reported in the 2012 PPR. The group continued to meet on a biannual basis in 2013. Mass Advocates for Children (MAC) utilized \$18,333 of a \$55,000 grant from the Council to coordinate continued advocacy activities in FFY 13. MAC contributed an additional \$10,000 for this project.

The Council's policy team conducted extensive research and uncovered quantifiable data that supported the benefit of maintaining short term objectives as a requirement in the education plan of students with disabilities. Research substantiated that short term objectives in IEPs are critical to effectively measuring progress for students with disabilities, which improves a student's chances to ultimately pass Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) testing, which is a requirement for receiving a diploma. The Council worked in collaboration with legal counsels at MA Advocates for Children and developed one Short Term Objectives position paper, which was completed by the 03/31/13 target date.

Council staff utilized the position paper in presenting information to numerous stakeholders about the importance of short term objectives. At the June 2013 Council meeting, 33 people were educated about short term objectives, and voiced support for pending legislation (SB218) to require school districts to continue the current practice of including short term objectives in the Individual Education Plans (IEPs) of students with disabilities.

The Council policy team disseminated the paper to 205 legislators and multiple stakeholders during educational briefings on Senate Bill 218. Council policy staff worked closely with legislative sponsor Representative Creem about the impact of SB218 on students with disabilities. Council staff and citizen members worked to assist in the development of testimony to educate policymakers about the need to maintain short term objectives in IEPs. Testimony was delivered to the joint Committee on Education on 05/15/2013. Follow up meetings were held with Senator Rosenberg and Senate President Murray. In addition, MA Advocates for Children recruited 27 family members and other stakeholders to educate them on the importance of short term objectives and helped to engage them in systems advocacy in support of SB218.

A parent of a transition aged student who received funding support from the Council to educate herself more on her son's IEP objectives and the transition wrote "My son Asay is 15 and going through the transition period. It was important for me, as his parent, to attend this workshop to gain the knowledge and information about the transition process from IEP's, post-secondary education, job placement, job coaching, Ch-688, MRC, vocational assessments and everything else that needs to be included on his post-secondary vision/transition part of the IEP. By attending this workshop, this will now allow me to be more prepared and knowledgeable in this area of transition; making my son's future and life (and himself) more successful."

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	33
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	0

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	27
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	1
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	4
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	205
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	0
SC06a Other systems change measure:	0
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

Objective 1.5:

The number of students with developmental disabilities attending college and living on campus will increase from 0 to at least 10 students by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

- 1. Develop Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment (ICE) advocacy partnerships with MAC, Institute for Community Inclusion and other DD/higher education advocacy groups.
- 2. Educate and solicit support of individuals, families, providers, policymakers and the general public on the benefits of expanding the Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment program to include residential colleges.
- 3. Coordinate advocacy activities with partners and policymakers.
- 4. Educate administrators at Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) about benefits and opportunities to include students w/DD in college dormitories.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

- 1. 10/1/12 - 9/30/13
- 2. 10/1/13 – 9/30/16
- 3. 10/1/13 – 9/30/16
- 4. 10/1/13 – 9/30/16
- 5. 10/1/11 – 12/31/16
- 6. 1/1/12 – 9/31/16

Timelines established were: All met Partially met Not met

Annual Progress Report:

Supported by previous council funding, Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC) successfully led efforts to pass a law that created the Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment (ICE) program. ICE is a statewide program providing opportunities for students aged 18-22 with severe disabilities to attend college with their same aged peers. In their successful transition grant application to the DD Council, MAC committed to working to expand the Massachusetts’ ICE program to include residential options on college campuses for students with disabilities. The Council partnered with MAC to initiate efforts to secure residential options on college campuses for ICE students. This advocacy partnership was established prior to the September 30, 2013 target completion date for this activity. MAC utilized \$18,333 of a \$55,000 grant from the Council to implement advocacy activities in FFY 13. MAC contributed an additional \$10,000 for this project.

Working with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the partnership convened a meeting of the ICE advisory group in October 2012. The advisory group includes the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI), Department of Higher Education, the Federation for Children with

Special Needs, the Disability Law Center, state agencies, and higher education partners. Six organizations actively participated in the advisory working group. The group discussed ICE strengths and barriers to inclusion, models for including students in the resident life of the college, and specific strategies to increase sustainability and expansion of the ICE initiative. The group emphasized the need to develop comprehensive resources, based on the experience and success of existing partnerships, to provide widely available information to colleges, universities, school districts, families, students, and the general public.

The partnership educated and solicited the support of individuals, families, providers, policymakers and the general public on the benefits of expanding the Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment program to include residential options on college campuses for students with disabilities. MAC provided intensive outreach to legislators to build support for program funding. 205 legislators and public policymakers were educated on the ICE program. Over 2,000 members of the general public received information on ICE through attendance at MAC's annual meeting, the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education's statewide Transition conference, and list serve information.

The partnership coordinated advocacy activities for the ICE program with partners and policymakers. MAC advocated for increased funding in the state budget for the ICE program with some of the funding targeted to be used for planning to include students in the resident life of college, with necessary supports and services to enable inclusive dormitory living. Legislative leadership in the House and Senate were contacted as well as other key legislators, including all members with Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment initiatives in their districts. Project staff provided fact sheets and emphasized the local impact of funding. The Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC) Young Adult Leader Fellow, a 22 year old with Down syndrome, played a pivotal role in the meetings with legislators and their staff, eloquently describing his participation at Mass Bay Community College. \$750,000 was included in the FY 14 state budget for the ICE line item, a \$93,000 increase from FY 13, with a portion of the funding dedicated for advance residential living at state universities.

The final budget also moved administration of ICE to the Executive Office of Education to help address barriers to full implementation and strengthen the ICE initiative, increasing collaboration between DESE and Department of Higher Education (DHE). The final budget language also requires creation of a new position for an inclusive concurrent enrollment coordinator who will be responsible for administering the ICE grant program, coordinating the advisory committee, developing new partnerships, assisting existing partnerships in creating self-sustaining models and overseeing the development of informational materials to assist new colleges and school districts.

The partnership successfully worked with the legislative leaders to draft language addressing inclusive dormitory living and moving administration of ICE to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education (EOE) to enhance collaboration between the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Higher Education (DHE). With administration of ICE moved from DESE to EOE, project staff worked with EOE and the legislative Higher Education Committee Chairman to identify primary issues and needs, and develop the job description for the new statutorily required ICE Coordinator position. Meetings were also held with EOE Secretary Malone about expanding ICE.

An Act to Promote Inclusive Transition Programs for Students with Severe Disabilities (H. 481) was refiled by lead sponsor Representative Sannicandro. This bill codifies the inclusive concurrent enrollment discretionary grant program to meet the transition needs of students with

severe disabilities by developing the capacity of school districts, working in partnership with institutes of higher education, to support college success, participation in student life of the college community, competitive employment, and provision of a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. The bill also codifies existing state regulations regarding programs for older students, with additional language clarifying that inclusion in higher education is also an option for youth ages 18-21. Council staff provided testimony at this hearing. Three products were produced regarding this bill including a fact sheet, a summary of the bill, and a budget fact sheet.

Administrators at the Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) were educated about the opportunities and benefits of including students with developmental disabilities in college dormitories. Project staff successfully obtained a commitment from Bridgewater State University (BSU) to move forward to develop inclusive college dormitory options. Advocacy efforts also resulted in two state universities in western Massachusetts successfully applying for planning grants in 2013. Eight institutions of higher education increased inclusive education opportunities on their campuses due to participating in the ICE program, and 287 people at high schools and institutes of higher education were trained in inclusive education.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	287
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	0

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	0
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	33
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	6
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	8
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	205
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	2,000
SC06a Other systems change measure:	0
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$103,000
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Section III: Progress Report - Goals and Objectives

Goal 2: Leadership

People with developmental disabilities will be actively engaged in leadership and systems advocacy.

Area of Emphasis	Planned for this Goal	Areas Addressed
Quality Assurance	planned	addressed
Education and Early Intervention		
Child Care		
Health		
Employment		
Housing		
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports	planned	addressed

Strategies	Planned for this Goal	Strategies Used
Outreach	planned	used
Training	planned	used
Technical Assistance	planned	used
Supporting and Educating Communities		
Interagency Collaboration and Coordination	planned	
Coordination with Related Councils, Committees and Programs		
Barrier Elimination		
Systems Design and Redesign		
Coalition Development and Citizen Participation	planned	used
Informing Policymakers	planned	used
Demonstration of New Approaches to Services and Supports		
Other Activities		

Intermediaries/Collaborators	Planned for this Goal	Actual
State Protection and Advocacy System	planned	used
University Center(s)	planned	used
State DD Agency	planned	used

Other Collaborators Planned:

MA Advocates Standing Strong, UMass Donahue Institute, Arc Massachusetts, Local and Regional Self-advocacy groups, Local Community and Provider Organizations

Other Collaborators Actual:

MA Advocates Standing Strong, Arc Massachusetts, Local and Regional Self-advocacy groups, Local Community Organizations

Objective 2.1:

A minimum of 100 people with developmental disabilities will become leaders in disability advocacy by September 20, 2016..

Implementation activities:

1. Utilize multiple marketing strategies to connect to people with developmental disabilities.
2. Support opportunities for individuals to participate in leadership training opportunities.
3. Partner with the DD Network to support the Gopen Fellowship for people with developmental disabilities.
4. Establish working relationships with agencies and advocacy groups to identify individuals for

SALS training.

5. Expand the number of SALS trainers and supporters certified to conduct adult SALS.
6. Train adults with developmental disabilities in SALS.
7. Support opportunities to actively engage in leadership and systems advocacy.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

1. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16
2. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16
3. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16
4. 10/1/11 – 9/30/16
5. By 9/30/12
6. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16
7. 10/1/12 - 9/30/16

Timelines established were: All met Partially met Not met

Annual Progress Report:

The Council implemented multiple marketing strategies to connect to people with developmental disabilities and facilitate the sharing of training opportunities. Four bulk mailings and staff attendance at 8 events increased the knowledge of the Council's Self-Advocacy Leadership Series (SALS) opportunities available across the state. SALS and Council information was distributed at four public events including local advocacy conferences, a statewide conference and two college open houses. Six SALS training opportunities were posted on the Mass Network of Information Providers (MNIP) site. In addition, three articles were published in local newspapers highlighting the Sandy Houghton Story documentary. Over two thousand members of the general public were reached through these initiatives. This activity is on track to being completed by the September 30, 2016 target date.

Mass Advocates Standing Strong (MASS), the statewide self-advocacy organization, utilized \$15,000 of a \$60,000 grant from the Council to conduct trainings under this objective and contributed an additional \$49,500 toward this effort. Trainings included educating individuals to become active in self-advocacy. 28 individuals with developmental disabilities, 21 family members, and 9 other individuals participated in these trainings. Additional trainings educated 25 people with developmental disabilities around the fundamentals of leadership. From these trainings, 7 self-advocates were hired to work on a self-determination project for self-advocates reviewing quality of service providers, and 5 people became active and engaged in leadership and systems advocacy by attaining membership on boards, committees, and other leadership coalitions.

The Council partnered with the MA DD Network (Disability Law Center, UMASS Shriver, and the Institute on Community Inclusion), and awarded \$38,000 in grant funds to the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) to support two Gopen Fellows in FFY 13. ICI contributed an additional \$26,910 for the fellowships. The Gopen Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for a person with a developmental disability to gain valuable knowledge and experience by working with the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Network programs. The selected fellow designs and implements a project of their choice and gains expertise in their field of interest. Additional activities are based on the fellow's interest and may include grassroots advocacy, public policy

analysis, research, and leadership development.

Tim Kunzier completed his Gopen Fellowship in March 2013. Tim developed a series of 7 medical forms to be used by people with disabilities in emergency medical situations. These forms were made available to 201 public policymakers, 200 attendees at the Annual Legislative Reception, and were disseminated at the April Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. 350 people were trained in utilizing the medical forms during the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry webinar held by Tim. Erin Flaherty began her Gopen Fellowship in July 2013. The goal of Erin's Fellowship is to increase awareness of the issues of women with autism spectrum disorders and identify program models that could be used to support them. Her efforts and results will be reported in the 2014 PPR.

The Council established working relationships with 15 additional agencies and advocacy groups to assist in identifying individuals for the Adult Self Advocacy Leadership Series (SALS). In addition, the SALS team educated staff at Work Community Independence (WCI) about the Council's SALS program. The educational opportunity led to the identification of 40 prospects for the SALS leadership training.

The Council hired and trained 2 new SALS trainers and 2 supporters. As a result, the Council increased its capacity to provide training to more people with developmental disabilities. Seven Adult SALS trainings were offered in 2013 producing a total of 69 graduates. Locations included Holyoke Community College, Quincy College, Cambridge College, North Shore Community College, Lesley University and Westfield State University. Class participants worked to develop the skills needed to become leaders in disability advocacy. Students were also educated on leadership opportunities that exist across the state and in their region, and were advised of opportunities at MASS and the Department of Developmental Services to pursue their leadership interests.

The Council hosted its annual legislative reception at the State House in March 2013. The reception provides an opportunity for self-advocates to actively engage in systems advocacy. Forty-two SALS graduates were in attendance at the event. SALS graduates met with their state representative(s) and senator(s) to speak about the issues that were important to them. In addition, over 80 people attended the five movie showings that were held across the state showcasing the Sandy Houghton Story, a poignant documentary showcasing the extraordinary life of a woman with cerebral palsy recounting the barriers she faced, the emotional memories and experiences that shaped her life and have led her to become the a successful, strong advocate.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	350
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	94
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	0

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	100
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	5
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	7

People with developmental disabilities employed.

SA06b Other self-advocacy measure: 0

SA06c Other self-advocacy measure: 0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved: 0

SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships: 0

SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts: 0

SC04 Number of public policymakers educated: 201

SC05 Members of the general public reached: 2,400

SC06a Other systems change measure: 7

Emergency medical forms distributed to medical professionals

SC06b Other systems change measure: 0

SC06c Other systems change measure: 0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged: \$49,500

Objective 2.2:

A minimum of 400 people with developmental disabilities will engage in disability advocacy by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

1. Partner with DD Network and DDS to support Allies in Self-advocacy State team.
2. Conduct Legislative Advocacy training to improve knowledge and skills about the legislative and budget process.
3. Support Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong to conduct self-advocacy and related training.
4. Host annual Legislative reception to provide DD advocates opportunities for disability advocacy.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

1. 1/1/12 -9/30/16
2. 10/1/13 - 9/30/16
3. 10/1/12 - 9/30/16
4. 3/1/12 - 3/31/16

Timelines established were: All met Partially met Not met

Annual Progress Report:

The Council began its efforts to support follow up activities from the Allies in Self-Advocacy summit in 2012. In 2013 the Council provided support to North East Advocates Together (NEAT) to apply for the AIDD Regional Self-Advocacy Technical Assistance Grant. The Council served as technical advisor to the application, assisting as needed. NEAT was awarded a grant in September 2013 to form a regional partnership of self-advocacy organizations, supported by one DD network program in each state. There are 5 state self-advocacy partners on the project, and The MA Council will serve as the MA DD Network liaison to the grant advisory committee. The Council will also continue to work to actively engage the DD MA Network partners in the project. The targeted timeline for establishing the partnership was met and efforts to support the Allies will continue through the three year project period.

The Council is working on adapting its existing legislative advocacy training materials for use in providing trainings specifically targeted to people with developmental disabilities. The trainings are scheduled to begin in FY 2014. The Council continues to provide support to Mass Advocates Standing Strong (MASS), the statewide self-advocacy organization directed by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. MASS utilized \$29,000 of a \$60,000 grant from the Council to conduct self-advocacy and related trainings. MASS contributed an additional \$30,000 for this project. MASS conducted 12 legislative advocacy training days coordinated by 5 self-advocate trainers, where 59 individuals with developmental disabilities, 21 family members, and 18 other individuals were trained in systems advocacy. These trainings focused on the legislative process, how to talk with legislators, and the trainers supported participants in their advocacy with legislators.

MASS reported that 177 other individuals were actively engaged in systems advocacy through their efforts, meeting with legislators, testifying at hearings, and helping to distribute informational fliers. There were 6 informational products about self-advocacy and related policy issues distributed to legislators to educate them on the many different efforts being done by the Council and its partners. From the information distributed by fliers and other media initiatives, over 13,000 members of the general public were educated through these initiatives. This activity was started within its timeline, and is on track to be completed by September 30, 2016.

The Council worked in collaboration with the Arc of Massachusetts (Arc MA) to plan and hold its annual Legislative Reception in March, 2013. \$8,000 was provided in grant funds to Arc MA to help facilitate the planning process for this event. Council member Henry Milorin provided the keynote speech. Other speakers included the legislative award recipients, Governor Deval Patrick, House Speaker DeLeo and Senate Majority Leader Rosenberg. 58 advocacy organizations cosponsored and participated in the event. Participants utilized information they received at the event to engage with their legislators in meetings following the reception.

In addition to the information shared during the event, every legislator, the governor, and commissioners attending received a packet of information pertaining to both Council and Arc MA initiatives. There were 203 packets distributed at the reception. Following the event, there were several media initiatives about the legislative reception. A press release was sent to each of the award recipients' district news sources, and the Arc of Massachusetts included an article in their monthly newsletter 'The Advocate'. 13,000 members of general public were reached by this initiative.

The Legislative Reception was essential to giving people the opportunity to utilize their advocacy skills. 41 individuals with developmental disabilities; 154 family members and 133 other advocates utilized the skills and knowledge they gained to actively engage with their legislators.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	0
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	426

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	505
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	0
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	58
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	203
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	26,955
SC06a Other systems change measure:	8
Self-advocacy informational documents provided to policymakers	
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$34,010
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Section III: Progress Report - Goals and Objectives

Goal 3: Employment

People with developmental disabilities will have more opportunities to work in jobs that meet their career expectations.

Area of Emphasis	Planned for this Goal	Areas Addressed
Quality Assurance		
Education and Early Intervention		
Child Care		
Health		
Employment	planned	addressed
Housing		
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports	planned	addressed

Strategies	Planned for this Goal	Strategies Used
Outreach	planned	used
Training	planned	used
Technical Assistance		
Supporting and Educating Communities		
Interagency Collaboration and Coordination	planned	used
Coordination with Related Councils, Committees and Programs	planned	used
Barrier Elimination		
Systems Design and Redesign		
Coalition Development and Citizen Participation		
Informing Policymakers	planned	used
Demonstration of New Approaches to Services and Supports		
Other Activities		

Intermediaries/Collaborators	Planned for this Goal	Actual
State Protection and Advocacy System	planned	
University Center(s)		
State DD Agency	planned	used

Other Collaborators Planned:

MA Advocates Standing Strong, MA Rehabilitation Commission, Independent Living Centers, Autism Commission

Other Collaborators Actual:

MA Advocates Standing Strong, Department of Developmental Services, Autism Commission, MA Rehabilitation Commission

Objective 3.1:

A minimum of 100 individuals with developmental disabilities will establish portfolios for competitive employment by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

1. Partner with the Department of Developmental Services and MA Advocates Standing Strong to develop a coordinated plan for portfolio building training.
2. Collaborate with MA Rehabilitation Commission, Independent Living Centers, provider organizations, youth organizations and others to conduct outreach to people with developmental

disabilities.

3. Conduct Portfolio Building trainings.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

- 1. By 9/30/12
- 2. 10/1/12 – 9/30/15
- 3. 10/1/12 – 9/30/16

Timelines established were: All met Partially met Not met

Annual Progress Report:

The Council partnered with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and Mass Advocates Standing Strong (MASS) to coordinate a plan for portfolio building training. Two strategy meetings were held, materials compiled and a portfolio building training guide was developed and reported in FFY 2012. Portfolio building training was not conducted in 2013 and is on track to start in fiscal 2014.

The Council worked in collaboration with MASS to support other trainings to prepare individuals for portfolio building. MASS utilized \$3,700 of a \$60,000 grant from the Council to conduct Explore, Prepare, Act (EPA) trainings. MASS contributed an additional 8,250 for this project and received an additional \$9,000 from the Department of Developmental Services. EPA is an introductory training to assist people to better understand and define their employment interests and goals. The trainings educate people by providing an overview of the basic steps involved in finding a job with an emphasis on understanding oneself and the community, development of job seeking skills, and taking initial steps toward finding a job. In FY 2013, 12 trainings that included an introduction to portfolio building in the curriculum were conducted. One hundred and twenty-seven people were trained in this employment initiative (100 self-advocates and 27 supporters). Subsequent to these trainings, 11 people secured employment, while many others have used their skills to develop resumes, conduct practice interviews and visit job sites.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	127
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	0

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	0
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	11
People with developmental disabilities employed.	
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	0
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	2
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	0
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	0
SC06a Other systems change measure:	0
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$17,250
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Objective 3.2:

A minimum of 50 people living with autism and other developmental disabilities will receive employment supports through various state agencies by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

1. Educate and solicit the support of individuals, families, providers, policymakers and the general public on the benefits of Employment Supports.
2. Conduct coordinated advocacy activities with partners and policymakers.
3. Support budget and policy initiatives that enhance employment supports.
4. Advocate for the implementation of the Autism Commission recommendations related to employment services for people with autism.
5. Collaborate with various state agencies to develop and implement more comprehensive employment supports for people with autism/DD.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

1. 10/1/11 – 9/30/16
2. 10/1/12 – 9/30/16
3. 10/1/12 – 9/30/16
4. 1/1/13 – 9/30/16
5. 1/1/13 – 9/30/16

Timelines established were: All met Partially met Not met

Annual Progress Report:

The Council's efforts to educate policymakers, families, providers, and individuals with disabilities

about employment supports have been ongoing, as initially reported in FY 2012. The Council's policy team met with Senator Flanagan to educate her on the benefits of employment supports for people with autism and other developmental disabilities and solicit her support. Senator Flanagan discussed her proposal to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities in her district and asked the Council for feedback on her recommendations. Council policy staff connected the Senator to three organizations in her district that her office could coordinate with and assisted in drafting a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for employing people with disabilities in the private sector. The memorandum of understanding is still a work in progress and the Council will continue working on this and with Senator Flanagan to pursue other employment activities in her district.

The Council took the initiative to educate policymakers on "An Act to Increase the Commonwealth's Compliance with Federal Law; Meeting Requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (HB 136)." Passage of this bill will expand the Executive Office of Health and Human Services commitment to hiring people with disabilities as well as train employees involved in hiring decisions on the ADA. The Council partnered with Easter Seals of MA to develop appropriate testimony that would educate legislators on HB136. Two Council members with developmental disabilities provided testimony that illustrated their personal challenges in trying to find competitive employment, educating the sixteen legislators who sit on the Committee of Labor and Workforce Development. The Council's leadership on the bill led to six professionals and seven people with disabilities developing and presenting testimony to the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development. The Council plans on working with the Administration, policymakers, and advocacy organizations on budget line items that will increase the ability for people with autism and other developmental disabilities gain competitive employment. The Council will begin this initiative in FY 2014.

Below are excerpts from the two Council members' testimonies:

"This bill would help me because it would require training for the people ~~who are hiring~~ ^{the hiring} in the training would include information on various types of disabilities including invisible disabilities. It would teach people to not just reject someone, like me, because they don't think I would be a 'good fit'. If they could look at my application and see that I checked the box for disability, even if they don't know what my ~~specific~~ ^{disability} is, they would know that I would count towards the 20% of people with disabilities hired. Then they would perhaps reconsider me for a job and take the time to look at my references, my skills and abilities. I need people to take that second glance; I need people to think again about their first impression."

"Finding work is difficult for anyone. For a person with a disability it is nearly impossible. If you don't believe me look at the chronic unemployment rate for people with disabilities for the past 30 years. The state government has to be the leader for real change to take place; real employment opportunities for real people who face real challenges in finding employment through the traditional private sector. I had a dismal employment record in the private human service sector; over-worked, underpaid but I was so lucky to be employed! Fortunately the state employed me about 15 years ago and I have been able to live a regular independent life ever since. I pay more taxes than ever before and I have received two outstanding performance awards! I would say the state is getting as much from my employment as I receive. I am tremendously grateful."

The Council, who provided staffing to the Massachusetts Autism Commission, continues advocacy for the implementation of the Commission's recommendations related to employment services for people with autism. The March 2013 Autism Commission report's eighth priority states: "Increase employment opportunities for individuals with autism by providing a range of job

training, job development, and employment opportunities.” Seven recommendations were drafted to address this priority. Currently, the Council is working with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and the Asperger’s Association of New England to increase employment opportunities for individuals with autism by implementing the Autism Commission’s employment recommendations. The initiative is ongoing.

The Council initiated collaboration with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission to develop and implement more comprehensive employment supports for people with autism and other developmental disabilities through the Council’s participation on the Statewide Rehabilitation Council (SRC). The SRC’s mission is to partner with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) to support and advise the agency in the provision of high quality, value-based vocational rehabilitation services that lead to meaningful and sustainable competitive employment for consumers. There are currently 38 members on the SRC representing 14 different towns across Massachusetts. To improve how employers view individuals with disabilities, the SRC suggested that MRC regional offices provide resource packets for employers on the advantages of hiring people with disabilities. The SRC also made recommendations to MRC on how they could improve the services they provide people with disabilities.

In response to these recommendations MRC provided information to the SRC on the “Call Us First” program to encourage employers to contact MRC before a job opening is publically advertised. The ‘Resumate’ program assists agency employment and placement staff in basic job matching. To address the needs of individuals with Learning Disabilities/Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder MRC developed and distributed a needs assessment survey that led to the discovery that the population served wanted more life skills training. The Partnership Program serves individuals with LD/ADHD and supplies long-term on-going support services through competitive integrated employment services vendors.

To improve transition to employment the Council advocated for MRC and the Department of Developmental Services to establish a Memorandum of Agreement for joint planning. The departments have agreed to share resources for transition aged individuals ages 18 to 22 who are interested in competitive employment and eligible for the services from both agencies. In addition, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services established a youth “state as model employer” summer work experience for student’s receiving services from state agencies. Youth gain work experience through this program while still enrolled in school.

A mother from West Springfield received support from the Council’s Empowerment Funds program to attend an educational conference that included a workshop on employment of people on the Spectrum. The mother reported “I was able to learn about age-appropriate technology that my son can use to help with transition and support independence. I learned more about options for employment and attended a very helpful workshop regarding safety. We have made an appointment for September to meet with the director of the Autism Support Center in Western MA. We are planning safety training for my fire and police departments. I attended a panel presentation by four women who have autism. This truly opened my eyes and created a much deeper understanding of my daughter, and how to better support her“.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	0
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	0

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	0
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	0
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	0
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	17
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	60
SC06a Other systems change measure:	0
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$0
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Section III: Progress Report - Goals and Objectives

Goal 4: Supporting Families

Families will have the supports they need to ensure fulfilling lives in the community for them and their children with developmental disabilities.

Area of Emphasis	Planned for this Goal	Areas Addressed
Quality Assurance		
Education and Early Intervention		
Child Care		
Health		
Employment		
Housing		
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports	planned	addressed

Strategies	Planned for this Goal	Strategies Used
Outreach	planned	used
Training	planned	used
Technical Assistance		
Supporting and Educating Communities	planned	used
Interagency Collaboration and Coordination		
Coordination with Related Councils, Committees and Programs		
Barrier Elimination		
Systems Design and Redesign		
Coalition Development and Citizen Participation	planned	used
Informing Policymakers	planned	used
Demonstration of New Approaches to Services and Supports		
Other Activities		

Intermediaries/Collaborators	Planned for this Goal	Actual
State Protection and Advocacy System		used
University Center(s)	planned	
State DD Agency		

Other Collaborators Planned:

MA Families Organizing for Change, Arc Massachusetts, Mass. Lifespan Respite Coalition, National Respite Networks, New England Index

Other Collaborators Actual:

MA Families Organizing for Change, Arc Massachusetts, Mass. Lifespan Respite Coalition, New England Index, Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Massachusetts Sibling Support Network, Advocates for Autism in Massachusetts, the Mass. Down Syndrome Congress, Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong, Disability Law Center, Federation for Children with Special Needs, Dorchester Multicultural Center, UMass Medical Center, early Intervention Coordinating Council

Objective 4.1:

A minimum of 100 families will pursue individualized family support services by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

1. Establish advocacy partnerships with MA Families Organizing for Change, Arc Massachusetts and other advocacy groups.

2. Educate and solicit the support of individuals, families, providers, policymakers and the general public on the benefits of Family Supports.
3. Support the education of under-served multicultural populations about family supports and other disability resources for their children with disabilities.
4. Support policy and budget initiatives, and conduct coordinated advocacy activities with partners and policymakers that enhance the use of and funding for family support.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

1. By 9/30/12
2. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16
3. 10/1/12 – 9/30/16
4. 10/1/11 – 9/30/16

Timelines established were: All met Partially met Not met

Annual Progress Report:

In FFY 12 the Council expanded its collaborative partnership to support families in seeking individualized family support services. In FFY 13 The Arc of Massachusetts utilized \$29,000 of a \$60,000 grant from the Council to support the Massachusetts Alliance for 21st Century Disability Policy (MA21), a disability advocacy partnership of 9 organizations: The Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, The Arc of Massachusetts, Mass. Families Organizing for Change, The Massachusetts Sibling Support Network, Advocates for Autism in Massachusetts, the Mass. Down Syndrome Congress, Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong, Disability Law Center, and the Federation for Children with Special Needs. The Arc contributed an additional \$2,802 toward this initiative. Part of this funding was used to identify and implement strategies to increase information about and access to family support services.

The Alliance conducted coordinated advocacy activities to increase funding for family support in the Department of Developmental Services annual budget. Twenty-eight people were trained in systems advocacy and 917 people participated in advocacy for MA21 by attending meetings and contacting legislators and state agency officials to educate them on the budget and other relevant legislation for family supports. Thirteen informational alerts were issued about the budget and related legislation. An additional 5,000 people received alerts from the MA21 Alliance. The result of this advocacy work was a \$3,837,834 increase in the line item for Family Supports in state fiscal year 2014. This funding will improve family supports for over 1,450 families. The Alliance has been working on a position paper on family support and self-determination that will be completed and released in FFY 14. MA21 continues to work on expanding its advocacy network and strategies.

Also in collaboration with the Arc of Massachusetts, outreach activities were conducted to multicultural communities to share resources and information about family supports. 212 people were trained in community supports through outreach with several multicultural communities, the Shared Living Conference in Worcester, MA, and at the Federation for Children with Special Needs Conference.

In FFY 13 the Council sponsored the Dorchester Multicultural Center’s Vietnamese Mid-Autumn festival in partnership with Dorchester House, Toward Independent Living and Learning (TILL),

Work, Inc., Boston University, The Autism Consortium, and Fields Corner Children Thrive in Five. The mid-autumn annual festival is an important traditional harvest moon holiday for Vietnamese families to celebrate the end of summer. The Council provided \$2,000 in funding for Vietnamese translation of fact sheets on autism, accessing disability services, Individualized Education Plan information, effective advocacy strategies and information about autism and other developmental disabilities. Ten translated disability related resources were distributed to attendees. In addition, visual support and sensory equipment were available for the children's activities. 150 people attended the event during which participants networked and shared useful information with each other. The success of the event is evidenced by the following comments from attendees. The event organizer wrote "I am writing to express my sincere thanks for the work that the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC) do to provide support to Vietnamese speaking families. Your funding allowed me to create a packet of resources in Vietnamese and shared with 40 families at the Mid-Autumn festival and now broadly to many more new families who know this support group by the word of mouth. This has made tremendous impact for many of families, who are more open up to seeking out services for their beloved. Without this assistance, many of our families are still in the dark without knowing where to turn."

The festival organizer translated the comments from satisfaction surveys. One festival participant wrote "The packet I received at the festival was very helpful in understanding more about the insurance law for kids with autism in Massachusetts. I could reach out to my employer and found out that my insurance is complied with ARICA. From then on, I could access in-home ABA services for my child. I am thankful for this resource packet and looking forward to receiving more." Another noted that "This was my first time attending this public event with my child with autism. I was so happy to be able to connect with some of other Vietnamese speaking families who have been through the same challenges as I have been. I felt I was not alone." And most poignantly, a parent wrote "I am most thankful for the packet with the information about public services for people with disabilities. When my son was in crisis lately, and his attempt of committing suicide, I could be able to look into this chart to identify which state agency I should contact to help my child. It was not easy but since they are in Vietnamese, I could understand the system a bit better.

In other family support activities, the Council provided 30 subscriptions to UMass Medical Center's 'Discovering Behavioral Intervention: A Parent's Interactive Guide to Applied Behavior Analysis' to families, a 10-module online learning guide created by and for parents of children on the autism spectrum. Parents of six children with autism serve as trusted guides. By sharing their stories throughout the modules, the guides help parents navigate the often complicated world of autism and behavioral intervention using real-life situations. The modules educate families on different types of behavioral interventions, how to become more involved in a child's early intervention, and their child's legal rights.

30 family members of people with developmental disabilities were educated about family support services through the Council Empowerment Funds (CEF) program. 15 family members attended conferences and events to educate themselves about family supports.

The Council participated as a collaborator on the Early Intervention Coordinating Council. There are 35 members of Early Intervention Coordinating Council, which works to inform families about the variety of opportunities to actively participate in the Early Intervention system, either at their local program, within their region, and/or at the statewide level. A total of 60 people attended the meetings and were educated about family/community supports.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):	
SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	422
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	28
Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):	
SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	917
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	1,478
Families benefitting from increased family support resources.	
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0
Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):	
SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	1
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	51
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	424
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	5,000
SC06a Other systems change measure:	13
MA21 family support briefs distributed to policymakers	
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0
Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):	
RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$3,840,636

Objective 4.2:

A minimum of 200 families of persons with developmental disabilities will access information on respite options by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

1. Conduct an analysis of the status of respite services in Massachusetts, including establishing a baseline of state budget dollars, availability, return on investment, best practices and success stories.
2. Collaborate with Statewide and National Respite Networks to develop a coordinated advocacy strategy to expand respite opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.
3. Partner with the Mass. Lifespan Respite Coalition and New England INDEX to develop a database of respite providers.

4. Support information and education sessions on respite options to individuals, families, providers, policymakers, and the general public.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

1. By 6/30/13
2. 10/1/11– 6/30/13
3. 10/1/13– 9/30/16
4. 10/1/13 - 9/30/16

Timelines established were: All met Partially met Not met

Annual Progress Report:

The Council has maintained an ongoing partnership with the Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition since its inception in 2010 when it was formed under a multiyear grant from the Administration for Community Living. The Council collaborates with the coalition to strengthen and expand its statewide presence, which has expanded to over 50 member organizations from across the Commonwealth representing diverse disability, elder and other groups. Over 20 of the groups that work with families of people with developmental disabilities actively participate in the coalition. The coalition held 12 monthly meetings in FFY 13 where information about respite resources is shared with collaborators and other outreach activities.

In FFY 12 the Council worked in collaboration with the Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition (MLRC) to analyze the status of respite services in MA. The raw data has been collected and analyzed. The Coalition is in the final stages of developing the respite needs assessment, with a target delivery date of 12/31/2013. The original 6/30/13 target date was extended due to other time sensitive priorities that emerged, including planning for a national respite conference and administering a short term AOA grant to provide direct respite services to diverse populations.

The coalition continues to grow in membership, and its email distribution list now numbers over 400. Through its extensive outreach efforts, the coalition now includes representation from virtually all disability populations as well as the aging and Alzheimer's communities. In addition, 40 policymakers were educated around the importance of Respite through the MLRC.

The coalition is working with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs to create an inventory of state-managed respite care programs. The Council continues its support to the New England Index, and the respite coalition is developing an updated database of respite providers to be included in the MA Network of Information Providers disabilityinfo.org database. The database provides a central resource for family members and individuals with developmental disabilities to access important respite information. In January 2013 the MLRC launched its website which includes a webpage with links to different state and national respite databases including New England Index, Rewarding Work, Care.com, 800 Age Info and ARCH national respite search engine databases.

In the fall of 2012, the MLRC was awarded a supplemental grant from the Administration on Aging to provide respite services to a diverse group of caregivers. Ten respite providers across the state received \$10,000 in grant funds to pilot different approaches to providing respite to the underserved and unserved populations across the lifespan. An estimated 52 family members of

individuals with developmental disabilities received respite services through this initiative. The results of these pilots will be shared at a respite summit in November 2013.

The coalition held its 1st annual caregiver conference in November 2012. The free conference gave family caregivers from all walks of life the opportunity to learn about respite, and included a variety of workshops about advocacy, easing the burden of caregiving, and other topics of interest to family caregivers. Over 100 family caregivers attended, including an estimated 30 family members of people with developmental disabilities. During several of its monthly meetings, the coalition invited guest speakers to share information about respite and informal community programs which support to family caregivers.

The MLRC will host the 15th National Lifespan Respite conference in October 2013 in Boston. In FFY 13 coalition staff and members spent significant time planning the 2 1/2 day conference. The Council assisted with the planning of both the family caregiver conference and the national respite conference.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	30
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	0

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	0
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	10
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	20
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	40
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	500
SC06a Other systems change measure:	0
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$0
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Section III: Progress Report - Goals and Objectives

Goal 5: Homes

People with developmental disabilities will have more long term housing options for living independently in the community.

Area of Emphasis	Planned for this Goal	Areas Addressed
Quality Assurance		
Education and Early Intervention		
Child Care		
Health		
Employment		
Housing	planned	addressed
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports	planned	addressed

Strategies	Planned for this Goal	Strategies Used
Outreach	planned	used
Training	planned	used
Technical Assistance		
Supporting and Educating Communities	planned	used
Interagency Collaboration and Coordination		
Coordination with Related Councils, Committees and Programs		
Barrier Elimination		
Systems Design and Redesign		
Coalition Development and Citizen Participation	planned	used
Informing Policymakers	planned	used
Demonstration of New Approaches to Services and Supports	planned	used
Other Activities		

Intermediaries/Collaborators	Planned for this Goal	Actual
State Protection and Advocacy System		
University Center(s)		
State DD Agency	planned	used

Other Collaborators Planned:

MA Advocates Standing Strong. MA Families Organizing for Change, Arc Massachusetts

Other Collaborators Actual:

MA Advocates Standing Strong. MA Families Organizing for Change, Autism Housing Pathways, Citizens' Housing and Planning Association

Objective 5.1:

A minimum of 100 individuals with developmental disabilities/families will pursue alternative housing and supported housing options by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

1. Conduct an analysis of the utilization of alternative housing options.
2. Establish partnerships with interested organizations to develop a strategy for enhancing the use of effective alternative models.
3. Support trainings and work with interested parties to pursue alternative options.

4. Educate and solicit the support of individuals, families, policymakers and the general public.
5. Support policy initiatives that expand the use of alternative housing options.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

1. By 9/30/12
2. By 6/30/13
3. 7/1/13 - 9/30/16
4. 10/1/11-9/30/16
6. 10/1/11-9/30/16

Timelines established were: All met Partially met Not met

Annual Progress Report:

The Council conducted an analysis of the barriers to and utilization of alternative housing options in 2012. Autism Housing Pathways (AHP) conducted a statewide analysis of the barriers to and utilization of alternative housing options. The research study was conducted between August 2011 and January 2012. The survey was designed to determine what existing services respondents were eligible for and respondents' awareness of available services. 276 people with autism or their parents responded to the survey. Primary barriers to alternative housing identified by respondents included: access to intensive services, appropriate care options, finding suitable room-mate(s), access to transportation, and affordability. Autism Housing Pathways finalized their analysis of the survey results in September 2012. Community educating on the survey results continued in FFY 13.

For many years, the Council has maintained an ongoing partnership with the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA). Partnership strategies developed by the Council and CHAPA include supporting a housing bond bill to increase access to affordable housing for people with disabilities and updating the Housing Search Guide for People with Disabilities that was originally published about 10 years ago under a Council grant. The housing bond bill, titled "An Act Financing the Production and Preservation of Housing for the Low and Moderate Income Residents" provides a total of \$1.4 billion over 5 years for 11 capital funding programs to rehabilitate state-assisted public housing, and preserve the affordability and income mix of state-assisted multifamily developments. The bond also supports home ownership and production of rental housing opportunities for low and moderate income residents, elderly, persons experiencing homelessness, persons with disabilities and veterans. By preserving and creating more affordable housing in Massachusetts this bond will ease access to housing in the community for people with disabilities. The Housing Search Guide for People with Disabilities provides individuals with disabilities information on housing options and types of housing available to meet their needs. The guide is currently in the process of being updated, to be completed in FFY 14. 80 people involved in housing advocacy for people with disabilities were educated about the bond bill and the Housing Search Guide for People with Disabilities.

In FFY 2012, the Council partnered with and providing funding to MA Families Organizing for Change for a Building a Home Conference. The Conference educated parents and individuals with developmental disabilities on how to build a life in the community using available public and private resources. A common activity at the conference was individuals and families connecting with people in similar situations to discuss how they were meeting their own housing challenges.

Responding to the needs identified by conference participants led to the creation of “Housing Connections” in FFY 13. The Housing Connections program assists families who would like to find or create a home for their child with a disability by connecting them with other families with similar interests. Housing Connections is the first-of-its-kind offered in New England. The goal is to create a valuable tool for individuals with a disability and their families to help create an enriching life for the individual; one that is filled with valued friendships, opportunities to be a contributing member in their community and the ideal living situation to call home. This program is offered at no cost to families. It is unclear how successful this endeavor has been in connecting people to date. Housing Connections requires continuous support including financial resources. The Council targeted grant funds for additional marketing and education activities in FFY13, however the impact of sequestration limited the Council’s participation, and funding has been postponed until FFY14.

The Council supported a bill that has the potential to increase the availability of alternative housing options in Massachusetts for people with disabilities. The bill is titled SB 601- “Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to the need for accessible homes for the elderly, returning veterans with disabilities, and families that include persons with disabilities.” The Council policy team met with the bills legislative sponsor, Senator Jehlen. The Council educated the senator about the positive impacts that the bill would have on individuals with all forms of mobility challenges. A Council member gave examples of how people in her life have physical disabilities that do not require use of a wheelchair but do require accessible entrances to buildings and accessible bathrooms. In addition, a Council member provided testimony for SB 601 to the Joint Committee on Housing. Her testimony detailed how people with developmental disabilities and others with mobility impairments would benefit from this bill. The Council member testified “My parents spent many years looking for a suitable home to convert to a group home for my sister so that she would always have a place in the community.

The home had to be converted for handicap accessibility, and finding such a home was a very difficult ordeal for them. The creation of single and two family homes with visitability considerations at inception, such as an at grade entry wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair, and an accessible first floor bathroom, makes sense. It not only provides future housing stock for people with developmental disabilities, it is also economical.”

The Council participates in and continues to support attends the state’s Money Follows the Person effort. This initiative transfers eligible individuals with disabilities living in nursing homes or ICF/MRs into residences in the community. In FFY 13 positions at the regional and state level were created to connect MFP participants with affordable housing in the community. In FFY 13, 26 individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities successfully transitioned into the community as a result of this program. In FFY 14 statewide housing search entities will be offered contracts to help connect elders and people with disabilities with housing in every region.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	0
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	0

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	0
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SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	0
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	0
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	18
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	80
SC06a Other systems change measure:	0
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$0
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Objective 5.2:

People with developmental disabilities in state school settings and their families will gain knowledge on the benefits to living in the community to help them transition to community living by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

1. Conduct research about current training and resources provided to individuals and families.
2. Establish partnerships with MA Advocates Standing Strong, DDS and others to develop strategies to reach people.
3. Develop new resources or update existing resources.
4. Educate individuals, families, and the general public on the benefits of living in the community.
5. Support budget and policy initiatives that enhance community living opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Activities undertaken were:



All met



Partially met



Not met

Timelines:

1. 10/1/11 – 9/30/12
2. 10/1/12 – 6/30/13
3. 10/1/11 - 6/30/13
4. 7/1/13 - 9/30/16
5. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16

Timelines established were:



All met



Partially met



Not met

Annual Progress Report:

In partnership with MA Advocates Standing Strong (MASS), in FY 2012, the Council conducted research about training materials and other resources available to educate to individuals and families about the benefits of community living. The Council then established a partnership with MASS and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to utilize these resources to educate individuals living in state school settings and their families to assist them in preparing for community living. In FFY 13 MASS utilized \$3,750 of a \$60,000 grant from the Council to work with the Wrentham Development Center to conduct self-advocacy trainings and to train supporters and advisors. MASS contributed an additional \$8,250 toward this initiative. The partnership also provided support to the Hogan Regional Center Self-Advocacy group and its supporters and advisors. This activity met its timeline, and was completed by 6/30/2013.

The Council collaborative with Mass Advocates Standing Strong also supported a self-advocacy group at the Hogan Regional Center. Resources containing information about issues and events across Massachusetts were distributed at the Center to individuals with developmental disabilities, supporters, and advisors. An educational strategy was developed to continue supporting individuals with developmental disabilities at the Center Hogan, including targeted self-advocacy training and opportunities for participation in advocacy activities outside the Center.

At Wrentham Developmental Center, self-advocacy, self-determination and leadership trainings were provided to 57 people, including individuals with developmental disabilities, their supporters and advisors. Two informational resources were distributed at the trainings to increase awareness and interest in boards, such as the Council and Mass Advocates Standing Strong. This activity was started last fiscal year and will continue into the next fiscal year.

The Council will begin the process of establishing budget and policy initiatives focused on community living opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in FY 2014.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	0
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	57
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	0

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	0
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	0
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	0
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	0
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	0
SC06a Other systems change measure:	0
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$8,250
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Section III: Progress Report - Goals and Objectives

Goal 6: Community Supports

People with developmental disabilities will have the services and supports they need to ensure fulfilling lives in the community.

Area of Emphasis	Planned for this Goal	Areas Addressed
Quality Assurance	planned	addressed
Education and Early Intervention		
Child Care		
Health	planned	addressed
Employment		
Housing		
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports	planned	addressed

Strategies	Planned for this Goal	Strategies Used
Outreach	planned	used
Training	planned	used
Technical Assistance		used
Supporting and Educating Communities		
Interagency Collaboration and Coordination	planned	used
Coordination with Related Councils, Committees and Programs	planned	used
Barrier Elimination		
Systems Design and Redesign	planned	used
Coalition Development and Citizen Participation		
Informing Policymakers	planned	used
Demonstration of New Approaches to Services and Supports		
Other Activities		

Intermediaries/Collaborators	Planned for this Goal	Actual
State Protection and Advocacy System	planned	used
University Center(s)		
State DD Agency	planned	used

Other Collaborators Planned:

Arc Massachusetts, MA Advocates Standing Strong, Autism Commission, Advocates for Autism MA, Asperger's Association, Autism Insurance Resource Center, Division of Insurance, Department of Mental Health, Disabled Persons Protection Commission

Other Collaborators Actual:

MA Advocates Standing Strong, Autism Commission, Advocates for Autism MA, Asperger's Association of New England, Autism Insurance Resource Center, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Department of Developmental Services, MA Down Syndrome Congress, Flutie Foundation, Autism Speaks

Objective 6.1:

A minimum of 50 community based service programs will adopt and utilize best practices in Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

1. Conduct research and compile documentation on the efficacy and effective use of PBS for people with DD.

2. Collaborate with DDS and other interested organizations to develop curriculum for PBS.
3. Educate and solicit support of people with developmental disabilities, families, providers, policymakers, general public.
4. Support the education of community based service providers on PBS.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

1. By 9/30/12
2. By 6/30/13
3. 10/1/12 – 9/30/16
5. 7/1/13 – 9/30/16

Timelines established were: All met Partially met Not met

Annual Progress Report:

The Council completed research and compiled documentation on the efficacy and effective use of Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) for people with Developmental Disabilities in FY2012 and reported on it accordingly. The Council continued its collaboration with the eight member organizations of the Positive Behavioral Supports Council (PBS), and added 6 providers to the partnership through the PBS pilot program this fiscal year. Council staff served as co-chair of the PBS Definition Work Group. The PBS Council used the definitions established by that work group and best practices established by the PBS clinical Work Group to create and develop a pilot curriculum. PBS practices and related policies and procedures were established in six implementation sections. These documents were utilized as the primary working materials in conducting a pilot program with six service provider agencies. The overall response from agencies participating in the pilot program was positive. Initial amendments were made to the sections and a MassPBS website has gone live as part of the Department of Developmental Services on-line learning website. All PBS policies and procedures, implementation documents and a curriculum for teaching PBS are available on the site. In addition a free on-line Introduction to PBS is available. These activities were completed by the target date.

The Council continued educating and soliciting the support of stakeholders for the use of Positive Behavioral Supports. FFY 13 education opportunities included a statewide conference on shared living where 50 people participated in an introductory session on Positive Behavioral Supports. A parent who participated in the training noted in her evaluation “I am a mom of 2 special needs daughters as well as a behavioral support person in PDD classroom. This conference helps me at home and with the children at school. I will also import what I learned with the teachers and support staff in our program- you have helped many children!”

Six community based service programs have adopted and are utilizing best practices in Positive Behavioral Supports. The PBS Council continues working to educate and increase awareness about MassPBS by providing free access to the MassPBS website on the DDS on-line learning website. The Council and DDS will collaborate to educate additional community-based services providers in FFY 2014.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	0
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	0

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	0
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	0
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	14
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	0
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	50
SC06a Other systems change measure:	6
Organizations utilizing best practices in Positive Beh. Supports	
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$0
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Objective 6.2:

A minimum of 500 individuals living with autism and their family members will have the information they need to access services and supports by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

1. Conduct research- compile documentation on the current level of comprehensive community services and supports to people with autism in MA.
2. Advocate for implementation of the Autism Commission recommendations.
3. Partner with AFAM and AANE to conduct outreach to organizations serving people with autism and improve resource lists.
4. Conduct needs assessment on the 7 Autism Resource Centers and develop recommendations to strengthen and enhance the services offered.
5. Support the Autism Insurance Resource Center to expand resource information, technical assistance and referrals to people with autism.

6. Educate and solicit support of people with developmental disabilities, families, providers, policymakers, general public on meeting the needs of people with autism.
7. Support policy/ budget initiatives that increase services and supports for people with autism.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

1. By 12/31/12
2. 1/1/13 – 9/30/16
- 3 1/1/13 - 9/30/13
4. 7/1/13 - 6/30/14
5. 10/1/12 - 9/30/16
6. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16
7. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16

Timelines established were: All met Partially met Not met

Annual Progress Report:

The Council continued educating and soliciting the support of people with developmental disabilities, families, providers, policymakers, general public on meeting the needs of people with autism. The Council supported the work of the Massachusetts Autism Commission by supplying the Commission with a part-time staff member from 2010 through 2013. In FFY 13, Council staff continued to coordinate Commission meetings and supported the Autism Commission writing group who was tasked with drafting the Commission’s final report. Council staff assisted in writing and editing sections of the report. The Autism Commission’s final report was issued in March 2013, detailing the current level of comprehensive community services and supports to people with autism in Massachusetts, and providing 80 distinct recommendations under 13 priority areas.

The Council partnered with the Flutie Foundation, Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts, and Autism Speaks to underwrite the costs to produce bound hard copies of the report to be presented to the Governor, lawmakers, key state policymakers and autism advocacy groups. Council staff assisted in planning an event to commemorate the release of the Autism Commission report, where the Commission Chair presented the Autism Commission’s report findings to the public for the first time. The event was attended by legislators, state agency representatives, families, advocates, and other professionals. Two hundred legislators received a hard copy report during and after the event.

168 people in the public were educated about the Autism Commission report based on an unduplicated count of attendance figures for Commission meetings, Writing Group meetings, the Report Release event, and other Autism Commission related gatherings. An unknown number of additional people downloaded the Commission report or read it online.

To support the implementation of the Autism Commission recommendations, in FFY 13 the Council prepared and presented testimony in support of bills developed by the Autism Commission. The Council provided testimony to the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse on H1794/S909. This bill addresses priority #2 of the Autism Commission’s report to make services through the Department of Mental Health more accessible to people with autism. The Council also provided testimony to the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities on HB78/SB 908. This bill addresses priority #1 of the Autism Commission’s report to expand eligibility criteria for the Department of Developmental Services

(DDS) by allowing people with low adaptive functioning skills to receive services from DDS regardless of his or her IQ score. Lastly, the Council provided testimony for HB 343 and HB 344 to the Joint Committee on Education. HB 343 addresses the need for teachers to be knowledgeable in how to operate augmentative and alternative communication devices. This bill addresses recommendations under Priority #10 in the Autism Commission's report. HB 344 would increase the capacity of educators to meet the complex needs of students with autism. This bill addresses recommendations under priority #9 in the Autism Commission's report. The Council will continue its advocacy efforts in FY 2014.

The Autism Commission report included a detailed list of resources available to the autism community. Due to this the Council determined the activity in the State Plan to "partner with Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts and the Asperger's Association of New England to conduct outreach to organizations serving people with autism and improve resource lists" to be redundant. The Council voted to remove the activity from the Council's state plan in the summer of 2013.

The Council's work on the Autism Commission report and implementation of its recommendations was a considerable undertaking, resulting in a delay in starting the activity to conduct a needs assessment on the seven Autism Resource Centers, and to develop recommendations to strengthen and enhance the services offered. The Council plans on conducting the needs assessment and recommendations in FFY 2014.

The Council has partnered with and provided financial support to the Autism Insurance Resource Center (AIRC) since 2011. In FFY 2013 the Council allocated \$25,000 to the Resource Center to serve as a comprehensive resource for families, providers, employers and educators on all issues related to medical insurance for autism treatment. The UMass Medical Center provided an additional \$1,172 to this initiative and a \$25,000 matching grant was secured from the Flutie foundation. The Center's activities included trainings and webinars on insurance laws and related topics, information and referral on issues related to insurance coverage for autism-related treatments and services; and compiling and providing access to documents including legislation, FAQs, bulletins, and other related materials.

Information and referral satisfaction surveys indicated overwhelming satisfaction with all metrics well above 90%. 612 people utilized information and referral through the Center. The majority of inquiries were from families, but there were also requests for assistance from providers, clinicians, educators, and employers. Referrals to the Center came from clinics, schools, providers, autism resource centers, state agencies, and others.

The AIRC continually maintained and updated the website with documents and links to information. There were 4,910 distinct visits to the website, which includes specific resources developed by the AIRC and many additional links to autism resources. AIRC also provided with useful reference materials published by others to families, especially newly diagnosed families, including toolkits from Autism Speaks, and the Autism Consortium's Parent Information Packet.

There continues to be strong demand for trainings on autism insurance and related issues. During FFY 13 a total of 22 presentations were conducted. One presentation included a workshop at the annual conference for the Federation for Children with Special Needs, in conjunction with an exhibit at their Resource Fair. A focus group for professionals to explore specific issues and concerns related to insurance billing and reimbursement was also held. 437 members of the general public received information about autism at presentations conducted with Parent Advisory Groups and other community groups. 88 members of the Early Intervention

Leadership Council, 65 Special Education Department Administrators, 72 people at clinics and hospitals, and 36 students with disabilities and advocates were educated about autism services and supports.

In addition, 8 webinars were conducted with 96 participants. Surveys indicated that participants found the webinars and presentations helpful in understanding the Autism Insurance law and how it affects them; 86% of survey respondents reported knowledge gained from the presentation. Many participants followed up with the AIRC for specific assistance and/or referred others to AIRC. One participant stated, "That [webinar] was the most informative hour and a half I've had in ages. I learned so much. I really appreciate you and the work of all the many teams you're on."

The Council has committed to reaching a minimum of 500 individuals living with autism and their family members with information they need to access services and supports by September 30, 2016. The Council reached 168 individuals with autism and family members in FFY 13.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	225
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	0

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	0
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	0
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	0
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	200
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	6,223
SC06a Other systems change measure:	0
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$26,172
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Objective 6.3:

Increase the capacity to protect the human rights and safety of people with developmental disabilities.

Implementation activities:

1. Partner with the Disability Law Center, MA Advocates Standing Strong, state agencies and other advocacy groups to develop a coordinated advocacy strategy to protect human rights.
2. Educate and solicit the support of individuals, families, providers, policymakers and the general public on improving safety and expanding the rights of people with developmental disabilities.
3. Support budget and policy initiatives that enhance the capacity to protect human rights and expand the rights of people with developmental disabilities to make informed choices.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

1. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16
2. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16
3. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16

Timelines established were: All met Partially met Not met

Annual Progress Report:

Recognizing gaps that existed in the service delivery system in protecting the personal safety of people with developmental disabilities, in FFY 2012 the Council partnered with the MA Down Syndrome Congress (MDSC) to support HB1674, An Act to Require National Background Checks. This bill dictates that any person seeking employment or a position as a volunteer or trainee to individuals served by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) or its vendor agencies be required to have a national criminal background check, utilizing the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System maintained by the FBI. In FFY 13 the coalition was expanded to include four additional groups including the Arc of MA, the Disability Law Center, MA Advocates Standing Strong and the Disabled Persons Protection Commission.

MDSC presented at the Council hosted bill sharing session in January 2013 to educate people around the importance of HB 1674. There were 70 people in attendance, which included self-advocates, family members of people with disabilities, and representatives from various advocacy organizations.

The Council convened a meeting between the partner organizations and administration officials in November 2012 to address any concerns that the administration may have about the National Background Check bill. The meeting included the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the Department of Developmental Services. It was noted that Massachusetts is the only one of 50 states that does not have non-criminal justice national background checks available for specific purposes such as screening employees working with vulnerable populations. The Council was advised that the administration does not have any objections to the concept of the legislation. They indicated that parts of the bill would need to be reworded in order to be in sync with state and federal laws, and in a way that will allow for effective implementation. It was noted that a statute exists that would Massachusetts to administer national background checks (the National Child Protection Act of

1993) but it requires the Governor's approval to be implemented. The Council was advised that the Governor prefers a state law be enacted rather than using executive approval. The Executive Office on Public Safety noted that it recently worked with the teacher's union to craft HB4033 and much of the groundwork that was done for that bill could be used for HB1674. Other items addressed at this meeting were the cost factor of conducting national background checks, responsibility for costs, and expanding the advocacy partnership to include other organizations such as elder groups.

A hearing for HB1674 was held on July 9th before the Joint Committee on Judiciary. A Council member, who is the parent of a child with a disability, provided testimony to the committee. The 100 people in attendance at the hearing were educated on the impact of background checks on her child's safety. The coalition held a follow up meeting with the Joint Committee on Judiciary, where the committee agreed to Review current legislation that exists around background checks for public schools (HB4033), and to review New York's law and model for background checks.

The Council held trainings in collaboration with Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong (MASS) who utilized \$7,500 of a \$60,000 grant from the Council to conduct "Awareness and Action" and "Rainbow Support (LGBT)" training. MASS contributed an additional \$16,500 for this project. These trainings focused on rights and the importance of protecting people with developmental disabilities, and on awareness to recognize abuse and discrimination against people with developmental disabilities. 571 people were trained in FFY 13. One participant noted in their training evaluation "I went to the training and learned more about guardianship and how to better protect my children. I have a child with ADHD and learning more about his rights and mine and my husband's will make us better parents. I am putting it toward making a will to protect our kids if something should happen to us." In addition 239 people were trained in self-determination and basic self-advocacy, and 38 people facilitated quality assurance as a result of these trainings.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	571
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	239
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	0

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	6
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	0
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	0
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	20

SC05 Members of the general public reached:	170
SC06a Other systems change measure:	0
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$16,500
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Section III: Progress Report - Goals and Objectives

Goal 7: Self-Determination

Individuals with developmental disabilities gain control and exercise self-direction in their lives.

Area of Emphasis	Planned for this Goal	Areas Addressed
Quality Assurance	planned	addressed
Education and Early Intervention		
Child Care		
Health		
Employment		
Housing		
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports	planned	addressed

Strategies	Planned for this Goal	Strategies Used
Outreach	planned	used
Training	planned	used
Technical Assistance	planned	
Supporting and Educating Communities		
Interagency Collaboration and Coordination		
Coordination with Related Councils, Committees and Programs		
Barrier Elimination	planned	used
Systems Design and Redesign		
Coalition Development and Citizen Participation		
Informing Policymakers	planned	used
Demonstration of New Approaches to Services and Supports		
Other Activities		

Intermediaries/Collaborators	Planned for this Goal	Actual
State Protection and Advocacy System	planned	used
University Center(s)		
State DD Agency	planned	used

Other Collaborators Planned:

Alliance for 21st Century Disability Policy, MA Advocates Standing Strong, Disabled Persons Protection Commission, Partners for Youth With Disabilities, Easter Seals, Post-secondary Institutions

Other Collaborators Actual:

Alliance for 21st Century Disability Policy, MA Advocates Standing Strong, Easter Seals, Post-secondary Institutions, The Arc of Massachusetts, Mass. Families Organizing for Change, Massachusetts Sibling Support Network, Advocates for Autism in Massachusetts, the Mass. Down Syndrome Congress, Disability Law Center, and the Federation for Children with Special Needs, Department of Developmental Services.

Objective 7.1:

A minimum of 500 individuals with developmental disabilities shall have the choice of DDS services or qualified DDS providers and shall be able to change their services or service providers by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

1. Collaborate with Mass. Alliance for 21st Century Disability Policy (MA21), DDS and others.
2. Support policy to enhance the use of self-directed supports. (If "Real Lives" legislation passes)

Review and comment on new regulations, guidelines, procedures resulting from passage of “Real Lives” bill.

3. Develop training materials and educate and solicit the support of individuals, families, providers and policymakers on the principles of “Real Lives”.

4. Advocate for policy and budget initiatives that support the Real Lives Initiative.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

1. 10/1/11 - 6/30/16
2. 10/1/13 - 9/30/16
3. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16
4. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16

Timelines established were: All met Partially met Not met

Annual Progress Report:

The Massachusetts Alliance for 21st Century Policy (MA21) was established in previous fiscal years to advance full community participation for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In FFY 12 MA21 partners coordinated a collaborative strategy to advocate for expansion of self-determination policies and practice for people with developmental disabilities. In FFY 13 The Arc of Massachusetts utilized \$32,000 of a \$60,000 grant from the Council to support MA21, a disability advocacy partnership of 9 organizations: The Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, The Arc of Massachusetts, Mass. Families Organizing for Change, The Massachusetts Sibling Support Network, Advocates for Autism in Massachusetts, the Mass. Down Syndrome Congress, Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong, Disability Law Center, and the Federation for Children with Special Needs. The Arc contributed an additional \$4,600 toward this initiative.

The alliance focused on advocacy for the “Real Lives” bill. “Real Lives” will allow people who receive services through the Department of Developmental Services to have more direct control over the funding that supports them to live in the community. The bill would redirect the way funds are appropriated for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to develop a support system that both increases quality and on average reduces costs whenever possible. The Council designated the “Real Lives” bill as one of its legislative priorities. In collaboration with MA21 partners, the Council conducted ongoing legislative advocacy for the “Real Lives” bill. Two hundred policymakers were educated about the principles of “Real Lives” bill. The Council provided testimony at the bill’s hearing, and the written testimonies were distributed to the Committee members. There are now over 100 legislative sponsors, and 6 agreed to lead the promotion of the “Real Lives” bill. 622 people, including individuals with developmental disabilities, family members and human services staff were educated about the “Real Lives” initiative and how it can positively impact adults with developmental disabilities.

MA21 developed and updated 15 documents addressing self-directed supports and the “Real Lives” principles. Information was also presented and shared at 33 meetings, trainings, conferences and other events state-wide. A statewide Emerging Leader training was conducted in the spring. 1,134 individuals with developmental disabilities, family members and providers were trained in formal/informal community supports and 638 people were trained in systems advocacy about quality assurance. In addition, 4 articles were published in local newspapers, the

State House News Service, and via social media. These articles focused on the importance of the current ongoing initiatives of the Council and its partners. There were over 118,000 people reached through these publications.

Over 400 people participated in systems advocacy for the “Real Lives” bill and related budget initiatives. This effort resulted in an additional \$500,000 in the FY14 state budget for the Turning 22 Program. 704 individuals transitioning into adult services will benefit from this line item increase.

In collaboration with the MA21 partners, the Council worked with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to improve the program called “Agency with Choice”. This program is a provider model to support self-determination. This model allows individuals and families to have an increased level of self-determination when they share responsibility for the hiring and management of employees who provide services to them. The Agency with Choice provider is the common law employer of record and the individual/family is the managing employer. To date 183 individuals have participated in this program. This activity is still ongoing, and will continue into the next fiscal year.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	1,142
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	638

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	396
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	1
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	9
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	243
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	118,804
SC06a Other systems change measure:	0
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$504,600
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Objective 7.2:

A minimum of 50 Individuals with Developmental Disabilities will acquire skills needed for self-sufficiency through Independence College by September 30, 2016.

Implementation activities:

1. Establish training coordinator position at the Council.
2. Establish partnerships with MASS, DPPC, Easter Seals, Partners for Youth with Disabilities and others to combine training efforts under Independence College.
3. Work with partners to Develop a curriculum, establish credit values, etc.
4. Partner with colleges, business and others to expand opportunities for students.
5. Recruit and enroll students.
6. First class graduates from Independence College.
7. Second Class graduates from Independence College.

Activities undertaken were:



All met



Partially met



Not met

Timelines:

1. By 9/30/12
2. 10/1/12 - 3/31/13
3. 10/1/12 - 9/30/13
4. 10/1/12 - 9/30/16
5. 10/1/13 - 9/30/15
6. By 9/30/15
7. By 9/30/16

Timelines established were:



All met



Partially met



Not met

Annual Progress Report:

In FFY 12 the Council State Plan Committee and staff met internally to establish a strategy to assist individuals with developmental disabilities to acquire skills needed for self-sufficiency. As a result the Council approved an amendment to its 2103 State Plan to add an objective to establish 'Independence College'. Independence College is a unique program similar to a college certificate program, where students will accrue credits by developing and completing a defined educational track that will consist of core courses, electives, and practicum experience. When completed, the students will have gained knowledge and experience in their desired educational track. The concept is simple. Rather than designing a new curriculum, the strategy is to connect students to trainings already available through the organizations across the state that provide a multitude of opportunities teaching people with disabilities a variety of skills.

The Council initially partnered with MA Advocates Standing Strong (MASS) to develop detailed start up strategies for Independence College. In FFY 13, MASS utilized \$7,500 of a \$60,000 grant from the Council to MASS and contributed an additional \$3,000 for this project. The Council and MASS held six strategic meetings in FFY 2013. In September of 2013, the Council held an initial meeting with additional organizations to recruit partners. The scope of activities and partner responsibilities were developed at the meeting, and fourteen organizations expressed interest in partnering with the Council. At the end of FFY 13 the Council established a Training Coordinator position to oversee the implementation of this initiative.

The partners agreed to submit the trainings that they offer for potential inclusion in the Independence College curriculum. The Council has begun compiling this data into a course database. In FFY 14 the Council will convene a steering committee of self-advocates to assist in developing the initial course catalog and assigning credit value to the classes. The Council is in the initial stages of identifying colleges and business to expand opportunities for Independence College students. The Council will begin student recruitment early in FFY 14, and maintains the goal of graduating the first class by 2015.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	0
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	0

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	0
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	0
SA06a Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06b Other self-advocacy measure:	0
SA06c Other self-advocacy measure:	0

Performance Measure 2.1 (systems change):

SC01 Programs/policies created or improved:	0
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	14
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	0
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	0
SC06a Other systems change measure:	0
SC06b Other systems change measure:	0
SC06c Other systems change measure:	0

Performance Measure 3 (resource leveraging):

RL01 Dollars Leveraged:	\$16,500
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Section IV: Satisfaction with Council Supported or Conducted Activities

Individual Survey Responses:

Number of responses:	216
Respect (%):	Yes 99.50% No 0.50%
Choice (%):	Yes 94.80% No 5.20%
Community (%):	Yes 92.50% No 7.50%
Satisfaction (%):	75.20% Strongly Agree 23.40% Agree 1.00% Disagree 0.40% Strongly Disagree
Better life (%):	68.70% Strongly Agree 29.90% Agree 1.00% Disagree 0.40% Strongly Disagree
Rights (%):	Yes 95.50% No 4.50%
Safe (%):	Yes 95.20% No 4.80%

Individual Comments:

The Council received a total of 216 survey responses. Surveys were completed through the self-advocacy leadership series, the Council empowerment program, the statewide self-advocacy support project, the legislative reception, grantee projects and other activities during 2013. The Council also posted the satisfaction survey on Survey Monkey and invited partner organizations to complete it. 95 surveys were received from individuals with developmental disabilities, 109 from family members and 12 from others. Results are consistent with those received in 2012. The Council left questions 6 and 7 as optional for the individual surveys. 171 respondents completed question 6 and 94 respondents completed question 7.

Respondent comments included:

"Dealing with stress is an important topic and as an individual with a disability and I am grateful to have been able to attend."

"I want to be able to help other families understand their rights."

"This is not only helpful for my daughter but for me as well. I am also spreading the word about this wonderful opportunity to attend these important workshops!"

"The leadership series helps me to learn and speak up for myself."

"The activities in the class were difficult because I can not read. The support that the teachers provided was great."

"This group has been wonderful for Jason. Today we were talking about how he was going to ask his FRIENDS to go apple picking and how to organize the activity. Awesome! Thank you."

"The Friendship network was a wonderful playgroup that helped my son improve his social skills which are greatly lacking despite being a very bright boy... Thank you for your assistance so we could participate."

"Thank you for the chance to learn and meet new people."

"My family would like to thank you so much for supporting a series of Group Socialization Classes for my son. As a result of these sessions, our son has more confidence and self esteem and is able to connect with his peers better than head before. Thank you for helping us through this journey!"

Stakeholder Survey Responses:

Number of responses: 10

Choices & Control (%): 80.00% Strongly Agree | 10.00% Agree | 10.00% Agree Somewhat | 0.00% Disagree Somewhat | 0.00% Disagree | 0.00% Strongly Disagree

Participation (%): 90.00% Strongly Agree | 10.00% Agree | 0.00% Agree Somewhat | 0.00% Disagree Somewhat | 0.00% Disagree | 0.00% Strongly Disagree

Satisfaction (%): 100.00% Strongly Agree | 0.00% Agree | 0.00% Agree Somewhat | 0.00% Disagree Somewhat | 0.00% Disagree | 0.00% Strongly Disagree

Stakeholder Comments:

A stakeholder focus group was held with representatives from Council grantees, provider and advocacy groups. 10 individuals representing different disability groups participated. The participants reviewed and discussed the Council's strengths and weaknesses and made recommendations for potential future activities. Participants also responded to the survey questions at the meeting. The primary focus of discussion was on how to expand the community partnerships that have been effective in forging change, and maintaining the level of effort and impact on the disability community with reduced resources.

Section V: Measures of Collaboration

Critical issues/barriers affecting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families that the collaboration has jointly identified:

1. Supporting Self-Advocacy
2. Leadership Development
3. Emergency Preparedness
4. Coordination of the DD Network
5. Increasing Self-Determination

Section V: Measures of Collaboration

Issue 1: Supporting Self-Advocacy

Description of collaborative issue/barrier or expected outcome:

The statewide self-advocacy organization has existed for over a decade but has been unable to move toward self-sufficiency. The DD Network is collaborating to support board development (independence) and program development (self-sufficiency), and to assist in expanding the self-advocacy network. In FFY13 the network, along with the state DD agency, continued supporting regional efforts to better link the local self-advocacy groups with statewide activities, expanding to a third region. The partnership also continued funding for a consultant to work with the MASS board on program development and fundraising.

Life Areas:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self-Determination | <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Inclusion | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quality Assurance | | |

Council roles and responsibilities in collaboration:

The Council directly supports MA Advocates Standing Strong (MASS), the statewide self-advocacy organization for people with developmental disabilities. Our partnership focuses on working toward self-sufficiency. The support has been successful in helping MASS to diversify its funding sources to include more entities buying services. MASS has also expanded its working relationships with the DD Network, state agencies, other advocacy groups and provider organizations. Most significant, this support has provided MASS the opportunity to hire and pay more people with developmental disabilities to conduct trainings.

Problems encountered as a result of collaboration:

More effort is needed to compensate more self-advocates for the valuable contributions they make and services they provide. In addition, MASS continues to face issues impacting 501c3 organizations, and struggles to balance the requirements of a non-profit with the goal of maintaining an organization managed by self-advocates.

Unexpected benefits:

The use of a board consultant has resulted in a reorganization of paid staff functions. This had freed staff to focus more on overseeing implementation of the the organization's goals and on fundraising activities to expand resources.

Issue 2: Leadership Development

Description of collaborative issue/barrier or expected outcome:

Community leadership by people with developmental disabilities and family members does not meet the level needed to maintain strong community organizing and systems advocacy. The DD Network maintains two year long fellowship for people with developmental disabilities and family members to develop and enhance leadership skills and knowledge of disability issues and systems advocacy. The Gopen Fellowship is for a person with a developmental disability. The Crocker fellowship is for a family member. 2013 was the first year that the two fellowships operated simultaneously.

Life Areas:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Determination | <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Inclusion | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quality Assurance | | |

Council roles and responsibilities in collaboration:

The DD Council underwrites 50% of the cost for the Gopen Fellowship for a person with a developmental disability. The fellow alternates work location between the ICI UCEDD and the Council. The Gopen fellow is actively engaged in policy and program work at the Council, using the opportunity as a vehicle to improve policy knowledge and advocacy skills. The Council actively supports the Crocker Fellowship by providing similar opportunities for the fellow.

Problems encountered as a result of collaboration:

Resources are inadequate to develop and support leaders to the extent needed to maintain long-term leadership in the disability advocacy community.

Unexpected benefits:

The Fellowships have prepared graduates for greater opportunities in disability advocacy. Recent graduates have served as a Kennedy Fellow and completed the LEND graduate program. One graduate is employed at the MA DD Council, one graduate was elected as chairperson of the statewide self advocacy organization, three graduates have become Council members, one graduate founded a successful statewide sibling support network, and one was hired as accessibility coordinator at the Boston Museum of Science.

Section VI: Dissemination

The Council issues a press release on the Program Performance Report upon federal approval. The Council also creates an "Annual Report to the Citizens of the Commonwealth", a four page report specifically designed to give the average citizen a better understanding of the Council, its purpose and its major accomplishments. The report provides information about the Council, an update on addressing the State Plan goals and objectives, highlights of activities and accomplishments from the federal annual report, and financial information for the fiscal year. The "Annual Report to the Citizens of the Commonwealth" has received the AGA Certificate of Excellence every year since 2008. Both reports are posted on the Council's web page, an announcement and link are provided on Facebook and Twitter.

Dissemination of the 4 page report report is accomplished through direct mailing to the Governor, Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, the Massachusetts State Legislature, our DD Network partners and the Commissioners and Secretaries of key state disability agencies. Hard copies of the "Annual Report to the Citizens of the Commonwealth", as well as the federally submitted Program Performance Report, are provided to all Council members. Individuals with developmental disabilities, family members, advocates and other organizations on the Council's advocacy and provider group lists are notified through direct e-mail and Facebook and Twitter postings that both the official federal report and the summary report are available on the Council web page. Hard copies are provided to anyone upon request, including large print and other alternative formats as requested.