

**Massachusetts
Developmental Disabilities
Council**

Program Performance Report

For Federal Fiscal Year 2014

Submitted on: Tuesday, December 23, 2014 08:44pm

Printed on: Wednesday, December 24, 2014 11:27 am

Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council
100 Hancock St

Quincy, MA
02171

Section I: Identification

State or Territory: MA - Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council

Reporting Period: October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014

Name of Person to Contact Regarding PPR Information

Contact Last Name: Shannon

Contact First Name: Daniel

Phone: (617) 770-7676 108

Email: dan.shannon@state.ma.us

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

FFY 14 was a significant year in improving opportunities for people with DD in Massachusetts. Many Council priorities were effectively addressed through the legislative process, including expanding eligibility for adult services, enhancing protections for people with DD, and creating a mechanism to save for future disability related expenses. Most essential was expanding self-determination through a bill mandating self-direction opportunities for people with DD to enhance community living. In addition, final steps were implemented to ensure the closure of the Fernald Development Center.

The Autism Omnibus bill was passed in spring 2014. The law created a permanent Autism Commission, established a mechanism to save for disability related expenses without losing benefits, expanded eligibility for The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) adult services, added coverage for autism therapies, and established services for those with autism and a comorbid mental health diagnosis. Adult services eligibility was previously contingent on IQ, and most individuals with IQs above 70 were ineligible. DDS will now use the federal definition of DD, and Individuals who do not meet the IQ criteria but have substantial functional limitations will now be eligible. The law provides eligibility for "individuals with autism, Prader-Willi syndrome, or smith-magenis syndrome who meet the federal definition of DD and have functional limitations".

Families in MA now have a mechanism for creating tax free savings accounts for disability related expenses. Modeled after the 529 Plan education savings accounts, the law provides a similar mechanism as used to save for a child's future educational expenses. Passed in 2010, the Autism Insurance law (ARICA) requires private insurance policies subject to MA law to cover autism related therapies. ARICA did not mandate the same for state MassHealth (Medicaid) coverage. The Autism Omnibus requires all insurance plans to cover autism related therapies for members under 21, including ABA therapies and alternative communication devices. The law also mandates DDS and DMH to work collaboratively to implement a plan to treat and serve individuals with autism who also have a comorbid mental health diagnosis.

The National Background Checks law requires all potential employees who may have unsupervised contact with a client served by DDS to undergo a background check through the federal criminal records database. Previously only state level criminal checks were conducted, so criminal records outside of MA would not be detected. The "Real Lives" bill places into statute a number of self-person-centered procedures to be implemented by DDS. It redirects funds for individuals with DD toward developing support systems that increase self-direction. It also requires implementing a new HCBS State plan program, 1115 waiver or 1915C waiver to allow public funds to be used as flexibly as possible by the individual. The changes prioritize individual choice and freedom in their home, real connections to citizens and membership in community organizations, friends, family and other significant relationships it also gives people economic self-sufficiency through supports or funds as needed.

The DDS Community Services Expansion and Facilities Restructuring Plan began in 2009 to eliminate most state facilities and expand community services. The Plan targeted closing 4 developmental centers by 2013. As of September 2014, there is only one resident remaining at the Fernald Development Center. In operation for 126 years, Fernald is the western hemisphere's oldest state institution. Targeted for closure in 2010 as the first step of a multi-year plan, Fernald has remained open due to several lawsuits that were filed, tried, retried, appealed and finally denied. The legal process has played out and it is anticipated that the last resident of Fernald will move out in November 2014.

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	planned	
Education and Early Intervention	planned	
Child Care		
Health		
Employment	planned	
Housing		
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports	planned	

Strategies	Planned for this Goal	Strategies Used
Outreach		
Training	planned	
Technical Assistance		
Supporting and Educating Communities		
Interagency Collaboration and Coordination	planned	
Coordination with Related Councils, Committees and Programs		
Barrier Elimination	planned	
Systems Design and Redesign	planned	
Coalition Development and Citizen Participation	planned	
Informing Policymakers	planned	
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)	planned	
State DD Agency		

Other Collaborators Planned:

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

Other Collaborators Actual:

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. Completed. See FFY12 PPR.
- 2. Completed. See FFY12 PPR.
- 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 an 8-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, Westfield State, and University of Massachusetts (UMASS). The SALS transition students represented 14 school districts, with a total of 47 students completing the program. The final class is a graduation ceremony where students are required to deliver a speech and are presented with a certificate of completion. Family members, elected officials, and members of the media all participate in graduation. In FY2014, 215 people attended SALS graduations and were educated on the importance of the Council's initiative to support young adults to gain the skills necessary to live as adults. The post-survey tool to measure the long-term impact of training on students is scheduled to begin implementation in FY 15.

The Council was a core partner on the planning committee for the Transition from School to Adult Life Conference held in September 2014. The conference, held at Holy Cross College in Massachusetts, provided workshops targeting parents of transition aged youth with disabilities. Over 300 attendees from all across Massachusetts participated in 25 workshops. Council staff also managed an exhibit table educating attendees about the Council's transition goal and objectives. Council staff conducted a widely attended workshop highlighting the importance of self-advocacy for transition aged youth. In addition to the conference the Council also exhibited at The Special Needs Transition Fair in Northampton, MA. Fair attendees included over 120 transition aged students and their parents from four Western MA area school districts. Representatives from area colleges involved in the Concurrent Enrollment Program (ICE) and over 30 exhibitors were on site to speak with students and parents.

In January 2014, the Council participated in a reunion for 60 students who had previously participated in the annual Youth Leadership Forum, educating them about the Council's Transition initiatives. The Youth Leadership Forum is an opportunity for youth with disabilities across the state to attend workshops and gain knowledge about self-determination, independent living and the disabilities rights movement, among other topics. The Council partnered with 13

organizations and provided a \$2,000 grant to support the 2014 Youth Leadership Forum (YLF). The 2014 YLF had 37 delegates and 12 peer leaders. Employment workshops were held and 49 people trained about securing employment, preparing resumes and other employment topics. The Council's Self Advocacy Leadership Series training also conducted a peer to peer training around the principles of leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination. All 49 transition aged students attended the SALS training.

In FFY 14 Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC) utilized \$10,000 (20%) of a \$50,000 grant from the Council, contributing an additional \$6,000 towards this initiative. The Council partnered with MAC to educate youth, adults, the Department of Elementary and Secondary education (DESE) and members of Boston Public Schools about transition assessment tools and the new state Individual Education Plan (IEP) transition forms and expectations. The workshops trained 60 students, focusing on empowering youth with developmental disabilities to participate actively in their own IEP process. In addition, the partnership provided DESE and members of the Boston Public Schools with important recommendations for the proposed guidelines that will define best practices for conducting transition assessments in the state. Forty-three (43) members of the Boston Public Schools were trained in improving IEP practices, with a focus on increasing student participation in the IEP process. Inclusive education trainings were held throughout the state, training a total of 250. Five policymakers were also educated about transition assessments and transition IEP practices.

The Self Advocacy Leadership Series training, along with the transition training partnership has substantially contributed to youth with developmental disabilities improving knowledge and skills needed for adult life. One self-advocate who graduated from the SALS Transition series said, "I am very grateful for all of the people who made it possible for me to be a part of this program. Now I know for sure that going to college is not a dream for me anymore, it's a goal that I can reach." Another student said, "I get to share with my family and friends that I get to go to college just like my sister" and a parent commented on the importance of her son being more independent.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	250
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	145
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	49

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:	19

SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	43
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	5
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	395
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:	\$6,000
-------------------------	---------

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 transition specialist stakeholders to ensure transition specialist qualifications meet the necessary standards.
3. Develop a position paper on transition services.
4. Educate and solicit the support of individuals, families, educators, policymakers and the general public on the benefits of transition specialist qualifications.
5. Coordinate advocacy activities with partners, educators, and policymakers to support transition specialist qualifications.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

1. Completed. See FFY12 PPR.
2. 10/1/11 - 9/30/16
3. Completed. See FFY13 PPR.
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:

During FFY 12, the Council in partnership with Massachusetts Advocates for Children successfully led a policy initiative to improve transition services in Massachusetts through the establishment of transition specialist qualifications. Following the enactment of “An Act to Promote the Successful Transition of Students with Disabilities to Post-Secondary Employment, Education and Independent Living”, efforts were focused on ensuring that the Department of Education’s transition specialist regulations were aligned with the vision of the transition

stakeholders who championed the bill. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education issued its final "Guidelines for the Transition Specialist Endorsement" in FFY 14.

This State Plan objective was achieved during FFY14. Activities under this objective were conducted through a partnership with Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC). MAC utilized \$12,500 (25%) of a \$50,000 grant from the Council, contributing an additional \$7,500 towards this initiative. As a result of intensive advocacy efforts, DESE established a statewide policy and issued comprehensive guidelines to address competencies required for transition educators. A working group of 8 representatives from the community with expertise in transition was established to review the department's proposed guidelines, and submitted comments and recommendations for amendments to DESE. The final guidelines address standards for teachers of students with moderate and severe disabilities, teachers of the visually impaired, and teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing, as well as school guidance counselors, school social work adjustment counselors, and licensed rehabilitation counselors.

The final Guidelines included most of the Transition Stakeholder working group recommendations addressing each of the following areas: the foundations and implementation of transition education and transition services; individual transition assessment and system evaluation; how to develop transition systems and supports; and effective collaboration with all stakeholders. The final guidelines included detailed samples for field based related work such as: preparing culturally responsive student and family guides and checklists regarding district transition procedures and services; conducting assessment of school/district transition practices using national transition standards and evidence-based practices; developing goals to improve services for all students with disabilities ages 14-22; and establishing an interagency transition team for the school or district that includes but is not limited to representatives from school, workforce, higher education, adult service agencies, community providers, independent living, student and family.

Three universities, including Lesley University, Simmons College and the University of Massachusetts at Boston have created transition specialist training programs as a result of the new law, utilizing the recently issued guidelines to develop the new educator preparation programs. UMass Boston and Lesley University have updated their course catalogs to include information on a new Transition Specialist Endorsement (TSE) option. Ten educators have obtained a Transition Specialist Endorsement thus far from UMass Boston, with an estimate of 36 more by 2016. Lesley University debuted their Transition Specialist Endorsement program this fall and they expect four Transition educators to earn an endorsement in May 2015, with increasing numbers in the future.

The Council successfully advocated with DESE to develop a transition specialist grandfathering process to address the reality that many existing transition specialists have the range of skills and competencies necessary to meet the needs of older youth with disabilities. Staff worked with about 30 public policy makers to finalize grandfathering procedures. The stakeholder working group developed a rubric reflecting key elements of the transition guidelines and successfully advocated for state adoption of the rubric. Information has been distributed to identify qualified panel members to review the application process. The team will soon have access to the portfolios to begin the review process. Applicants who have met the prerequisites must apply before December 31, 2014. Over 160 individuals have applied as of August 2014.

During FFY14 220 high school and middle schools improved IEP practices by adopting improved practices in transition services, including many middle and high schools in the city of Boston. 44 transition coordinators were newly trained, and 700 people were trained in systems advocacy.

Training included 440 transition-aged youth, 150 family members and 110 other advocates through MA Advocates for Children's transition training and a Lesley University informational workshop. Three youth Fellows and other youth with developmental disabilities testified at public hearings along with eight family members and 12 transition specialist trainees. \$7,500 was leveraged in nonfederal sub grantee matching funds for this objective, and five products were distributed to policymakers about transition coordinators including a fact sheet summarizing the important opportunities of the new transition specialist endorsement, a written proposal for implementation of standards, two amendments to guidelines, and the rubric.

To address the overall State Plan goal of improving the transition process, advocacy efforts focused on the importance of new state transition IEP forms and procedures that highlight planning and services necessary to support independent living, employment, and post-secondary education. The transition stakeholder working group met to develop recommendations to amend the IEP and highlight transition planning. Communication with the state director of special education led to an agreement from DESE to develop a new IEP for students ages 14-22 that address transition needs and services as part of its new initiative to move towards web-based IEPs.

The positive impact of the transition specialist law and guidelines on the lives of people with DD is well illustrated by the statement of Maria Paiewonsky, Transition Specialist from the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI): "With the passage of the Massachusetts transition specialist law, there have been numerous ways that students with intellectual disabilities have been impacted by the work of newly trained transition specialists. In just 2.5 years, since the launch of the UMass Boston Transition Leadership program, 44 new transition specialists to date have incorporated the following practices into their work: person-centered planning, transition assessments, effective transition plans that incorporate measurable post-secondary goals and annual goals that align with students' vision for the future, inclusive college and community-based work experiences, positive school-family partnerships, and bringing new transition leadership to their schools. It is these practices that will support students' goals and give them the opportunity to live, work and study in the community, just as their peers without disabilities do."

One parent who attended a transition training conference stated, "I am now even more eager to pursue the possibility of becoming grandfathered in for the endorsement. Since the conference, I have spoken to several people to whom (the Federation for Children with Special Needs) referred me and I have decided to file an application to see what happens. I am grateful that my attendance at the conference can also be applied towards my application. I even have a plan B. In the event that I am not approved for the endorsement, I am excited about the possibility of becoming a parent advocate or volunteering as a special education surrogate. Thank you so very much for the opportunity. It was a life changer for me."

Working with diverse stakeholders, this initiative has helped ensure that students with developmental disabilities receive transition planning and services necessary to promote a successful transition to employment, higher education, and independent living.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	44
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	700

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	67
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:	5
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	8
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	220
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	30
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:	\$7,500
-------------------------	---------

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 initiative 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.
4. Coordinate advocacy activities with partners and policymakers for policy and budget initiatives that support the Bridges to Success initiative.

Activities undertaken were:



All met



Partially met



Not met

Timelines:

1. Completed. See FFY12 PPR.
2. Completed. See FFY13 PPR.
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:

Ch.766 is the Massachusetts law that guarantees children and youth with disabilities have access to appropriate education programs. Ch. 688 is also a Massachusetts special education law but it establishes a process for determining which adult service agencies will be responsible for serving transition age youth upon completion of their secondary education. Two issues often confront those transitioning from a Ch. 766 program while going through the Ch. 688 process: the individual is found to be ineligible for adult services or the individual is found eligible but there are insufficient funds available in the state agency's budget to properly meet his or her needs. The Bridges to Success bill (Bridges) and the Passages to Independence bill (Passages) were each drafted to address these issues.

The Bridges bill, developed in partnership by the Council and Disability Law Center, addresses the ineligibility for services issue. If signed into law, Bridges would expand transition services and supports to students with disabilities without adult service agency ties as well as require the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to monitor and collect data on the extent to which needed services are not being provided, because of shortfalls in appropriations. The Passages bill drafted in partnership by the Council and the ARC of MA, aimed to improve transition to adult services by creating annualized funding for adult services youth are eligible for.

Initially, both Bridges and Passages were supported by the Council because of their potential to meet the Council's State Plan's goal to assist youth with developmental disabilities to receive the supports they need to develop skills to live as adults. As was previously reported in the 2012 PPR, the Council established advocacy partnerships with the Disability Law Center (DLC) and the Arc of MA (Arc) to combine efforts to support the passage of each bill. Since the 2012 PPR, a few legislative changes occurred at the state level. Primarily, the state's Autism Commission, whose work was coordinated by Council staff, filed its final report in March 2013. To implement the recommendations in the report, a number of pieces of legislation were filed including H78 An Act to permit the Department of Developmental Services to provide services to adults with developmental disabilities that would expand eligibility for the DDS if passed into law. H 78 had the potential to positively impact the same population the Bridges bill targeted by expanding eligibility for DDS and ultimately offering individuals supports they needed to live successfully after high school. The DDS eligibility bill was also chosen by the Council as one of our priority bills to support. In a position paper the Council released in 2013 and reported on in the 2013 PPR, the Council also stressed the importance of changing eligibility for DDS adult services.

The release of the Autism Commission report created a blueprint for advocates to follow who wanted to improve services for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. Events that were reported on in the 2013 PPR including a report release event coordinated by Council staff and well attended legislative hearings on the Autism Commission's bills at which Council staff participated by presenting testimonies increased awareness in the Legislature about the Autism Commission bills. One of the issues that received a lot of attention was the rigid eligibility requirements for DDS and their negative impact on young adults transitioning from school to adult life. Through discussions with state agencies like the Bureau of Transition Planning and our advocacy partners including the Arc of MA the Council recognized that H78 was a stronger piece of legislation than Bridges and Passages and decided to focus Council's advocacy efforts with the Arc of MA on getting H 78 passed. The DLC continued to support

Bridges but not with the same intensity.

In the spring of 2014, the Council with advocates from the Arc of MA and other autism advocacy organizations, decided to take a different approach to get some of the Autism Commission's bills passed. Instead of continuing to advocate for each individual bill, the Council and fellow advocates worked with state legislators to develop an Autism Omnibus bill that included six pieces of the Autism Commission's legislation including the bill to expand adult eligibility for the DDS. In August 2014, Autism Omnibus bill was signed into law, making An Act to permit the Department of Developmental Services to provide services to adults with developmental disabilities. The Department of Developmental Services will now use the federal definition of "developmental disability" and an individual's functional limitations to determine if an individual is eligible for adult services. The state Legislature also approved an additional \$6 million in September to prepare the DDS to serve more individuals. This will improve transition outcomes for many young adults with developmental disabilities.

The Council will continue to support the implementation of the eligibility law in FFY 15 focusing on the potential impact on youth transitioning into adult services. Performance measures that may also address this objective are reported under the other related objectives in this report.

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:	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):

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. Completed. See FFY12 PPR.
2. Completed. See FFY13 PPR.
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:

Massachusetts maintained a requirement for short term objectives in the education plan for students with disabilities after it was removed from the federal reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The Council recognized that maintaining this practice was vulnerable to administrative revocation at any time. Advocates filed a bill to require school districts to continue the current practice of including short-term objectives and benchmarks in the Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for all students with disabilities. The inclusion of measurable short-term objectives in IEPs is important to assist in measuring the impact of special education services, providing essential information for educators to adjust services and strategies in a timely fashion.

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 and 2013 PPRs. As reported in the 2013 PPR, The Council worked in collaboration with MA Advocates for Children (MAC) to develop a position paper on short term objectives. MA Advocates for Children utilized \$12,500 of a \$50,000 grant from the Council to coordinate continued advocacy activities in FY 14. MAC contributed an additional \$6,000 for this project.

Council staff utilized the position paper to educate numerous stakeholders about the importance of short term objectives, including over 200 policy makers. Three products were developed and distributed to policymakers, including a white paper, a fact sheet and a bill summary. The Council conducted follow up meetings with 11 members of the House Committee on Steering, Policy, and Scheduling to provide further clarification of the bill. SB 218: An Act to Maintain Short Term Objectives in the IEP (Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2013), was signed into law in November 2013. Short-term measurable objectives will be a requirement for all Individual Education Plans by September 30, 2016. After thorough analysis, the improved IEP practices will have a positive impact on students with disabilities in 487 schools across the Commonwealth of MA.

The Council continued its efforts after the passage of the bill by working with MA Advocates for Children to develop a revised fact sheet, bill summary, and other informational materials as needed to educate and solicit support of individuals, families, educators and the general public on the benefits of utilizing short term objectives. The Council also conducted outreach and training to 362 people.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	373
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:	2
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	0
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	487
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:	\$6,000
-------------------------	---------

Objective 1.5:

The number of students in the Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment program 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. Identify barriers and develop strategies to overcome the identified barriers.
3. 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.
4. Coordinate advocacy activities with partners and policymakers.
5. 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. Completed. See FFY13 PPR.
2. By 9/30/16
3. 10/1/13 – 9/30/16
4. 10/1/13 – 9/30/16
5. 10/1/13 – 9/30/16

Timelines established were:

All met

Partially met

Not met

Annual Progress Report:

As reported in FY 2013 PPR, the Council and Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC) successfully led efforts to expand 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. Upon awarding of a grant from the Council, MAC committed to working with the Council to expand the Massachusetts' ICE program to include residential options on college campuses for students with disabilities. MAC utilized \$10,000 of a \$50,000 grant from the Council to implement advocacy activities in FFY 14. MAC contributed an additional \$10,500 toward this project. The partnership focused in 2014 on implement a range of activities in order to expand inclusive college options, including dormitory living options, for students with severe disabilities.

Outreach and advocacy activities were conducted to ensure that the state retained a new ICE Coordinator within the Executive Office of Education (EOE) with the qualifications, experience, and support necessary to sustain and expand the ICE initiative, including development of opportunities for inclusive dormitory living. The new ICE Coordinator position in EOE has contributed greatly to efforts to expand higher education opportunities for young adults with intellectual disabilities and autism. The Council encouraged a collaborative approach between the Executive Office of Education, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, higher education officials and the legislature. Partners met with the ICE Coordinator and the Joint Committee on Higher Education Chairperson periodically, conducted outreach to the ICE

partnerships comprised of participating colleges and school districts, and advocated for training and technical assistance to partners. MAC also participated in the development and issuance of the residence life initial phase implementation grant RFP, new planning grant RFPs, and continuation grant RFPs.

Bridgewater State University (BSU) has expressed a commitment to accepting students to live in the college dormitories beginning in 2015. With ongoing support, collaboration and advocacy efforts, BSU submitted and is implementing a planning grant to develop inclusive dormitory opportunities. Ten colleges are now partnering with school districts on ICE, including four residential universities.

During each step of the budget process, the Council and partner advocates contacted individual members of the House and Senate regarding the budget request for the Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment initiative. MAC developed ICE budget and informational materials for parents, individuals with disabilities, higher education, and school districts participating in ICE. MAC also met with staff from the offices of the House Speaker, Senate President, Senate Ways and Means, House Ways and Means, and other key legislators.

In March, a legislative briefing was organized regarding the budget request for ICE. The briefing was attended by over 60 legislators and legislative staff who heard from young adults with autism, higher education faculty, district administrator, and parents. Many individuals visited their legislators the day of the briefing, and others sent e-mails and made phone calls. The state budget provided \$1 million for ICE, an increase of \$300,000. New language was also added to the line item requiring additional evaluation and research to further identify student outcomes and best practices.

A forum was held in June at MassBay Community College's Framingham Campus to educate and solicit support of individuals, families, educators, and others for the ICE initiative. Approximately 50 people attended to learn more about college opportunities for youth with intellectual disabilities and autism. Rep. Sannicandro, the lead sponsor for the ICE initiative, called ICE a "revolutionary idea" to help youth successfully transition to life after high school. A local newspaper included an article on reported on this program the next day.

Under their Council grant MAC staff, including the Young Adult Fellow attending UMass Boston through the ICE initiative, participated as active members of the Legislative Task Force on Higher Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder, launched by the Joint Committee on Higher Education. Public hearings were conducted at 4 universities throughout the Commonwealth in November, providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities, parents, higher education officials, school districts, and other members of the public to testify on expanding access to higher education for students with intellectual disabilities and autism.

Significant time was spent working with the members of the Legislative Task Force to draft and finalize the report, which includes specific findings and recommendations for enhancing the ICE initiative. The recommendations include: i) expanding the Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment (ICE) initiative to the Commonwealth's 29 public institutions of higher education; ii) including students with ID/ASD in the residence life of public institutions of higher education, with accommodations and services to support inclusive dormitory living; iii) enacting laws and policies necessary to allow students who have not passed the MCAS exam to enroll in inclusive credit and non-credit courses; iv) removing barriers for students with ID/ASD who have reached the age of 22; and v) encouraging colleges to become federally approved Comprehensive Transition Programs in order to offer federal financial aid for students who have exited high school.

133,300 members of the general public were reached by media coverage about ICE. At least five news sources covered the release of the Legislative Task Force report, including the State House News, the Boston Globe, public radio station WBUR, the Metro Boston daily and an NBC affiliate channel. In May, there was wide media coverage of the Governor and several legislators attending a celebratory event for ICE students at Bridgewater State University.

250 public policy makers were educated about ICE, including the Legislature, the Governor, Task Force members, policymakers at EOE, DESE and 27 colleges. Eight products were shared with policymakers related to ICE including two fact sheets for the House, two alerts for the Senate, a handout for the legislative briefing, task force report, a bill summary and recommendations to successfully develop inclusive dormitory options.

Ten higher education institutions improved inclusive education practices by participating in the ICE program this year. Forty one education programs or policies have been created or improved at the state level, in colleges and school districts. Examples include focusing on competitive employment, including students in the non-academic life of colleges, including students in residential life, allowing students to enroll in college without passing MCAS and waiving pre-requisites for students with disabilities. Approximately 48 people engaged in systems advocacy. This number includes administrators, educators and other staff at the ten colleges, high schools and school districts, and participants in MAC's collaborative groups. Thirty eight public school districts improved IEP practices by participating in ICE.

636 people were active in system advocacy due to the ICE initiative, including people testifying at budget hearings and contacting their legislators. 298 students and others were trained in inclusive education and 145 entities are participating in partnerships as a result of the ICE initiative, including colleges, high schools and transition group organizations.

Approximately 75 students participated in the ICE program in FFY14. One student, a young adult with DD who attends a community college described his experience. "I am a senior at a Vocational High School. My teachers are always looking for ways to help us with our education. When they recommended me for the ICE Program I was very excited, since going to College has been always a dream for me. Even though the college is across the street from my high school, going back and forth by myself was a big step forward to becoming more independent. This was a new experience for me, because since elementary school, I had always taken the school bus. The first day I was a little scared, but J, M, R and Miss W. warmly welcomed me and introduced me to classes without making me feel different. I took 3 classes through the ICE Program: Intro to Business, Intro to Piano, and Drawing I. I was always free to express myself and ask questions. The professors always answered the questions that I had. I learned a lot in my Business Class. Right now, I am studying Office Technology in the Vocational Program in school. The information that I learned in the Business Class is helping me to understand what I am learning in Accounting. Music and drawing are my hobbies. My drawings were very basic and now my lines are better, and I understand more about shape and form. Learning the basic of piano was very interesting and I learned about moving my fingers in coordination with my mind and the musical notes. Miss W. was always there in contact with the professors and took care of all of our needs. My educational coach helped me to make sure that I always did my homework. I also worked with the career counselor. She helped me learn more about jobs and to update my resume. One of the best parts of being in the ICE Program was that in the second semester I was able to work at college assisting the nurse. In this internship, I helped insert data into spreadsheets, put up flyers on bulletin boards, and I helped her pass out papers during meetings. I learned a lot from the nurse, and spent more time on the campus which helped me feel even more comfortable. I went to a Holiday Event last December. I also participated in an Art Exhibit. The professor for my drawing class and the other art professors had us display our work and we

were able to see the results of everyone's hard work. My summer job was as an assistant teacher in a pre-school in the Chinatown area. I felt more confident with myself at my summer job, because of my experience with ICE. I am very grateful for all of the people that made it possible for me to be a part of the ICE Program. I now know for sure, that going to college is not a dream for me anymore, it is a goal that I can reach.”

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	298
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:	636
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:	41
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	145
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	48
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	250
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	133,333
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:	\$310,500
-------------------------	-----------

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	
Education and Early Intervention		
Child Care		
Health		
Employment		
Housing		
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports	planned	

Strategies	Planned for this Goal	Strategies Used
Outreach	planned	
Training	planned	
Technical Assistance	planned	
Supporting and Educating Communities		
Interagency Collaboration and Coordination		
Coordination with Related Councils, Committees and Programs		
Barrier Elimination		
Systems Design and Redesign		
Coalition Development and Citizen Participation	planned	
Informing Policymakers	planned	
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)	planned	
State DD Agency		

Other Collaborators Planned:

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

Other Collaborators Actual:

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. Completed. See FFY13 PPR.
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:

In FFY 13, the Council continued leading training initiatives across the state through their Self Advocacy Leadership Series. As a result of those trainings, people were able to use the skills they obtained to actively engage in advocacy, gain memberships on public/private boards and commissions, and pursue competitive employment. The Council has continued to utilize marketing strategies and social media (twitter, Facebook, YouTube) to connect to people with developmental disabilities and facilitate the sharing of training opportunities. The Council increased awareness of Self-Advocacy Leadership Series (SALS) training opportunities available cross the state through social media, email outreach, several press releases to local newspapers, local calendars, and postings on the Mass Network of Information Providers (MINP). 1,760 members of the general public were reached through these efforts, in addition to 145 people reached at the Annual Western MA Self Advocacy Conference. In addition, the SALS graduation has become an opportunity for trainers to share information about the Council and talk about Council initiatives. 400 members of the general public were educated about the Council through these graduations. This activity is on track to be completed by September 30, 2016.

In addition, the Council conducted two showings of the documentary, The Sandy Houghton Story, at the Disability Law Center and for MA Families Organizing for Change. Sixty people attended these events. The Sandy Houghton Story is a poignant documentary showcasing the extraordinary life of a woman with cerebral palsy. The film recounts the barriers she faced, the emotional memories and experience that shaped her life and have led her to become a successful professional and advocate, describes the challenges Sandy faces as a person with a developmental disability, and her developmental of the SALS.

The Council partnered with the MA DD Network (Disability Law Center, UMASS Shriver, and the Institute on Community Inclusion) and awarded a \$24,305 grant to support the two Gopen Fellows in FFY 14. ICI contributed an additional \$1,148 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.

Erin Flaherty completed her Gopen Fellowship in June 2014. The focus of Erin's project was to increase awareness of the issues of women with autism spectrum disorders and identify program models that could be used to support them. Through her Fellowship, Erin participated in the LEND Program classes and was trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and systems advocacy. She used the knowledge and skills she gained from these classes to actively engage in systems advocacy when she attended the National Disability Policy Conference in Washington, DC in April 2014. During this conference, Erin met with several members of the MA Congressional Delegation to discuss and educate them about her project. In June, Erin made her final presentation to the Council and its stakeholders. Marie Saldi began her Gopen Fellowship in July 2014. The focus of Marie's project is on inclusive playgrounds and educating and advocating for people with disabilities. Her efforts and results will be reported in the 2015 PPR. There are several performance measures associated with her project are reported under the self-objective advocacy (Goal 2, Objective 2) of this PPR.

The Council conducted 9 Adult Self Advocacy Leadership Series trainings in FFY 14. Participants worked to develop skills needed to become leaders in disability advocacy and gain competitive employment. 95 people graduated from SALS in FY14. Students were educated on leadership opportunities that exist across the state and in their region, and were advised of leadership opportunities with Mass. Advocates Standing Strong (MASS) and the Department of Developmental Services Statewide Advisory Board. MASS utilized \$4,615 of a \$60,000 grant from the Council toward this effort, contributing an additional \$8,308 in support of the project. Through this initiative 13 people attained membership on several boards and commissions including the Department of Developmental Services Citizen Advisory Board, the Department of Developmental Services Diversity Committee, the MBTA Advisory Group, and the Council's Independence College Steering Committee.

The Council has had a great impact in assisting people in developing their leadership skills in order to become active in disability advocacy. This impact has ranged from simply helping a person find the voice they never knew they had, to people becoming leaders and actively trying to engage others to do the same. One advocate said, "The empowering feeling gained attending this national conference cannot be compared to anything. It is at this conference that I met so many successful blind adults who live their lives and do all kinds of different jobs... It is different simply having the knowledge of possibility and witnessing what is perceived to be the impossible. I am the leader of my state's student division, and I had the honor of speaking at the national students meeting. I was able to share my acquired knowledge and lessons with others, in the hopes that I could inspire them to believe what I've learned to embrace."

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:	95
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	2

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	3
---	---

SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	13
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:	4
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	0
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	2,305
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:	\$9,456
-------------------------	---------

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 has worked in partnership with the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Network to provide legislative advocacy trainings and assist people with developmental disabilities to be active in systems advocacy. The DD Network is made up of the Council, UMASS Shriver Center, Disability Law Center, and the Institute for Community Inclusion. The Council continues to serve as the MA DD Network liaison to the North East Advocates Together (NEAT) grant advisory committee for the AIDD Regional Self-Advocacy Technical Assistance Grant. The target timeline for establishing the partnership was met in FY 13 and efforts to support the Allies in Self Advocacy State team continue.

The Council continues to work in partnership with Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong (MASS), the statewide self-advocacy organization directed by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. MASS utilized \$13,846 of a \$60,000 grant from the Council to conduct self-advocacy and related trainings, contributing an additional \$24,923 for this effort. Trainings in self-advocacy, leadership, and self-determination were provided to 177 people with developmental disabilities under the age of 22 were held. In addition, 12 legislative advocacy trainings were conducted for 71 individuals with developmental disabilities, 2 family members, and 23 other advocates. These trainings focused on the legislative process, how to talk with legislators, and current initiatives.

As a result of these trainings, 66 individuals with developmental disabilities, family members and other advocates were active in systems advocacy, meeting with policymakers and distributing 9 informational products about self-advocacy and related policy issues. 1,200 members of the general public were also reached with information about trainings, legislative education days, and related policy issues through e-mail initiatives, social media outreach, and network meetings. This activity is on track to be completed by September 30, 2016.

The Council continued to support Gopen Fellows. The Gopen Fellowship offers a person with a developmental disability a unique opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and experience by working with members of the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Network programs. In FY 14, Erin Flaherty was chosen as the Gopen Fellow. Ms. Flaherty was trained in systems advocacy, leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination through the Self-Advocacy Leadership Series, and then actively engaged in systems advocacy by meeting with 4 members of the MA Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C. Ms. Flaherty's fellowship activities utilized \$3,581 (25%) of a \$18,639 grant to support the Gopen Fellowship. \$1,079 in match funds was also contributed to these activities. (Please see Goal 2, Objective 1 for other information related to this Fellowship. The current Gopen Fellow, Marie Saldi, was trained in systems advocacy, leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination through the LEND Program classes, and meetings that she attended at the Council and the Institute for Community Inclusion. She actively engaged in advocacy by arranging meetings with 8 policymakers. During these meetings, information was shared about her project, including the checklist that she developed to evaluate the accessibility of playgrounds in the Greater Boston area. Marie has also shared information about her project with 2 children with disabilities and 3 family members, and she facilitated recreation opportunities for 2 individuals. These activities utilized \$2,919 (67%) of a \$5,666 Council grant, and contributed \$859 toward the fellowship as match funds.

The Council worked in collaboration with Arc of Massachusetts (Arc MA) to conduct an Annual Legislative Reception in March, 2014. Over 400 people with developmental disabilities, family members and advocates attended the event to connect elected and appointed officials. Reception event speakers included the Speaker of the House and Senate President, and Senator Jennifer Flanagan and Representative Brian Dempsey were honored for their commitment to

people with developmental disabilities through their leadership. 54 disability advocacy organizations that cosponsored the event and 20 exhibitors provided disability related information to participants. People with developmental disabilities and family members utilized the information they received at the event to actively engage with their legislators in meetings following the formal program. In addition to the information shared during the event, every legislator and state official attending received an information packet detailing Council and Arc MA initiatives. 205 packets were distributed at the reception. Following the event, Solomon & McCown, a Council public relations grantee utilized \$8,255 (29%) of a \$28,894 grant toward this event and other public education activities. Solomon issued several media advisories about the legislative reception and sent press releases to the award recipients' district news sources. In addition, the Arc of Massachusetts included an article in their monthly newsletter 'The Advocate'. Over 30,745 members of the general public were reached under this initiative. This objective is on track to be completed by September 30, 2016.

The impact of these Council activities of disability advocacy (both training and being active in advocacy) is wide-ranging. People with developmental disabilities are equipped with the tools needed to better self-advocate in their meetings with policymakers and are educated about policy initiatives that have a direct impact on their lives. Self-advocates who have attended these trainings have shared their experiences with the Council. One self-advocate expressed, "I love attending legislative education days at the State House because I get to meet with my state representative and elected officials." Another self-advocate said, "The legislative education days are important to me because I can talk to my representatives about what is important to me and my community."

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:	177
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	98

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	466
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:	54
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	217
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	31,950
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:	\$26,861
-------------------------	----------

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	
Housing		
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports	planned	

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

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

Other Collaborators Planned:

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

Other Collaborators Actual:

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. Completed. See FFY12 PPR.

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 launched an initiative in FFY 12 to train individuals with disabilities on how to create a portfolio for competitive employment. The portfolio would consist of a collection of items detailing the skills and attributes a person possesses which make him or her more marketable for competitive employment opportunities. The Council partnered with Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong (MASS) to offer an introduction to portfolio building called Explore Prepare Act (EPA). EPA is a 3 hour training that highlights important aspects of seeking employment to include interviewing skills and creating a portfolio. In FFY 14, 56 EPA trainings were conducted resulting in a total of 636 people trained.

MASS utilized \$9,231 from a \$60,000 council grant in FFY 2014 to assist individuals with developmental disabilities gain competitive employment, contributing an additional \$16,000 to the project. Four informational products were created to educate the public and legislators about the need to implement fair wages and employment in the community. Mass created a PowerPoint presentation in collaboration with the Council, ArcMA and The Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Feedback was also provided to DDS on the employment educational forums they developed for self-advocates. MASS also utilized Council resources to create a new pilot project called Choice and Control, designed to increase self-advocates' knowledge, skills, and advocacy around self-directed services. The Employment First initiative advocates for the close of sheltered workshops and for people with developmental disabilities to be paid at or above the minimum wage. The Real Jobs initiative advocates for individuals with developmental disabilities to have jobs of their choosing in the community. Activities were conducted and a quality control document developed for use with DDS providers in order to ensure individuals with developmental disabilities are pursuing competitive employment at a job of their choice. In addition, an Employment First flyer and a Real Jobs flyer were developed and distributed. Using the PowerPoint on Choice and Control and the flyers on Employment First, the Council in partnership with MASS educated 201 policymakers, including the Department of Developmental Disabilities Services regional staff and other elected and appointed officials.

The Council committed to assisting a minimum of 100 individuals with developmental disabilities to establish portfolios for competitive employment by September 30, 2016. In FFY 2013 it was reported that 11 people secured employment while others have used their skills to develop resumes, conduct practice interview and visit job sites. In FFY 14, 636 individuals with developmental disabilities were trained in establishing portfolios for competitive employment. No development of official portfolios has been completed as the partnership has remained focused on education and training.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	636
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:	201
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:	\$16,000
-------------------------	----------

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 employment goal is to increase opportunities for individuals to work in competitive employment that meet their career expectations. The Council identified a need to increase the number of individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities who receive employment supports through state agencies. In the FFY13 PPR, the Council reported on its efforts to educate legislators on the benefits of employment supports, providing testimony, and working in partnership with MA Rehabilitation Commission (MRC). The Council also reported on collaborating with MRC and other state agencies on developing and implementing more employment supports for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. The Council outlined its role as staff to the MA Autism Commission, and advocacy efforts the Council undertook to assist in implementation of the Commission's recommendations on employment services for people with autism.

The Council initiated collaboration with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) 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 Council's participation on the SRC has provided the opportunity to advise MRC on how to provide high quality rehabilitation services that result in sustainable, competitive employment for MRC consumers. Specifically, the Council can assist MRC with the development and implementation of their goals and objectives. In FY 2014, staff attended four quarterly SRC meetings providing feedback on the status of MRC employment initiatives across the state. The Council also participated on, and provided feedback to three SRC subcommittees. Council staff reviewed MRC strategies to implement new federal requirements, and provided input to the SRC Policy and Regulations Subcommittee. At the two biannual meetings of the Business Development and Finance Subcommittee, the Council reviewed the MRC's budget and provided input on planning. Lastly, Council staff assisted the State Plan Subcommittee in the development of MRC's goals and objectives. In conjunction with the Council's efforts, MRC successfully placed 3,652 citizens with disabilities into competitive employment.

As part of the Council's involvement in the SRC, the Council participates in one of the SRC's subcommittees which study specific issues affecting certain populations. The LD/ADHD subcommittee consists of a wide range of stakeholders including individuals with disabilities, service providers, advocates and representatives from MRC. The results of the MRC's most recent Comprehensive Statewide Annual Needs Assessment indicated that consumers were interested in receiving more training on "soft skills", recognizing their importance in gaining and

keeping employment. The LD/ADHD subcommittee chose to conduct research into methods for consumers to gain access to soft skills trainings. The Council joined the LD/ADHD subcommittee due to its commitment to determining ways for MRC to expand soft skills knowledge for their consumers something the Council believed consumers with developmental disabilities particularly those with autism could benefit from.

As the only representative of the interests of individuals with developmental disabilities, Council staff contributed to conversations by educating fellow members and MRC staff on the potential positive impact more soft skills trainings could have on employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities. In preliminary discussions with MRC about soft skills training, it was learned that despite maintaining 25 area offices throughout the state, only two staff were knowledgeable about soft skills development. It was also revealed that trainings about soft skills already existed but in many cases attendance was extremely low. Former consumers revealed that attendance at training is contingent on receiving information about learning opportunities from their case manager, and often the case manager was not aware of an opportunity to pass on to the consumer. The subcommittee recommended that a comprehensive list of services be developed and shared with all MRC consumers

The Council is also a member of the Employment Now Coalition, a partnership with MA Easter Seals, ArcMA, the Disability Law Center, Boston Center for Independent Living and the Disability Policy Consortium. With a recommendation from the Council the coalition chose to advocate during the current session for H136 "An Act to Increase the Commonwealth's Compliance with Federal Law Meeting Requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act". This bill would expand the Executive Office of Health and Human Services commitment to hiring people with disabilities by training employers involved in hiring decisions on the ADA, and establishing a set number of hires of people with disabilities. In early 2014, the Council and employment coalition developed a coordinated advocacy strategy for moving H 136 out of Ways and Means, involving direct contact with members of the Ways and Means Committee, and educating all legislators on the importance of the bill to people with disabilities. The Council educated Representative Sean Garballey, who was very responsive and agreed to support efforts to move the bill forward.

The Employment Now Coalition also reviewed the status of the Model Employer Program in MA. The Model Employer program was created to specifically increase the numbers of individuals with disabilities working in Executive branch jobs to 12%. As of September 2014, only 3% of all Executive Branch occupations were held by an individual with a disability. The employment advocacy group invited management from the Massachusetts Human Resources Division and the Massachusetts Office on Disability to discuss barriers to achieving the 12% goal. It was noted that many people with disabilities employed by the Commonwealth do not disclose that they have a disability, this deflating the actual percentage. ADA coordinators note that they receive little to no applications from people with disabilities for jobs they are hoping to fill.

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 goal of the final report's employment recommendations is to increase the number of individuals with autism employed in the community. The differences in employment support needs for people with autism dictates that more research is needed to better understand what employment opportunities are available to individuals with autism and identify specific strategies to obtain and keep employment. The Council worked to include a section in a the Autism Omnibus bill requiring the autism commission to be permanent and charging it with the task to "investigate and study the higher education opportunities, employment training opportunities and employment opportunities available to persons with autism spectrum disorder".

The Autism Omnibus bill was signed into law in August 2014 and the Autism Commission will begin meeting to study these employment issues in early 2015.

The Council partnered with Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong (MASS) to identify the number of self-advocates who do not receive employment supports from the MA Rehabilitation Commission but could benefit from them. MASS utilized \$9,231 of a \$60,000 grant from the Council to investigate and determine the number of self-advocates who are not receiving services, contributing an additional \$17,215 for this project. MASS used their Explore Prepare Act (EPA) trainings as a venue to determine how many individuals with developmental disabilities need employment supports. EPA trainings educate self-advocates on skills such as resume writing and interviewing tips in order to support individuals in their job search. A participant information form for EPA trainees was developed to record if the participant receives services from MRC. Most self-advocates were unfamiliar with MRC and its' purpose. 599 self-advocates were identified through who could benefit from MRC employment supports. These findings were presented to the Department of Developmental Services, and a plan is currently being developed by DDS on how to coordinate with MRC to serve these individuals. Due to Council efforts, 22 policymakers were educated about employment issues this year.

The impact of the Council activities to increase the number of individuals with developmental disabilities receiving employment supports from various state agencies can be seen in the quote below from an individual who used Council funds to attend an employment training workshop. "I am currently looking for employment opportunities. This convention provided me with additional knowledge of blindness skills to live and work independently. I received the opportunity to present my resume to several employers at a career fair sponsored by the convention and made some future contacts for job prospects. This convention assisted me to gain additional independence and technology skills to utilize back home. I feel motivated to procure gainful employment and to live independently from what I have learned and the people I met at this convention."

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:	5
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0

SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	22
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:	\$17,215
-------------------------	----------

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	

Strategies	Planned for this Goal	Strategies Used
Outreach	planned	
Training	planned	
Technical Assistance		
Supporting and Educating Communities	planned	
Interagency Collaboration and Coordination		
Coordination with Related Councils, Committees and Programs		
Barrier Elimination		
Systems Design and Redesign		
Coalition Development and Citizen Participation	planned	
Informing Policymakers	planned	
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		

Other Collaborators Planned:

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, UMass Medical Center, Early Intervention Coordinating Council

Other Collaborators Actual:

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 individualized 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. Completed. See FFY12 PPR.

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:

During FFY14, the Council continued working on several initiatives to empower families to pursue individualized family support services. This includes support and collaboration for the Massachusetts Alliance for 21st Century Disability (MA21), a statewide disability advocacy partnership. Other activities focused on providing funding for family members to attend training for their unique needs, using social media to share information with families, serving as a member of the Department of Public Health's Interagency Coordinating Council and referring family members seeking assistance to appropriate agencies or resources.

The Council continued its partnership with The Arc of Massachusetts and MA21 to promote individualized family supports for the families of individuals with developmental disabilities. The Arc of Massachusetts used \$21,740 (43.5%) of a \$50,000 grant from the Council and contributed an additional \$5,622 to implement activities under this objective. Seventeen entities collaborated on this activity, including the ten MA21 partners and seven DD provider agencies.

The Arc of Massachusetts serves as facilitator of MA21 meetings and activities. A major initiative of MA21 is education about the importance of and advocacy for individualized family supports. MA21 members hold training sessions statewide and locally for families, individuals and other stakeholders. They also exhibit at many different disability conferences and events geared toward families in order to share information directly with individuals. Additionally MA21 provides materials through print and online or e-methods while working to increase leaders and spokespersons for enhancing individualized family supports and self-determination.

605 people were trained in systems advocacy about individualized family supports through MA21, including 75 individuals with disabilities, 457 family members and 73 professionals. This total includes over 60 family members from multicultural backgrounds. In addition 1278 people were active in systems advocacy in 2014. This significant number is attributable to the continued building of the MA21 network, and utilizing Constant Contact to reach out to these thousands of individuals.

In FFY14, MA21 developed an 8-page booklet on individualized family support which was widely distributed and posted electronically on the internet. More than 700 copies were distributed across Massachusetts to family members at conferences, legislators, Department of

Developmental Services (DDS) staff, policymakers, disability advocates, and other family support stakeholders and legislative policymakers. The booklet reached Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS) funded family support providers, autism support centers, local chapters of The Arc and area/regional offices of DDS.

One challenge identified in the last couple of years has been to engage large numbers of families to advocate for individualized family supports. This may relate to the demands on parents' time and conflicting priorities. In addition, younger families may have no idea about the types of individualized family support that could be beneficial to them with sufficient resources. MA21 determined that many families are unaware of the historical importance that advocacy has played in improving services and supports for families and individuals. In response MA21 developed a new presentation on disability history as one strategy to engage family members. MA21 members presented this training at several conferences and workshops during FFY14. In addition, The Arc of Massachusetts hosted a "Train the Trainer" disability history workshop in mid-September for 14 people from MA21 member groups.

Another challenge was to increase participation from multicultural communities, despite personal outreach to key individuals affiliated with Chinese, Haitian, African-American and Latino multicultural disability groups. In cases where stipends to attend MA21 meetings were offered, there was still difficulty in getting individuals to attend. Continued individualized outreach to targeted multicultural organizations will be prioritized in FFY 15.

MA21 educated 284 policymakers about individualized family supports, including legislators, DDS staff, the Governor and other high level policymakers in state government. Six products were shared with policy makers, including the family support booklet and budget fact sheets. The Arc met several times with DDS policymakers to emphasize the importance of individualized family supports. The Council and other MA21 members met with the DDS Commissioner and family support staff to review and make recommendations on improving the agency's progress toward individualized family supports.

MA21 partners were successful in advocating for increased funding for several line items in DDS' budget, including family support. The DDS family support account was increased by \$2.5 Million in the FY 15 state budget. Consistent with the Council's individualized family supports objective, the Commissioner of the DDS committed to release the majority of new monies in Family Support as flexible funds. MA21 also advocated for funding for other important programs which impact support to families, including the Turning 22 program, Employment and Day supports and transportation. The final state budget included \$18.8 million in increased funding for these additional programs.

The Council also engages in individualized family supports by serving as a member on the Department of Public Health's Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention (EI.) There are 19 members including state agencies, early intervention providers and Head Start. A Coordinating Council priority is to provide support to families of children with special needs aged 0-3 years old who are eligible for early intervention services. In May, the Council provided \$1,000 to support the Massachusetts Early Intervention Conference which allowed 16 family members to attend. The conference brought together families and providers for two days of fun, learning and inspiration. Parents who attended took an important step in their leadership journey and brought new skills back to their EI programs and communities to benefit families.

The Council's Empowerment Funding (CEF) program provides funding to individuals with developmental disabilities and family members to attend training and learn about resources to

improve their quality of life. Many family members use CEF funding to find information about individualized family support services at conferences, forums and other educational events. In FFY14, 100 family members attended 31 different trainings which included information about family supports. At least 28 family members from multicultural backgrounds took advantage of the CEF trainings (many CEF recipients choose not to disclose their ethnic identity.)

The CEF resource is particularly helpful to families of children with low-incidence disabilities. These families are often isolated from other families encountering similar circumstances. They face an additional burden of having to educate medical professionals, educators, human service providers and others unfamiliar with the unique needs associated with their child's disability.

The Council often shares information about family supports via its social media sites. This includes announcements about training opportunities, changes in public policy, public hearings and news articles from reliable sources and major media outlets. An estimated 2500 family members received information about family support through the Council's Facebook page and twitter feeds. The Council also provides information directly to family members inquiring about services by phone or email. Approximately 25 family members were assisted this way during FFY14.

Data collection reflected the use of reports and records from different communication vehicles. This included data posted on the internet; input from partners (written and verbal) on their activities; records of meetings; data from The Arc of Massachusetts Capwiz action center, records of emails as well as use of list serves, The Advocate newsletter and Constant Contact. The data related to people served or funding leveraged is determined by analyzing the budget results, comparing past funding and numbers served and then, reviewing the results with DDS central office staff. The Council maintains an in-house database on CEF recipients which includes detailed demographic information, category of training and funding amounts.

One parent struggling to find the appropriate support for her family was able to use CEF funds to attend a conference specific to her daughter's disability. This enabled her to help create ongoing support for her family and others in Massachusetts. "Due to my daughter's complexity, it is very difficult to support her at home. I feel that unless you wear our shoes, you cannot feel our struggle. Our struggle can be minute by minute... it is getting harder and harder to find service for her. The system seems pushing use toward an easy and simple solution- put her in a year-round residential placement. It is heart breaking. This fund provides us an opportunity to connect with other parents and share experience and intervention strategies. As a result of this conference, we formed a Massachusetts National Organization for Disorders of the Corpus Callosum group. I'm looking forward to get the support from this group."

Parents of a young child who benefited from CEF-funded training stated, "This was about my 2-year-old daughter. She was diagnosed with Acromatopsia. She has severe light sensitivity, to the point of being legally blind and is completely colorblind. She cannot be outdoors without especially made, extremely dark lenses. Even with these glasses, it's not safe for her as she can't see very far ahead of herself and has terrible depth perception. What that means for her is that she falls a lot, trips a lot, walks into things and on the playground will walk off high ledges without realizing it's a high drop. Navigating the world is very hard for her. As parents, her father and I have tried to learn all we can about this disability and get her all the things and knowledge she needs to make life a little easier. The problem is that this disorder is so rare that it's hard to get answers to questions and find the equipment we need for her. Something as simple as finding frames for her glasses turned out to be not so simple. She needs frames that block out all light entirely and they unfortunately don't make them for infants. We had to improvise.

Going to this conference meant the world to us. Our daughter was able to meet other children like herself, and her father and I were able to get answers to a lot of our questions from the experts. We were able to connect with other parents and learn how they dealt with certain issues and where they found certain products.”

Finally, a Latino parent shared this summary: I am the parent of two children with disabilities. I advocate on their behalf to obtain supports and services to meet their individual special needs. Through the Consumer Empowerment Funds, I am able to educate myself, which in turn allows me, as a parent, to feel empowered to help my children. Having children with significant learning issues is a challenge and helping them obtain the supports and services they need to be successful has a positive impact, not only on my life, but on my children's lives. In the process, I am able to volunteer my time to share information I have learned to help other families with similar issues to mine obtain the supports and services they need for their children.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	116
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	0
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	605

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	1,278
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:	17
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	284
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	25,025
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:	\$21,305,622
-------------------------	--------------

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 to update and share web-based information about respite providers with family caregivers.
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 6/30/14
2. 10/1/11– 9/30/16
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:

Since 2010, the MDDC has actively collaborated with the Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition (MLRC) to build a sustainable statewide lifespan respite coalition. The Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition was formed to help find ways to give caregivers of disabled, elderly and chronically-ill family members of all ages a much-needed break, or respite, to allow them to continue in their caregiving role. The Coalition's membership consists of numerous human and elder service provider agencies, state agencies and family caregivers across the lifespan. Since its formation in 2010, the coalition has received three federal grants from the Administration on Community Living (ACL) and hosted four statewide events.

Activities under this objective include conducting an analysis about respite services, collaborating with statewide and national respite networks, developing a respite provider database and providing support for information and education sessions about respite. Timelines for all objectives are on track. Activities 1 and 3 were completed during FFY14; for Activity 3, the MLRC partnered with Rewarding Work to develop the database (instead of the organization originally identified). Activities 2 and 4 will be completed by their target ending dates.

Managed by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), the MLRC continues to strengthen and expand its statewide coalition, which now includes 70 member organizations from across the Commonwealth representing diverse disability, elder, chronic disease and other groups. Active partners include the Council, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs; Executive Office of Health & Human Services; Aging and Disability Resource Consortia (ADRCs); Horace Mann Educational Associates; MS Society; the Department of Mental Health; Family TIES; local

Arc chapters; Huntington's Disease Society; Boston Children's Hospital; Rewarding Work; Seven Hills Foundation; CARE.com; and family caregivers. Many of the Coalition's member organizations work directly with families of people with developmental disabilities. The MLRC's email distribution list numbers over 400 people.

The MLRC kicked off the fiscal year by hosting the 15th National "Freedom Trail to Respite" Lifespan Respite conference in Boston in mid-October 2013. The Council contributed \$5,000 to support the conference and collaborated with the MLRC and national respite networks to help plan and staff the event. 200 people from 34 states attended the event, with significant participation from Massachusetts residents. The purpose of the conference was to share best practices and to further develop innovative ways to garner resources for caregiver support and respite services. Two full days of workshops and plenary sessions explored how respite providers and communities across the nation can leverage and expand existing resources to help our nation's critical caregiver crisis. The thirty workshops and plenary panels were conducted by individuals with expertise in respite and caregiving from across the country, including renowned speakers from Massachusetts hospitals, universities, state government and nonprofit agencies. Feedback about the conference was overwhelmingly enthusiastic and positive. 6280 members of the general public were educated about respite and the conference through public media sources. Boston public radio station WBUR's CommonHealth blog publicized the conference and profiled family caregivers of a daughter with Rett Syndrome. Brookline's local newspaper featured an online and printed news article about the conference. The conference was successful in raising the MLRC's profile and attracted new members to the Coalition.

The MLRC convened a lifespan respite summit in Framingham in November. The MLRC had awarded ACL-funded mini-grants to ten respite providers from communities throughout Massachusetts to provide respite to family caregivers. The organizations shared different approaches to providing respite to underserved and unserved populations across the lifespan. Four of the organizations provided respite to approximately 52 families of individuals with developmental disabilities through this initiative. The MLRC produced a mini-grantee evaluation report which includes a set of recommendations and guiding principles for building a replicable respite model. A needs assessment with a set of key findings and recommendations was completed by the MLRC during the fiscal year.

In May the Coalition hosted its second annual statewide CARE (Caring and Respite for Everyone) conference for family caregivers. The Council sponsored the conference, served on the conference planning subcommittee and provided staff support at the event. Approximately 180 family caregivers attended the conference, many of whom care for family members with developmental disabilities. Twenty five caregivers received a respite stipend from the Coalition to attend the conference. Attendees gave overwhelmingly positive ratings for the conference in their evaluation forms.

During FFY14 the MLRC held 12 monthly membership meetings where guest speakers and members shared information about respite and ancillary services to assist family caregivers and their family members. 30 policymakers were educated about respite at MLRC events and at the MDDC's annual legislative reception, where the MLRC exhibited information about respite. The MLRC partnered with Rewarding Work to launch an online directory for families seeking respite. Families and others can access the web-based database to find respite workers with the desired experience in their communities.

In early 2014 the Massachusetts coalition was selected to receive free technical assistance from a national organization in a sustainability initiative. For this initiative, the Council serves on the

MLRC's sustainability task force to ensure the MLRC's longevity after its federal grant funding ends. The group held several intensive working sessions to develop a logic model and detailed financial worksheets. It will continue to meet during FFY15. The MLRC was awarded an additional 3 year sustainability grant from the federal Administration on Community Living. The Council plans to maintain its partnership with the Coalition through the end of the MDDC's State Plan cycle.

A family caregiver who attended the national conference in October said, "I am the parent of a young woman with autism and respite care is a critical need for my family. The conference was very helpful to learn about different ways of obtaining respite services. Speaking with people from around the country gave me great insight on this lifespan need. By joining the Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition, I will work to further this issue for other families here in the Commonwealth and share what I learned by attending this great conference. "

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	380
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:	5
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	70
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	30
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	6,280
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
-------------------------	-----

Section III: Progress Report - Goals and Objectives

Goal 5: Homes

People with developmental disabilities will have more 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	
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports	planned	

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

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

Other Collaborators Planned:

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

Other Collaborators Actual:

Objective 5.1:

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

Implementation activities:

1. Conduct an analysis of existing research of the barriers to and utilization of alternative housing options and determine next steps.
2. Establish partnerships with organizations 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. Completed. See FFY13 PPR.
2. Completed. See FFY13 PPR.
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 committed to having a minimum of 100 individuals with developmental disabilities and/or their families pursue alternative housing options by September 30, 2016. To understand why innovative alternative housing options were not being pursued by individuals and families in Massachusetts, the Council reviewed an analysis of the barriers to and utilization of alternative housing options. This project was conducted by Autism Housing Pathways (AHP) and reported on in the FFY 2013 PPR. The Council undertook establishing partnerships with organizations in Massachusetts that are dedicated to connecting individuals and families to alternative housing models in the community. The FFY 2013 PPR included a detailed account of the Council's partnership with MA Families Organizing for Change (MFOFC) and the role the Council played in supporting MFOFC's Building a Home Conference and post-conference activities. The Council continued its work with MFOFC in FFY 2014.

As part of the Council's work to increase access to alternative housing options, the Council advocated for policy changes that could impact access to housing in the community. An update on SB 601 (now SB 1787) is included below along with descriptions of other legislative efforts supported during FFY14. The Council also actively advocated around the state's Money Follows the Person policy initiative. This initiative transfers eligible individuals with disabilities living in nursing homes or ICF/MRs into residences in the community and the Council continued to support its effort in FFY14.

In FFY14 the Council continued to work with MA Families Organizing for Change and conducted an exhibit at their September 2014 Building a Home Conference. The Conference educated 183 parents and individuals with developmental disabilities on how to build a life in the community using available public and private resources, and provided information on potential alternative housing options. A couple who attended the MFOFC conference under Council support noted "Our son is 33 years old and lives at home with his dad and me. We are (and have been, for years) interested in new models of shared care and more home-like atmospheres of spaces to live other than "group homes." This conference allowed us to network with others who are like-minded and also gave us new ideas and tools to move forward in creating an alternative support system for our son. We appreciate your support."

The Council continued to educate policymakers on various legislative options to increase access to alternative housing options. The Council continued its education and advocacy activities for SB 1787- 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. SB 1787 promotes the creation of more accessible housing in Massachusetts. In late FFY 2014, SB 1787 was included as a budget amendment. The Council communicated the importance of the bill to House Ways and Means Chair Brian Dempsey, focusing primarily on the accessible homes commission House budget amendment. Unfortunately the amendment did not pass and the bill remains in House Ways and Means.

HB 3364 An Act to promote housing creation for persons with disabilities is a piece of legislation created to address a housing recommendation in the 2013 Massachusetts Autism Commission report. This legislation would make it easier for families, guardians and individuals with developmental disabilities to save for housing by allowing the creation of tax advantage saving accounts for future housing needs. This savings' account would not be considered an asset, meaning an individual receiving SSI would not be in danger of losing his or her benefits based on this account. The legislation would also fund Individual Development Accounts through a tax credit instead of a budget line item creating a more sustainable way for low income families to save for future housing for their relative with a disability. At a hearing in February 2014, the Council educated 17 policymakers and 60 members of the public on HB 3364. A Council member presented testimony for HB 3364 at the hearing. HB 3364 was sent to study in September 2014.

The Council also participated in two groups in FFY 2014 supporting policy initiatives that will expand the use of alternative housing options. The Council is a member of the Governor's Commission on Intellectual Disabilities. The Commission was established "to examine the quality and comprehensiveness of the Commonwealth's program of services designed to address the wide variety of needs of people with intellectual disability." In FFY 14 the Commission focused on consolidating and closing a number of large institutions. The Council was involved in discussions surrounding the issues closing the institutions as well as provided information on how to make community living more appealing to individuals resistant to leave state institutions.

The Council continues to actively advocate in an advisory capacity to the state's Money Follows the Person program. In FFY 14 the Council attended two MFP meetings, participating in discussions about improving services in the community for individuals transitioning from institutions or nursing homes. Only 38 individuals with ID/DD participated in the program in FFY14, much lower than the number of the elderly and physically disabled who participated. The Council raised concerns with the lack of people with ID/DD being served through the program. Program coordinators stated that many individuals with ID/DD are not eligible for the MFP program but that numbers should increase in the next fiscal year with more institutions closing.

Based on results to date 38 individuals are pursuing alternative housing or supported housing options. In September 2014 the Council awarded a \$20,000 grant to Autism Housing Pathways, Inc. to train families in the practicalities of creating alternative housing, and to educate other stakeholders and the general public about the needs and elements to create it. Through June 2015 AHP will train a minimum of 12 individuals and their families in alternative housing options, and assist them to pursue housing opportunities. The Council anticipates that this will be a multi-year project through FFY 2016, increasing the number of families participating and addressing related issues such as zoning by-laws and other barriers to housing. Initial results of this initiative will be reported in FFY 15.

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:	18
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	243
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
-------------------------	-----

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. Completed. See FFY12 PPR.
2. Completed. See FFY13 PPR.
3. Completed. See FFY13 PPR.
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:

The Council worked in partnership with Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong (MASS) in FY 2013 to conduct trainings for individuals residing in facilities, along with their supporters and advisors. The trainings provided students with knowledge about self-determination, community living and employment. The Council continued to support self-advocacy training at the Wrentham Development Center and the Hogan Regional Center in FFY 14. MASS utilized \$9,231 (15%) of a \$60,000 grant from the Council and contributed an additional \$16,615 toward this initiative. Two updated resources containing information about the Employment First initiative, the initiative to close sheltered workshops, and the Real Lives bill shared with 295 members of the general public through email, social media, and outreach done at each of the development centers. As a result of these efforts three people with developmental disabilities gained membership on boards; one elected to the MASS Board of Directors, 1 joining the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Diversity Committee, and one joining the DDS Citizen Advisory Board.

A total of 107 people were supported to actively participate in systems advocacy during FFY 2014. Two forums were held to educate individuals and families about the Employment First initiative and closing sheltered workshops. The Employment First Initiative is targeted to improve opportunities for people with developmental to obtain jobs within the community. MASS supported 17 individuals with developmental disabilities, 26 family members and 13 other advocates to actively participate in and provide feedback at these forums. Two individuals with developmental disabilities were also active in systems activity by testifying at an MBTA hearing about accessibility, and 36 self-advocates, 2 family members and 11 other advocates communicated with policymakers about issues important to them. Communications included letters focusing on living in the community and the need to close sheltered workshops, meetings with policymakers to discuss the Real Lives Bill and employment. Seven people were trained in systems advocacy through the Employment Blueprint Conference educating people about the initiative to move people from sheltered workshops to more inclusive community based day supports or supported employment.

This year, the Council and MASS continued to develop the Choice and Control Self-determination pilot project. This pilot program will support self-advocates' knowledge, skills and advocacy for self-directed services. Activities in FFY 2014 were focused on developing the final curriculum. This pilot is still in the early stages but is anticipated be completed by September 2016.

Efforts have led to students in state school settings and their families gaining knowledge on the benefits of living in the community, as well as the value of active advocacy for their needs, goals and expectations. Through the Council's partnership with MA Advocates Standing Strong, students have had many opportunities to engage in systems advocacy. A self-advocate shared her story about the impact of these Council initiatives. "I'm glad I had the opportunity to attend the National Self Advocates Becoming Empowered Conference, and could discuss with other SABE Board members how to combat issues, empower each other and learn from our "like"

experiences; to better the world for people with disabilities. I was able to share with others how to close institutions with people and help with that. There are many positive outcomes besides networking with old friends- trying to educate younger members to what things should be like in the future- not to lose all the old values.”

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:	7

Performance Measure 1.2 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA04 People active in systems advocacy:	107
SA05 People attained membership on public/private bodies and leadership coalitions:	3
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:	295
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:	\$16,615
-------------------------	----------

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	
Education and Early Intervention		
Child Care		
Health	planned	
Employment		
Housing		
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports	planned	

Strategies	Planned for this Goal	Strategies Used
Outreach	planned	
Training	planned	
Technical Assistance	planned	
Supporting and Educating Communities		
Interagency Collaboration and Coordination	planned	
Coordination with Related Councils, Committees and Programs	planned	
Barrier Elimination		
Systems Design and Redesign	planned	
Coalition Development and Citizen Participation		
Informing Policymakers	planned	
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	

Other Collaborators Planned:

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

Other Collaborators Actual:

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. Completed. See FFY12 PPR.
2. Completed. See FFY13 PPR.
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 worked in partnership with the other members of the state’s Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) Council to develop definitions, best practices, and policies and procedures used for the state’s PBS pilot program in FFY 13. Several provider organizations participated in a pilot program, and the results were used to improve documents and develop training materials. All draft and final training and related materials for the implementation of PBS were made available on the MassPBS on-line learning website.

The Council continued its partnership with the Positive Behavior Supports Council in FFY 14, and the Council was expanded from 8 members last year to 14. Providers who participated in the previous year’s pilot program shared their successes and barriers, and the PBS Council worked to improve the curriculum and guidelines. Once completed these materials were distributed widely to people with developmental disabilities, families, provider organizations, and 15380 members of the general public. All PBS materials, introductory webinars, and a basic introductory class were made available on the MassPBS website, with 15,000 distinct visits to the website in FFY 14.

490 people were trained on Positive Behavioral Supports. Several trainings were conducted to educate service providers and others on PBS and how to use it effectively in community program settings. 350 people were educated through seven informational sessions held for provider executives and clinical staff. Eight additional trainings were held with 140 other provider staff. In addition, 110 people were trained through the Train the Trainer program, and are now certified to conduct PBS implementation training for others. This accomplishment will have a significant effect on the number of people trained as efforts continue. Several conference presentations were also conducted, both nationally and throughout the state.

There are now 12 providers adopting and utilizing best practices in Positive Behavioral Supports. PBS has become more compelling for providers because it is integrating well with the expansion of DDS eligibility, the changing demographic (i.e. ABI, Autism), and the expansion into early childhood supports. Due to the commitment of DDS to financially support implementation of PBS within the state, it was not necessary for the Council to award grant funds to assist in the initiative. As a result the Council has chosen to remove that item from state plan activities. The Council will continue to work closely with the PBS Council to insure ongoing updating and improving materials. In addition, the Council will work with DDS staff on updating protocols in order to account for and incorporate PBS into the current DDS Human Rights trainings.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	600
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:	15,380
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
-------------------------	-----

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. Conduct needs assessment on the 7 Autism Resource Centers and develop recommendations to strengthen and enhance the services offered.
4. Support the Autism Insurance Resource Center to expand resource information, technical assistance and referrals to people with autism.
5. Educate and solicit support of people with developmental disabilities, families, providers,

policymakers, general public on meeting the needs of people with autism.
6. Support policy/ budget initiatives that increase services and supports for people with autism.

Activities undertaken were: All met Partially met Not met

Timelines:

1. Completed. See FFY13 PPR.
2. 1/1/13 – 9/30/16
3. 7/1/13 - 6/30/14
4. 10/1/12 - 9/30/16
5. 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:

As delineated in the 2013 PPR, the Council supported the work of the MA Autism Commission by providing a part-time staff member to the Commission from 2010 through 2013. In FFY 13, Council staff assisted in writing and editing sections of the Commission's report, and worked with members of the Autism Commission to complete and release its final report in March 2013. The final report is a comprehensive document providing a detailed review of the level of community services and supports for people with autism in MA. The report included 80 recommendations that provided a framework for Council staff and other autism advocates to follow while advocating for improved policies and practices in MA for individuals with autism.

The Council pursued a number of initiatives to advocate for the implementation of the Autism Commission recommendations. In fall 2013, council staff authored an article that appeared in the fall 2013 edition of the Autism Spectrum News. The article supported the implementation of the Autism Commission recommendations and recommended educating the public on the needs of individuals with autism in MA. 2,700 residents were reached through the Autism Spectrum News article.

One recommendation in the Commission's final report called for the development of an integrated, confidential data system to accurately determine the number of individuals with autism living in MA. To support the implementation of this recommendation, Council members prepared and presented testimony in May 2014 for House Bill 3770 - An Act financing information technology equipment and related projects. Member testimony described the need to create a comprehensive, confidential data tracking system among all state agencies that interact with individuals with autism to track diagnosis, treatment, services and outcomes of individuals with autism. As a result of efforts of the Council and its advocacy partners, the bill passed the House and Senate in July 2014 and was signed into law by in August 2014.

In October 2013, the Council joined the advisory board for the Healthy People 2020 Roadmap for MA Children and Youth with ASD/DD project. The Healthy People 2020 Roadmap's goal is "to develop a state planning project designed to inform efforts to establish a state-level data collection and surveillance plan for systems of services for children and youth with ASD and DD." The Council chose to participate in the Healthy People project in order inform project administrators of any parallels their work may have with that of the Autism Commission. Despite the project's potential outcomes paralleling those addressed in H3770, its focus is on

creating a reliable data collection system on youth and children with all developmental disabilities. The Council believed it is important to have a secondary plan for addressing the data collection issue if H3770 did not pass.

The Council and advisory board members reviewed current data sets on people with autism and other developmental disabilities in MA during FFY 14. The advisory board also helped project staff develop focus groups and informant interviews. The Council assisted in the development of a factsheet about the program to be shared with agencies and nonprofits. The Healthy People advisory board will continue to meet in FFY 2015.

A few activities the Council committed to in this objective were not related to the Autism Commission but were actually completed due to the Commission's outcomes. The Council's targeted activity to conduct a needs assessment on the 7 Autism Resource Centers and develop recommendations to strengthen and enhance the services offered was established before the final Autism Commission report was completed and released to the public. A representative from the Autism Resource Center of Central MA was a member of the Autism Commission and representatives from several other resource centers across the state were involved with the Commission's subcommittees. These individuals were used to inform the Commission of the needs of the Autism Resource Centers. This information was used by Council staff and other individuals to draft recommendations to strengthen and enhance services at the centers. Due to the drafting of recommendations to improve the services at the 7 Autism Resource Centers in the Commission's report, the Council removed this activity from the State Plan.

Erin Flaherty, an individual with Asperger's served as a Barbara Wilensky Gopen Fellow in FFY 14. The Gopen Fellowship is a partnership of the MA DD Network, consisting of: the Institute for Community Inclusion, the Council, the Shriver Center, and the Disability Law Center. Each year the specific goals of the project are developed by selected fellow. The overall project goal is to foster the leadership capability of an individual by supporting development of a project designed by the fellow, enhance their general understanding of the system of disability services both in the Commonwealth and on the federal level, and to build the capacity of the Fellow's personal leadership skills. Ms. Flaherty's overall goal for the 2014 Fellowship was to increase awareness of the issues unique to women with autism as well as increase awareness of supportive program models. She specifically focused on access to adequate healthcare for women with autism. The ICI utilized \$8,355 (34.4%) of a \$24,852 grant from the Council to assist Ms. Flaherty with her presentations in FY 14. ICI contributed an additional \$2,518 for this activity.

Ms. Flaherty reached 90 members of the general public through her fellowship. She conducted a presentation on health care access and women with Autism to 40 people at the June 2014 Council meeting and to 50 people at the March 2014 SALS graduation. Ms. Flaherty participated in the Self Advocacy Leadership Series (SALS), a free nine-week training sponsored by the Council for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to learn about leadership. Each class focuses on a different aspect of leadership, increasing self-esteem and providing opportunities for students to meet new people. In order to graduate, Ms. Flaherty had to prepare and present a speech on a topic of her choosing, and she conducted a presentation about her experience of being a young woman with autism. The SALS assisted Ms. Flaherty to develop her leadership skills and how to advocate for herself and how to use self-determination to receive the supports that would be most beneficial to her. In FFY 2015, the Council will continue to support the Gopen Fellowship.

The Council has partnered with and provided financial support to the Autism Insurance Resource Center (AIRC) since 2011, and continued its partnership with the AIRC in FFY2014. The Council

allocated \$25,000 to the Center to serve as a comprehensive resource for families, providers, employers and educators on all issues related to medical insurance for autism treatment. The Center's activities included trainings and webinars on insurance laws and related topics, information and referral via phone and email on issues related to insurance coverage for autism-related treatments and services; and providing access for the community to a current and comprehensive website displaying documents including legislation, frequently asked questions, provider and resource listings, and regulatory bulletins.

In FY 2014, 1249 people utilized information and referral or received training through the Center. This was a 40% increase from the previous fiscal year. Individuals requested information on a number of insurance needs including but not exclusive to locating coverage for a child transitioning from EI into early childhood education as well as educating a young adult graduating from school on how he or she could use the health insurance law to assist in this transition. 382 people received in person consultation about autism insurance in FFY 14. In addition, 199 people participated in Center webinars, almost double the number of participants in FFY13. The Center developed and delivered webinars on accessing coverage under the Affordable Care Act as well as how to appeal insurance denials. Insurance issues span a broad range in scope and complexity, depending on the person's coverage, specific carrier, necessary treatments, ability to cover co-pays, etc. This quote that details one of the insurance issues a parent contacted the Center about, and how the Center helped the parent: "Thank you so much for your help in getting MassHealth insurance and premium assistance for my son. I don't think anyone could have helped me better than this. When I got your contact information from my son's teacher 4 months ago, I did not expect that you will be our 'The person who can get the things done'. I am very thankful for your fast response and taking the case as personal."

The AIRC continually maintained and updated their website with documents and links to information. There were 31,392 unduplicated visits to the informational website during FFY14. One of the resources individuals accessed on the website included an AIRC fact sheet detailing specific information and resources that help consumers and providers understand what to do when insurance does not approve a claim or authorize treatment.

MA is one of many states that has passed autism insurance reform but is the only State that has a resource center to support the community in understanding and accessing coverage. A quote from a parent who gained knowledge on how to utilize insurance for autism treatments through the Center discussed the impact autism treatments had on her child, "In short, it's been a total 180. He still throws tantrums; he can still be incredibly challenging, but we have the resources to deal with it now. Every day he gives us joy. [ABA] has given him a venue through which to become himself, if that makes sense. He's a gleeful, sweet-natured, rambunctious, big-hearted little kid who gives us joy every single day. [ABA] found the key. All because of ARICA. All because of you. You must already know this—I can't imagine we're the only family to reach out to you like this—but you've changed our lives in a deep, irrevocable way. Thank you...thank you...thank you."

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 1,580 individuals with autism and their family members in FFY 14. Since the beginning of this state plan, the Council has reached 1,748 individuals with autism and their family members through the activities under this objective, surpassing the target of 500.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	1,249
SA02 People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination:	1
SA03 People trained in systems advocacy:	1

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:	6
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	34,182
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:	\$2,518
-------------------------	---------

Objective 6.3:

A minimum of 1000 people with developmental disabilities will have the information on human rights and safety they need to lead safe and productive lives in the community.

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 educate people with developmental disabilities and others on protecting human rights.
2. Conduct trainings with individuals with developmental disabilities on rights and protecting their safety.
3. Educate and solicit the support of individuals, families, providers, policymakers and the general public on improving safety of people with developmental disabilities.
4. Support a National Background Checks bill and other budget and policy initiatives that enhance the capacity to protect the rights and safety of people with DD.

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

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. In the prior fiscal year, it was noted that Massachusetts is the only one of 50 states that does not have a non-criminal justice national background checks available for purposes such as screening employees who provide direct care to people with disabilities.

The Council participated in multiple meetings with coalition partners, assisting review and recommended amendments to the bill that would address concerns and potential loopholes. The coalition worked closely with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to amend language in HB1674 to more closely mirror the DPS bill developed with the Massachusetts' Teachers' Union that was signed into law in FY 2013. Nine members of the coalition drafted an updated fact sheet and bill adding language from Federal statute PL 92-544 in order to allow the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to perform the checks. Unsupervised DDS employees were also identified to be subject to the bill. PL 92-544 gives DDS only the power to see the results of the background checks.

In May 2014, the Council attended a Legislative Advocacy Day hosted by MA Down Syndrome Congress. Kristin Britton, Policy Director of MDDC, was interviewed by the State House Report about the human rights and safety components of HB 1674. The segment was picked up by Massachusetts Channel 22 News.

Council members and staff reached out to educate 18 members of the Legislature, including members of the Joint Judiciary Committee, the HWM Chairman Dempsey, and the House Speaker. The meetings provided an educational opportunity about HB 1674 and the impact it would have on the human rights and safety of people with disabilities, and their ability to live safely in the community. Council Member and parent of a child with developmental disabilities, Lisa Ching, explained why passing HB 1674 is important to her as a mom: "As the parent of a non-verbal child with significant developmental disability, it is of utmost importance that the people I select to work with my child have no past criminal records and are trustworthy. Since my child cannot speak for himself, it is important that the people around him are not taking advantage of his vulnerabilities and are not abusing him in any way – and it is important to know the

character of the people I hire because entrusting the care of my child to another person is a huge responsibility and one that I take very seriously.”

In July, Senator Michael Moore reached out to the Council regarding a possible amendment to the National Background Check bill. The Council Policy team conducted an analysis and presented data and recommendation to the Senator. The considered amendment would have ultimately weakened the bill and as a result of The Council's recommendation the amendment was not pursued. HB 1674 was passed and signed into law on August 6, 2014.

Under the law DDS will have 3 years to implement the background check system. DDS must begin checking new hires no later than 7/1/2015. PL 92-544 will allow DDS to use the centers for fingerprinting that are already in place for the education bill. Background check info will only go directly to DDS, and DDS must create the infrastructure to support the implementation of the bill.

The Council continued to hold human rights trainings in collaboration with Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong (MASS) in FFY 2014. MASS utilized \$8,308 (18%) of a \$60,000 grant from the Council to conduct the “Awareness and Action” and “Impact-Ability” trainings, and contributed an additional \$18,308 toward this training initiative. 25 trainings were held across the state for 715 people, including 625 self-advocates and 90 support staff. People were trained around the core principles of self-determination, safety, and human rights of people with disabilities.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	715
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:	21
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:

\$8,308

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	
Education and Early Intervention		
Child Care		
Health		
Employment		
Housing		
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports	planned	

Strategies	Planned for this Goal	Strategies Used
Outreach	planned	
Training	planned	
Technical Assistance		
Supporting and Educating Communities		
Interagency Collaboration and Coordination		
Coordination with Related Councils, Committees and Programs		
Barrier Elimination	planned	
Systems Design and Redesign		
Coalition Development and Citizen Participation		
Informing Policymakers	planned	
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	

Other Collaborators Planned:

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

Other Collaborators Actual:

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:

During FFY 12 and FFY13, the Council collaborated with The Arc of Massachusetts and eight other disability organizations that comprise the Massachusetts Alliance for 21st Century Policy (MA21). Active MA21 partners include statewide disability advocacy organizations Mass. Families Organizing for Change (MFOFC), Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress, Mass. Advocates Standing Strong, Advocates for Autism in Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Sibling Support Network. MA21 had helped create “Real Lives” self-determination legislation and played an active role in educating policymakers about the bill. In addition, MA21 had updated and continued distributing its booklet on self-determination principles.

During FFY14, The Council continued its collaboration with MA21 partners to continue promoting self-directed supports for individuals with developmental disabilities. A primary focus of this effort was to work for passage of the Real Lives bill. Many activities under this objective, including facilitating MA21 meetings, were led by The Arc of Massachusetts, using \$28,260 (57%) of a \$50,000 grant from the Council to advance self-determination. The Arc contributed an additional \$7309 in support of this project.

Intensive advocacy and outreach under the leadership of MA21 partners finally paid off with successful passage of the "Real Lives" bill. Real Lives places into statute a number of person-centered policies and procedures implemented by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) under the concept of self-determination. The individual or family will be able to use their allocated DDS service dollars more flexibly within certain guidelines and can be assisted by facilitators, agencies and/or fiscal intermediaries to develop person-centered services.

MA21 leaders and other disability advocates met personally with the House Speaker, Senate President and other legislators about the bill. In July, advocacy and negotiation intensified around reconciling two different versions of the bill and to get it passed before the end of the 2-year Legislative session. There was significant compromise on some aspects of the bill but ultimately it places in statute the key goal envisioned by MA21, the right to self-direct one's services.

The Real Lives law will assure achievement of the Council's objective that 500 people having choice of services or qualified Department of Developmental Services (DDS) providers and shall

be able to change their services or service providers by September 30, 2016. The Council will focus on data collection in 2015 and 2016 to establish the actual impact of this significant policy change.

MA21 partners also played a key role in advocating for passage of two other laws which will help to advance self-determination, the Autism Omnibus Act to create four new state policies and the National Background Check Law for support staff and volunteers working with individuals with developmental disabilities. MA21 continues to be an effective policy group. Members actively collaborate around promoting self-directed supports for individuals in the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) system. They also advocate for sufficient funding for individualized supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Eleven monthly meetings were held and provided a setting where organizations could share challenges and concerns in the disability advocacy arena.

The MA21 partners actively educated and solicited the support of individuals, families, providers and policymakers on self-determination principles. At numerous conferences, trainings and other events, MA21 members trained and/or distributed information to hundreds of people to advance its policy objectives. Handouts included MA21's Principles of Self-Determination booklet, materials for legislative or budget advocacy, and fact sheets on the Real Lives bill and other legislation beneficial for self-determination.

During FFY14 approximately 533 people were trained in self-directed supports. In October, 35 people attended the legislative advocacy training in Worcester. At a statewide special education conference, 300 people attended MA21 training on self-determination. In April, MA21 conducted an emerging leaders training with 11 new and 4 returning trainees. Between April and June, 94 self-advocates and support staff received an adapted training session in four different regions of the state. At a September MFOFC family conference a breakout session was held with 75 attendees regarding individualized housing supports and services featuring the self-direction model. In mid-September, 14 people attended a 'Train the Trainer' session on how to conduct the Disability History presentation that was developed by MA21 members. Leaders of human service agencies were oriented on self-direction.

In addition, many people were reached through various informational efforts. Information was shared at a statewide Transition conference hosted by The Arc, and over 200 received informational materials at the MDDC/Arc of Massachusetts annual legislative reception. Between April and June, 124 people were provided information and resources through 12 employment family forums. In June, a Best Practices in Community Living forum was held in Fall River in collaboration with the DDS Commissioner, key staff and a local agency. It was focused on individualized supports and self-determination. Materials on Real Lives and self-determination were shared with over 60 attendees. The MA21 Principles booklet was provided to 175 attendees during the MFOFC conference, and 30 individuals received booklets at a Resource Fair in Northeast Massachusetts. The Arc also presented information on individual supports to 60 people at MA21 partner Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change trainees from Central and Western Massachusetts.

MA21 advances other policies to improve choice-making or individualized services. Currently programs such as agency with choice, DESE-DDS, the autism waiver, Intensive Family Flexible Supports and Public partnerships utilize aspects of self-determination.

244 policymakers were educated about self-determination under this initiative, including 200 legislators, legislative staff, the Governor, senior administration officials, policymakers in the

Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Department of Developmental Services, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and at human service provider agencies. Over fifteen products were shared with policy makers, including fact sheets, memos with updates on Real Lives and the budget and the MA21 Principles booklet.

89,616 members of the general public received information about self-directed supports in FFY14. Social media reached an unduplicated count of 6,000 email recipients. The Arc's quarterly newsletter, The Advocate, reaches 17,500 readers. Articles about Real Lives were reported in the State House News and at least seven local and regional newspapers, reaching an estimated audience of 38,600 people. In addition, Solomon & McCown, a Council public relations grantee utilized \$8,255 (29%) of a \$28,894 grant toward this event and other public education activities. Solomon issued several media advisories about MA21 efforts and sent press releases on the legislative reception, reaching an estimated 27,516 individuals.

596 people engaged in systems advocacy around self-determination, including 99 individuals with developmental disabilities, 350 family members and 147 other advocates. Seventeen unique alerts via The Arc's action center were sent out, with 411 unique activists participating. The Capwiz alerts reach 4,000 people directly and alerts sent through constant contact reach a little over 6,000 email addresses, of which 440 are policy makers. A total of 59 organizations participated in this partnership in FFY14.

The challenge of this project is to help families and self-advocates to learn about self-direction, and to change the system so they have the opportunities to obtain appropriate support to follow through on their vision. The impact of this initiative can best be described through the story of J. J graduated from high school two years ago. His parents wanted him to have the same type of opportunities as his sister and brother. In previous years, his mother joined a community group to develop connections so that J and others could be better connected to jobs and resources. As J approached 22, his father invited a provider to meet with the family about J's goals. A schedule developed that included three jobs in the community, some other community experiences in addition to a few days per week at a day program. The jobs included duties at a real estate office, and a financial services company. Everyone felt positive about the direction that J's life would be taking. Over time the excitement wore off as staff came late or sometimes didn't show up so that J would miss work. After over a year of stop and starts, J's parents participated in self-direction training then met with two new potential providers. They provided a vision of J's future based on the principles of self-determination, and chose the new provider organization that supported these principles and had instilled the service culture that could serve J and his goals. They set up a structure to respond effectively to J's self-directed goals and today J is regularly supported at his jobs and other experiences.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1.1 (self-advocacy/advocacy):

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective:	533
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:	596
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:	9
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	51
SC03 Organizations engaged in systems change efforts:	0
SC04 Number of public policymakers educated:	244
SC05 Members of the general public reached:	89,616
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:	\$7,309
-------------------------	---------

Objective 7.2:

A minimum of 50 Individuals with Developmental Disabilities will acquire skills needed for self-sufficiency through MDDC 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. Completed. See FFY12 PPR.
2. Completed. See FFY13 PPR.
3. By 6/30/2014
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 14, MASS utilized \$9,231 (15%) of a \$60,000 Council grant, providing \$16,630 in matching funds toward implementation of Independence College. The Council hired a Training Coordinator in FY 2013 to oversee the implementation of this initiative.

The Executive Committee, comprised of MASS and MDDC members, held 13 meetings in FY 2014. The outcomes of the meetings solidified the course catalog, graduation requirements (total credits and practicum requirement), and student recruitment. The committee identified formed a Steering Committee comprised of predominantly self-advocates to review the proposed curriculum and course descriptions, credit assignments, graduation requirements, and class list. Steering committee membership consists of 7 individuals representing Easter Seals and MASS self-advocates and supporters. The Steering Committee met 8 times and their recommendations were incorporated into the curriculum.

Students of Independence College are required to attend an Orientation Session. Each student must complete three Core Classes: Basic Self-Advocacy, Awareness and Action, and Explore Prepare Act. Upon completing Core classes students will choose 3 electives based on their areas of interest. The electives offered for the pilot are: making your own decisions, self-direction, voting, basic legislative advocacy, and meaningful board participation. An in-depth description of each class is included in the course catalog. All students are required to submit a final thesis/practicum to the Training Coordinator to be reviewed by both the Steering Committee and Executive Committee. The practicum requirement includes the project description/goals, project activities, accomplishments, and what the student gained from the experience. Each student must also maintain a binder with all the materials from their classes, and any certificates they receive.

In September 2014, the Council conducted outreach to 50 Self-Advocates in the metro Boston area to participate in the Independence College pilot. Twenty self-advocates were accepted into the pilot, and the first group of students will begin orientation and classes in October 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:	1
SC02 Number of organizations involved coalitions/networks/partnerships:	9
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:	\$16,630

Section IV: Satisfaction with Council Supported or Conducted Activities

Individual Survey Responses:

Number of responses:	233
Respect (%):	Yes 95.50% No 4.50%
Choice (%):	Yes 93.90% No 6.10%
Community (%):	Yes 95.10% No 4.90%
Satisfaction (%):	70.00% Strongly Agree 28.80% Agree 1.20% Disagree 0.00% Strongly Disagree
Better life (%):	61.10% Strongly Agree 35.40% Agree 3.20% Disagree 1.30% Strongly Disagree
Rights (%):	Yes 97.30% No 2.70%
Safe (%):	Yes 64.60% No 5.40%

Individual Comments:

Not all respondents answered all questions. The high number of respondents for a question was 233 (questions 5 and 6). The low number of respondents for a question was 156 (question 1).

Stakeholder Survey Responses:

Number of responses:	12
Choices & Control (%):	80.00% Strongly Agree 20.00% Agree 0.00% 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. 12 individuals representing ten 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 and has been steadily moving toward self-sufficiency. The DD Network is collaborating to support board development (independence) and program development (self-sufficiency), expanding the self-advocacy network, and developing strategies for long term viability. In FFY14 the network, along with the state DD agency, continued supporting regional efforts to better link the local self-advocacy groups with statewide activities, finalizing expansion 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 fellowships 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 Association of Government Accountants (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.