

CHAPTER 23: RESOURCE GUIDE

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RESOURCE GUIDE

Department of Youth Services

Central Office

27-43 Wormwood Street

Boston, MA 02210

(617) 727-7575

<http://www.mass.gov/dys>

Email: dysinfodesk@massmail.state.ma.us

Metro Region Office

425 Harvard Street

Dorchester, MA 02124

(617) 740-0100

Covers Suffolk County.

Central Region Office

Sharp Building, Westborough State Hospital

288 Lyman Street

Westboro, MA 01581

(508) 898-9562

Covers Worcester County (excluding the town of Athol and including the town of Bellingham).

Northeast Region Office

360 Merrimac Street, Building 9

Lawrence, MA 01843

(978) 686-4014

Covers Essex and Middlesex Counties.

Southeast Region Office

Murray Building

60 Hodges Avenue

Taunton, MA 02780

(508) 824-1484

Covers Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket, Norfolk (except the town of Bellingham), and Plymouth Counties.

Western Region Office

280 Tinkham Road

Springfield, MA 01129

(413) 783-0781

Covers Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire Counties and the town of Athol.

Other state agencies

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

<http://www.mass.gov/dmh>

(617) 626-8000

The state agency responsible for providing services and supports to meet the mental health needs of individuals with serious mental illness. DMH information desk accepts emails at dmhinfo@dmh.state.ma.us. DMH has an information and referral specialist at (800) 221-0053. DMH information desk accepts emails at dmhinfo@dmh.state.ma.us. DMH has an information and referral specialist at (800) 221-0053.

Department of Mental Retardation (DMR)

<http://www.mass.gov/dmr>

(617) 727-5608

The state agency responsible for providing services and supports to meet the needs of individuals with mental retardation. DMR information desk accepts emails at Info@state.ma.us. DMR will be changing its name to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), effective July 1, 2009.

Division of Medical Assistance (DMA or “MassHealth”)

<http://www.mass.gov/dma>

(800) 841-2900 (MassHealth Member Customer Service Center)

DMA or MassHealth is the state agency that provides health insurance -- or help in paying for private health insurance -- to qualifying Massachusetts children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities.

To implement the *Rosie D.* order, which requires Massachusetts to provide home-based mental health services to Medicaid-eligible youth with serious emotional disturbance who need such home-based services, MassHealth and the state Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) have created a program called the **Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI)**. Information about the initiative is available at <http://www.mass.gov/masshealth/childbehavioralhealth>.

The Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority (“the Connector”)

<http://www.mass.gov/connector>

(617) 933-3140

The Connector is a state public agency that helps qualified Massachusetts adult residents purchase health care coverage. The Connector was created to implement a 2006 law, Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006, which requires that uninsured adults in Massachusetts buy health insurance. The Connector administers two programs: Commonwealth Care and Commonwealth Choice.

- Commonwealth Care offers subsidized health insurance to low income residents of Massachusetts, through a choice of private health insurance plans. This may include an adult child if he or she cannot work on a regular basis but does not qualify as disabled. For more information on Commonwealth Care, contact (877) MA-ENROLL or <http://www.macommonwealthcare.com>.
- Commonwealth Choice provides commercial health insurance plans to uninsured individuals and small businesses. The “Young Adult Plan” is for independent individuals ages 19 to 26.

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

<http://www.mass.gov/doe>

(617) 338-3000

DESE, formerly the Department of Education (DOE), is the state agency charged with ensuring improved teaching and learning in Massachusetts public schools.

Special Education in Institutional Settings (SEIS)

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/contact/phone.asp?mode=org#>

(781) 338-3303

SEIS, a division of the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, is responsible for providing special education services to youth with disabilities residing in state facilities operated by the Departments of Mental Health, Public Health, and Youth Services, and in county correctional facilities.

Department of Public Health (DPH)

<http://www.mass.gov/dph>

(617) 624-6000

DPH is the state public health agency. It provides direct health care, education and prevention services.

Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS)

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/bsas/bsas.htm>

(617) 624-5111

BSAS, a division of the Department of Public Health, oversees state substance abuse prevention and treatment services. BSAS operates the Massachusetts Substance Abuse Information and Education Helpline, which may be contacted at (800) 327-5050 or <http://www.helplin-online.com>.

Office of Patient Protection (OPP)

<http://www.state.ma.us/dph/opp/>

(800) 436-7757

OPP, a division of the Department of Public Health, oversees a range of protections for Massachusetts consumers and other individuals who receive health coverage from a Massachusetts carrier, insurer or HMO.

Department of Children and Families (DCF)

<http://www.mass.gov/dss>

(617) 748-2000

DCF, formerly the Department of Social Services (DSS), is the state agency charged with protecting children from child abuse and neglect.

Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC)

<http://www.eec.state.ma.us/>

(617) 988-6600

DEEC is the state agency responsible for the licensing of early education and care programs, providing financial assistance for child care services to low-income families, information and referral services, parenting support for all families, and providing professional development opportunities for staff in the early education and care field.

The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA)

<http://www.mass.gov/childadvocate/>

(617) 979-8360

(866) 790-3690 (toll free)

The OCA is an independent office that reports directly to the Governor. The goal of the OCA is to ensure that every child involved with child welfare or juvenile justice agencies in Massachusetts is protected from harm and receives appropriate and effective services delivered in a timely and respectful manner. The OCA accepts calls from (or on behalf of) youth in custodial care who have a complaint or want assistance.

Legal representation

Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee (MHLAC)

<http://www.mass.gov/mhlac>

(617) 338-2345

(800) 342-9092 (toll free)

MHLAC is an independent state agency charged with providing information, advice, advocacy and legal representation to individuals with mental health issues in Massachusetts. MHLAC provides legal assistance to youth, including DYS-involved youth, on matters related to mental health services and special education. **MHLAC's DYS Project**, which provides legal advice and representation, can be reached at ext. 24.

Youth Advocacy Project (YAP) of the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS)

<http://www.youthadvocacyproject.org>

(617) 989-8100 (Boston)

(508) 791-9288 (Worcester)

YAP is a unit of the state public defender agency (CPCS). YAP provides lawyers to represent juveniles in delinquency and youthful offender cases. The project also offers social service needs and psychological assessments, as well as case management and referrals to community services. YAP takes cases out of Suffolk County (usually Dorchester and Boston juvenile courts and sometimes the West Roxbury juvenile court) and out of the Worcester juvenile court. YAP produces Community Notebooks, a resource for youth in the juvenile justice system, available on the YAP web site.

EdLaw Project

<http://www.youthadvocacyproject.org/edlaw/edlaw.htm>

(617) 445-5640

An advocacy organization, jointly operated by the Children's Law Center of Massachusetts and the Youth Advocacy Project (YAP), working to ensure the rights of Boston youth to a quality education. Provides legal representation for children facing expulsions, suspensions or disciplinary proceedings, or in matters concerning special education. To be eligible for legal services, the youth must reside in Boston and meet legal services income guidelines. The EdLaw Project has a special focus on advocacy for court-involved youth.

Juvenile Defense Network (JDN)

<http://www.youthadvocacyproject.org/jdn.htm>

(617) 445-5640

JDN is a training and support project to aide juvenile defense lawyers in Massachusetts who represent children in delinquency and youthful offender cases. JDN is an initiative of the Youth Advocacy Project.

Health Care For All (HCFA)

<http://www.hcfama.org/>

(617) 350-7279

(800) 272-4232 (helpline)

HCFA is a Massachusetts organization dedicated to making quality care the right of all people. HCFA offers information referral and personal and legal advocacy. The HCFA Helpline provides information and advice regarding health care questions.

Health Law Advocates (HLA)

<http://www.hla-inc.org>

(617) 338-5242

HLA is a non-profit organization providing legal services to eligible clients in discrete areas of health law. HLA's Children's Mental Health Project works to improve access to mental health services for children throughout Massachusetts, using advocacy, education and promotion of systemic change. The project seeks to represent children denied access to essential mental health services. The program has a particular focus on youth involved with the Department of Children and Families.

Children's Law Center of Massachusetts

<http://www.clcm.org>

(781) 581-1977

The Children's Law Center of Massachusetts is a legal services agency that provides direct representation for children and youth in juvenile justice, child welfare and educational matters. The center has a pro bono panel of 80 lawyers who provide direct representation to indigent children in education matters. Training and supervision of lawyers are provided by the center. The Center is located in Lynn and their service area is limited to the Northeast part of Massachusetts.

Juvenile Rights Advocacy Project at Boston College School of Law

<http://www.bc.edu/schools/law/jrap/>

(617) 552-2350

The Juvenile Rights Advocacy Project specializes in cross-system representation of girls involved in the juvenile justice system. The project serves the Roxbury and Dorchester areas, as well as Lowell.

Juvenile Justice Center of Suffolk University Law School

<http://www.law.suffolk.edu/academic/clinical/iic/iic.cfm>

(617) 305-3200

The clinic serves the Boston Juvenile Court, South Boston and West Roxbury, using law students to represent juveniles charged with crimes. Staff attorneys and clinical supervisors help in the defense of clients.

Criminal Justice Institute at Harvard University School of Law

<http://www.law.harvard.edu/academics/clinical/cji/>

(617) 496-8143

Harvard Law School students, supervised by Criminal Justice Institute attorneys, represent both adults and juveniles on a variety of matters from misdemeanors to felonies. The clinic services Dorchester Juvenile & Roxbury District Courts.

Children and Family Law Program of the Committee for Public Counsel Services

<http://www.mass.gov/cpcs/CAFL/index.htm>

Worcester County

(508) 368-1880

The Children and Family Law Program of the Committee for Public Counsel Services serves Worcester County. It provides legal representation to indigent parents and children in state intervention/child welfare matters, including care and protection proceedings, CHINS cases, actions to dispense with parental consent to adoption, state-agency-sponsored guardianships, and any other proceeding regarding child custody where the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is a party or where the court is considering granting custody to DCF.

Disability Law Center (DLC)

<http://www.dlc-ma.org/>

(617) 723-8455

DLC is a non-profit organization responsible for providing protection and advocacy for the rights of Massachusetts residents with disabilities. DLC provides information, referral, technical assistance and representation regarding legal rights and services for people with disabilities.

Center for Public Representation (CPR)

<http://www.centerforpublicrep.org/>

(617) 965-0776 (Newton)

(413) 586-6024 (Northampton)

CPR is a public interest law firm, with offices in Newton and Northampton, which provides legal representation to people with disabilities in community and institutional settings. CPR has expertise in representing children and adolescents with mental illness.

Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services (MCLS)

<http://www.mcls.net/>

(617) 482-2773

MCLS is an independent state agency that provides civil legal services to people in Massachusetts prisons and jails including youthful offenders sentenced to prison or jail. The office does not provide criminal defense services. MCLS is particularly concerned with health and mental health care, guard-on-prisoner violence, physical conditions of confinement, and segregation and isolation.

Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (CLUM)

<http://www.aclu-mass.org>

(617) 482-3170

CLUM works on issues of juvenile justice, including efforts to remedy

or eliminate school policies that disproportionately exclude students of color from the Massachusetts school system by channeling them into the juvenile justice system. CLUM also works to redress the over-representation of minority youth at every point of the juvenile justice system.

Advocacy organizations

Citizens for Juvenile Justice (CfJJ)

<http://www.cfjj.org>

(617) 338-1050

CfJJ is an independent, non-profit, public policy advocacy organization working to improve the juvenile justice system in Massachusetts. CfJJ advocates, convenes, conducts research, and educate the public on important juvenile justice issues. CfJJ hosts juvenile justice forums on hot topics and trends in the juvenile justice system that are free and open to the public. CfJJ has information on their web site about the Massachusetts juvenile justice system.

Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN)

<http://www.fcsn.org/>

(617) 236-7210

(800) 331-0688

FCSN is a center for parents and parent organizations to work together on behalf of children with special needs and their families. FCSN operates a Parent Training and Information Center which offers a variety of services to parents, parent groups, and others who are concerned with children with special needs.

Parents for Residential Reform (PFRR)

<http://www.pfrr.org/>

(800) 672-7084

(617) 236-7210 ext. 345

PFRR is a project of the Federation for Children with Special Needs that provides support, information, referral, and other information to parents and professionals regarding residential educational settings and group home care. PFRR has developed a network of families in similar situations throughout Massachusetts.

Parent Professional Advocacy League (PAL)

<http://www.ppal.net/>

(617) 542-7860

PAL is the statewide organization of the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. PAL provides support, education, and advocacy around issues related to children's mental health.

Parent Resource Network Line (PRN Line)

<http://www.ppal.net/prnline.html>

(866) 815-8122

A project of PAL, the PRN line is a toll-free number for parents of children and adolescents. Staff provides support, information and referrals on education, insurance and service systems.

Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC)

<http://www.massadvocates.org>

(617) 357-8431

Massachusetts Advocates for Children, formerly Massachusetts Advocacy Center, is a private non-profit organization advocating for children who face barriers to equal educational and life opportunities. MAC's Children's Law Support Project (CLSP) pursues legal needs of Massachusetts' low income children. MAC accepts calls from families seeking advice, information or representation on concerns related to special education, school exclusions (suspensions or expulsions), the needs of children exposed to family violence, schooling disrupted by homelessness, autism, and MCAS.

Massachusetts Chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI-Mass)

<http://www.namimass.org/>

(781) 938-4048

NAMI is a grassroots organization of individuals with brain disorders and their families whose mission is to eradicate brain disorders and improve the quality of life of persons of all ages who are affected by them. NAMI provides support, education, and advocacy for individuals and their families; for research and services; and for the education of all professionals, providers, and the general public.

Consortium for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)

<http://www.neserve.org/maconsortium/index.html>

(617) 574-9493

The Consortium is a working group dedicated to developing high-quality, responsive, and family-centered systems of care for children with special health care needs. Consortium members are parents of CSHCN, health care providers from diverse settings, health plan administrators, family advocates, and professionals in the public health, mental health, and human services fields. They meet five times a year.

The Equity Project

<http://www.equityproject.org/>

The Equity Project is an initiative to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth in juvenile delinquency courts are treated with

dignity, respect, and fairness. The Equity Project examines issues that impact LGBT youth during the entire delinquency process, ranging from arrest through post-disposition.

National Juvenile Justice Network

<http://www.njjn.org/>

This organization helps state juvenile justice coalitions to advocate for fair, equitable and developmentally appropriate adjudication and treatment for all youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system.

Education resources

Urban PRIDE, Roxbury

<http://www.urbanpride.org/>

(617) 989-3929

Urban PRIDE is a community resource center founded to improve the availability of and access to culturally responsive disability related support, information, and training for culturally and linguistically diverse families who have children with disabilities in urban Boston. Urban PRIDE provides direct support to families from age 0-22. Urban PRIDE provides supports for families and young adults, preparing them to participate in Individual Education Planning and/or Transition Planning meetings, providing training to help them understand their rights and roles as team members and advocates under the special education laws, as well as acting as special educational advocates. Staff also conduct parent support groups, provide resources and information, and make referrals to other community resources.

Adolescent Life Option Program of the Roxbury Comprehensive Community Health Center

(617) 442-7400

This non-profit program provides academic enhancement and peer leadership/development to 12-18 year olds who reside in the Greater Boston Area. Staff serve as a link between youth, parents and area schools. Their primary focus is to provide high quality academic support and social development.

Family Sound at Roxbury Multi-Service Center, Dorchester

(617) 427-4470 ext. 70

Family Sound works with and provides resources to 9th and 10th grade students who require a supportive, alternative environment that recognizes and enhances their different learning styles. Family Sound provides academic enrichment, MCAS preparation, workshops and seminars designed to develop and enhance life skills. Family Sound also works with parents to develop and enhance advocacy skills.

**After School Collaboration for Educational Success at the Jamaica Plain Community Center
(617) 635-5244**

This program offers interactive and educational tutoring and enrichment for ninth grade students who want to improve their academic level and develop their life skills.

Additional resources for education can be found in the Boston Youth Survival Guide 2005-2006, available at <http://www.bostonyouthnet.org> by clicking “service directory.”

Employment resources

If a youth receives special education services, the youth’s IEP should include vocational training where appropriate. In such a case, see also the above listings under “Education resources.”

Massachusetts School to Career: Local Partnerships, prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/stc/partners.html>

This web site lists, by geographic area, the local partnership offices. These offices collaborate with businesses, school systems and community organizations to support work-based learning activities for youth.

Massachusetts School to Career: Workforce Investment Boards, prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/connect/stc/wib.html>

This web site lists, by geographic area, workforce investment board offices. Workforce investment boards offer students ways to work and learn. One of the roles of the local boards is to appoint a youth council and coordinate workforce and youth plans and activities with the youth council.

The Commonwealth’s One-Stop Career Centers, prepared by the Massachusetts Division of Career Services

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/pathwaycenters.html>

This web site provides a list of One-Stop Career Centers, This list includes the names and contact information for each center’s High School Private Industry Council (PIC) Career Specialist. A list of center locations and a description of employment-related services available at One-Stop Career Centers is also available at <http://www.detma.org/WSCareercenters.htm>.

The Center for Youth Development and Education (CYDE)

<http://www.cyde.us/>

CYDE provides career development opportunities for youth, particularly high risk youth. CYDE coordinates the youth components of the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in Massachusetts. As part of this role, CYDE provides technical and policy support to workforce investment boards and youth councils.

New England Job Corps

<http://bostonregion.jobcorps.gov/>

(800) 97-BEGIN

The Job Corps is a federally-funded jobs program. Job Corps is a no-cost education and vocational training program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that helps young people ages 16 through 24 get a better job. Students can enroll to learn a trade, earn a high school diploma or GED and get help finding a good job.

YouthBuild, Boston

<http://www.youthbuild.org/>

(617) 445-8887

YouthBuild is a national, non-profit organization that helps unemployed and undereducated young people ages 16-24 work toward their GED or high school diploma while learning job skills by building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people. YouthBuild also offers after school drop-in programs for 7 – 14 year olds, summer reading and sports programs for 7-13 year olds and teens for a positive change, a cable television show.

Artists For Humanity, South Boston

<http://www.afhboston.com/>

(617) 268-7620

Artists For Humanity works to help at-risk youth become self-sufficient through paid employment in the arts. The Artists For Humanity EpiCenter is a multi-use facility for youth and the arts in the Fort Point Channel Arts District of Boston.

National Collaboration on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/ Youth)

<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/>

(877) 871-0744

Additional resources for employment can be found in the **Boston Youth Survival Guide 2005-2006**, available at <http://www.bostonyouthnet.org> by clicking “service directory.”

Housing resources

Housing Links, prepared by Massachusetts Citizens for Children

http://www.masskids.org/links/links_housing.html

This web site provides links to organizations that assist in accessing housing and related services.

Transition Age Supported Housing (TASH) Program of the Northeast Area of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health

DMH has developed the pilot TASH for young adults, beginning at age 18, who are receiving DMH services. These young adults are given rental assistance for a period of time, trained in independent living skills and symptom management, and given vocational assistance.

Mass Access: The Accessible Housing Registry

<http://www.massaccesshousingregistry.org/>

The Mass Accessible Housing Registry is a free program that helps people with disabilities find rental housing in Massachusetts, primarily accessible and barrier-free housing. The database tracks accessible and affordable apartments throughout the state, maintaining information about their availability.

Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development's Housing Related Resources

<http://www.mass.gov/dhcd/publications/howto.htm>

Provides links to Local Housing Authorities, the Department of Transitional Assistance, Neighborhood Housing Services Offices, Community Development Corporations, Community Action Agencies, Independent Living Centers, Shelter Referral/Placement Services, Temporary Shelters and Homelessness Prevention Agencies.

Local Housing Authorities (LHAs)

<http://www.mass.gov/dhcd/publications/howto.htm#LHAs>

This web site provides access to the 253 LHAs across the state. These LHAs manage public housing developments, that is, apartments that are build and subsidized by either the state or federal government. There are approximately 90,000 units of state and federally assisted public housing in Massachusetts.

Additional resources for homeless youth can be found in the Boston Youth Survival Guide 2005-2006, available at <http://www.bostonyouthnet.org> by clicking “service directory.”

Social organizations

Boys & Girls Clubs of Massachusetts

<http://www.bgca.org/>

The mission of the Boys and Girls Clubs is to inspire and enable young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

Massachusetts 4-H

<http://www.mass4h.org/>

The Massachusetts 4-H program is focusing its resources in three areas: animal science, communications, and community service.

Massachusetts Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)

<http://www.ymca.net/>

The mission of the YMCA is to work to build healthy spirits, minds and bodies.

Massachusetts Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)

<http://www.wyca.org>

The YWCA's mission is to eliminate racism and empower women. The YWCA provides safe places for women and girls and builds strong women leaders.

United Way

<http://national.unitedway.org>

There are several regional United Way organizations within Massachusetts. They offer a range of programs for youth.

Girls Incorporated

<http://www.girlsinc.org>

Formerly Girls Clubs of America, Girls Incorporated helps girls be strong, smart and bold by providing a range of educational programming and leadership training. Some programs are also open to boys.

Jewish Community Centers (JCCs)

<http://www.icca.org/>

JCCs offer a wide range of educational, cultural, social and recreational programs for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Camp Fire USA

<http://www.campfireusa.org/>

Camp Fire USA is a not-for-profit youth development organization. Locations provide all-inclusive, coeducational programs including youth

leadership, self-reliance, after school groups, camping and environmental education, and child care.

Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)

Catholicyouth.org

The CYO offers a wide-ranging system of social services, community centers, vacation schools, and sports programs.

21st Century Learning Centers

<http://www.collaborative.org/afterschool/>

(413) 586-4900

A project of the Hampshire Educational Collaborative, the centers are multi-service agencies providing after school programs for youth in western Massachusetts.

Boston's After School for All Partnership

<http://www.afterschoolforall.org/>

(617) 624-8133

The After School for All Partnership is a public-private effort to provide out-of-school time programs for Boston youth. The web site provides links to after-school resources across Massachusetts.

Youth Options Unlimited (Y.O.U.)

<http://www.cityofboston.gov/bra/yoboston/en/>

(617) 541-2600 (Roxbury)

Youth Options Unlimited is a job readiness program that provides educational, social, and recreational activities to youth age 14 – 21. The program provides creative outlets, helps youth develop leadership, and fosters a sense of empowerment.

Urban Dreams Youth Development Program

(617) 436-7448

<http://www.volunteersolutions.org/neu/org/2584041.html>

Urban Dreams is an after-school youth development program for selected at-risk Boston youth, ages 13-19. The program offers a comprehensive program in four areas: (a) academic preparedness, (b) social and life skill education, (c) self awareness, and (d) long-term leadership and career training development.

Whittier Youth Service & Enrichment Program of Whittier Street Health Center (WYSE)

<http://www.wshc.org/>

(617) 989-3032

WYSE is a peer leadership program that provides youth with jobs as community health educators. WYSE is part of a comprehensive support

network that offers health services, tutoring, mentoring, and a number of specific programs, that all help to encourage positive youth development. WYSE offers: “On Our Own” (co-ed ages 10-12), “Decisions” (females only ages 14-18), “Young Men of Color” (males only ages 14-18) and “Youth Making A Difference” (co-ed, ages 14-18).

Ella J. Baker House, Dorchester

<http://www.thebakerhouse.org/>

(617) 282-6704

The Ella J. Baker House is the site for a range of community work. Staff provide mentoring, case management, court and school advocacy to high-risk youth (including both youth on probation referred by the Court and youth that attend the Drop-in/Home Help Center and Computer Lab).

Caribbean U-Turn

(617) 296-6789

<http://caribbeanuturn.org/>

U-Turn is a faith based, non-denominational ministry reaching out to young at-risk Caribbeans of Greater Boston. Working with the Boston Youth Strike Force, the Court, Probation Officers, the MBTA, and the Boston School Police, U-Turn identifies youth of Caribbean descent at-risk. The project provides a six-month peer leadership training, therapeutic services, and mentoring, after school services, homework supervision and a drop-in center for youth.

Youth and Police in Partnership (YPP) Program of Children’s Services of Roxbury

<http://www.csrox.org/ypp.html>

(617) 989-9463

YPP, run with the Boston Police Department, works to improve the relationship between inner-city youth, community residents and the BPD. The program serves to educate youth and provide resources and skills. The program offers: roundtable discussions, problem solving initiatives, workshops and training, law classes, mentoring, drama, community service and journaling.

Mental and physical health care services

Mass Health Contact List

http://www.compartners.org/pdf/contact/statewide_contact_list.pdf

A list of state health agencies providing health care, mental health and substance abuse services.

**The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers
Patient Referral Line**

<http://www.massleague.org/HealthCenters.htm>

(800) 475-8455

A community health center provides physical and mental health services. A center can also provide a social worker to help you locate other resources. Centers assist in applying for medical insurance.

Boston Medical Center (BMC)

<http://www.bmc.org>

(617) 414-5000

BMC provides health care, including for those without medical insurance.

Worcester Communities of Care (WCC)

Commonwealth Medicine

275 A Belmont Street

Worcester, MA 01604

<http://www.mass-communitiesofcare.org/>

(508) 856-5242

An interagency initiative that serve youth with mental illness by promoting family involvement and providing family supports. WCC provides community-based, family-centered services to youngsters with severe emotional disturbance (SED) in Worcester. WCC is sponsored by DMH and administered by Mass Memorial Behavioral Health Systems. To be eligible for WCC a child (1) must be between age 5 and 15, have a serious emotional and/or behavioral problem with a psychiatric diagnosis, have a parent or legal guardian living in Worcester, have a serious difficulty that has lasted or is expected to last a year or more in two settings, involve a youth who receives services from two settings and who has been placed, or is at risk of being placed, outside the home due to emotional disturbance.

Central Massachusetts Communities of Care

<http://www.mass-communitiesofcare.org/>

Central Mass. Communities of Care is a collaboration of youth with serious emotional disturbance and their families; community and state child serving agencies; community service providers; family organizations; and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, under the leadership of DMH and the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Its goal is to promote system transformation in Central Massachusetts to divert youth with serious emotional disturbance from unnecessary juvenile justice involvement. Among Central Mass. Communities of Care's projects is the creation of two Family Centers (North and South Central Massachusetts) where Care Partners, who are trained family members, provide care management services under clinical

supervision; and where a whole range of family-to-family and youth-to-youth support services will be available. Currently, only the first Family Center is open, at 251 Main Street, Webster, MA 01570, (800) 980-1347.

Coordinated Family-Focused Care (CFFC)

<http://www.masspartnership.com/CFFC/>

The web site describes the program, provides eligibility criteria and lists CFFC providers. CFFC is a MassHealth initiative that is being piloted at five sites that joins families and professionals together to work on service planning and then offers family supports among other types of assistance. To be eligible for the CFFC program a child must have a serious emotional disturbance that significantly affects functioning at home, school, or the community. The child also must be:

- between the ages of 3 to 18 years old (the child can be up to age 22 if he or she is also receiving special education);
- at risk of psychiatric hospitalization or residential care;
- a MassHealth member and enrolled or eligible to be enrolled at the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership; and
- a resident in Brockton, Lawrence, New Bedford, Springfield, Worcester, or South Central Worcester County.

Mental Health Services Program for Youth (MHSPY)

<http://www.nhp.org> (then search “MHSPY”)

(800) 432-9449 (ask to speak to the MHSPY Program Administrator)
An initiative of the state Office of Medicaid, DOE, DMH, the Department of Children and Families, and DYS, the local school systems, and Neighborhood Health Plan, a local not-for-profit managed care organization. MHSPY serves youth with persistent symptoms of serious emotional disturbance by promoting family involvement and providing family supports. MHSPY housed at Neighborhood Health Plan and serves five communities: Cambridge, Everett, Malden, Medford and Somerville. MHSPY provides or arranges for all health care services, including physical health, mental health and substance abuse services. The program works with children and their families with the goal of keeping children in school, at home, and in their community instead of in a more institutionalized setting. MHSPY is available to Neighborhood Health Plan members who are covered by MassHealth, between age 3 and 19, and meet the residency and other eligibility requirements.

Collaborative Assessment Program (CAP), prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families

<http://www.mass.gov> (then search “Collaborative Assessment Program”). There should an entry for an overview of the program and an entry for a list of CAP offices and staff.

The Collaborative Assessment Program (CAP) is a jointly sponsored program of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and DMH with some assistance from the state Office of Medicaid. The program provides a single point of entry into DCF and/or DMH services for youth who have serious emotional disturbance and are at risk of residential placement. CAP provides prompt, comprehensive, family and child assessments along with parent support programming. Immediate, intensive and flexible community-based services are used to stabilize the child during the assessment period. One goal of CAP is to divert children from inappropriate residential placements. When appropriate, CAP designates agency responsibility to assume ongoing case management. CAP can provide a parent partner to youth at risk of “out-of-home” placement. This program is only available to youth that are not yet clients of DCF or DMH. **This program is ending and will phase out services by June 30, 2009.**

Department of Mental Health Parent Support

<http://www.mass.gov/dmh>

DMH Parent Support is available to all parents of children and adolescents with behavioral, emotional or mental health problems, whether or not their child is a DMH client. DMH funds at least once parent coordinator position in each of its six geographic areas. Parent coordinators facilitate parent support groups that offer emotional support, provide education about mental health problems and treatment, teach advocacy strategies, and teach parents self-help skills.

Massachusetts Chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI-Mass)

<http://www.namimass.org/>

(781) 938-4048

NAMI offers Family-to-Family, a free, 12 week psych-educational course for family members of older adolescents and adults.

Parent Professional Advocacy League (PAL)

<http://www.ppal.net/>

(617) 542-7860

PAL provides educational programs for families. NAMI and PAL also jointly offer Visions for Tomorrow, an 8-10 week course to help parents and primary caregivers of children and adolescents. These programs are offered in English and Spanish.

Youth Service Providers Network (YSPN)

<http://www.yspn.org/>

(617) 427-0957

YSPN is a partnership between the Boston Police Department and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston serving youth involved with the police and

living in Boston. YSPN can provide access to licensed clinical social workers who will work with youth to find appropriate social services. Youth referred to the YSPN can receive various forms of assistance from social workers: 1) intake and assessment, 2) short-term case management, and 3) on-going clinical services. To access YSPN services, contact your local Boston Police district station. Youth confined to DYS may be able to continue receiving YSPN services. Parents or guardians who would like these services to continue in DYS settings should talk to their child's YSPN social worker.

Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change (MFOFC)

<http://www.mfofc.org/>

A statewide, grassroots coalition of individuals with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses and their families. MFOFC believes that supports for individuals and families can be more flexible and better designed to respond to the actual needs people have. MFOFC provides information, leadership training and support to families, and also has regular regional meetings for families and individuals.

Family TIES of Massachusetts

<http://www.massfamilyties.org>

(781) 774-6736

A statewide information and parent support project of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) for families of children with special needs or chronic illness. It is run by parent coordinators in each regional DPH office.

Additional resources for drug and alcohol rehabilitation can be found in the Boston Youth Survival Guide 2005-2006, available at <http://www.bostonyouthnet.org> by clicking “service directory.”

Mentoring organizations

Big Brothers Big Sisters

<http://www.bbbsa.org/>

Big Brothers Big Sisters matches caring, responsible adults with children.

Best Buddies Massachusetts

<http://www.volunteermatch.org/orgs/org18883.html>

(617) 597-0029

Best Buddies provides opportunities for one-to-one friendships and employment for people with and without mental retardation.

Scouts New England

<http://sne.tripod.com/ma.htm>

Web site lists Massachusetts Scouting Information.

Additional resources for mentoring can be found in the **Boston Youth Survival Guide 2005-2006**, available at <http://www.bostonyouthnet.org> by clicking “service directory.”

Civic engagement

The Center for Teen Empowerment

<http://www.teenempowerment.org/>

(617) 536-4266

The Center for Teen Empowerment, Inc. (TE) inspires young people, and the adults who work with them, to think deeply about the most difficult social problems in their schools and communities, and gives them the tools they need to work with others in creating significant positive change. TE has a long history of collaborating with the Boston Public Schools and has several school-based sites in Boston schools. TE is expanding in 2005 to Somerville. See the web site at <http://www.teenempowerment.org/programs/> for a list of sites.

Massachusetts YMCA Youth and Government program

<http://www.maymcayag.org>

The Youth and Government program teaches teens in grades 9-12 how they can participate in the democratic process.

Multicultural Youth Tour of What’s Now (MYTOWN)

<http://www.mytowninc.com>

(617) 536-8696

MYTOWN is a non-profit organization that uses history as a youth development and community building strategy. By discussing the accomplishments of local change-makers, MYTOWN demonstrates the need for young people to assume community leadership and ownership.

Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project of Alternatives for Community and Environment, Roxbury

<http://www.ace-ej.org/>

(617) 442-3343

The project develops environmental justice leadership among youth in the Roxbury area through an environmental justice curriculum, internship program, and youth-led projects.

Critical Breakdown, Boston

<http://www.criticalbreakdown.org/>

A project of the American Friends Service Committee, Critical Breakdown is a hip-hop activist program that encourages youth creativity to explore solutions to poverty, oppression and injustice.

Youth Empowerment Project of Boston Mobilization, Cambridge

<http://www.bostonmobilization.org/>

(617) 492-5599

The project runs workshops in the Greater-Boston area in both high schools and middle schools. Their curriculum includes anti-racism work.

Project HIP-HOP (Highways Into the Past- History, Organizing & Power), Boston

<http://www.projecthiphop.org/>

(617) 427-7950

The project is a youth-led organization using hip hop culture and the history of resistance to injustice as tools for engaging and developing young people as activists and organizers. Project HIP-HOP is particularly interested in building the skills of young people who are often labeled “at-risk.”

Freedom House, Dorchester

<http://www.freedomhouse.com>

(617) 445-3700

Freedom House is a nonprofit, community-based organization working in Boston’s communities of color. They have projects focused on education and leadership development.

Reflect and Strengthen, Dorchester

<http://www.Reflectandstrengthen.org>

(617) 445-2355

Reflect and Strengthen is an organization for girls and women ages 13-30 from the working-class, urban communities of Boston. The organization seeks positive social change through creative expression, political education and community building.

Zumix, East Boston

<http://www.zumix.org>

(617) 568-9777

Zumix seeks to empower youth through music to make positive change in their lives, communities and the world.

Spiritual engagement

The Center for Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence

<http://spiritualdevelopmentcenter.org/>

(612) 399-0235

The Center is a global initiative to advance the research and practice of this domain of human development.

Search Institute

<http://www.search-institute.org/>

(612) 376-8955 or (800) 888-7828

Search Institute is an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide leadership, knowledge, and resources to promote healthy children, youth, and communities. In particular, see the pages entitled “Faith Communities” at <http://www.search-institute.org/congregations/> and “Web Sites on Young People, Congregations, and Religious and Spiritual Development” at <http://www.search-institute.org/congregations/CongregationLinks.html>.

Web-based resource lists

Mass Resources

<http://www.massresources.org>

A statewide list of resources including a youth activities directory.

Boston Resource Net

<http://www.bostonresourcenet.org>

A searchable list of organizations and agencies in Eastern Massachusetts that provide human services, including services to youth.

Boston Youth Net

<http://www.bostonyouthnet.org>

A web site for services for high risk youth. Provides links to a youth services directory, jobs programs, and community resources. A resource guide, The Boston Youth Survival Guide 2005-2006, is available by clicking “service directory” once at the site. The guide lists resources in the following areas: housing, rape victims, sexual abuse victims, domestic violence, teen parents, grief support, suicide support, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning issues, HIV/AIDS, mentoring programs, drugs/alcohol, gang issues, avoiding violence and prostitution, education, CHINs and employment.

City of Boston Youth Development Programs

<http://www.cityofboston.gov/bcyf/youth.asp>

Lists programs designed to assist youth, including information on

community centers, access to social workers and girls' programs.

Project INTERFACE

<http://www.projectinterface.org/>

(617) 332-3666 ex t. 411

Project INTERFACE has collected and categorized on the web a wide range of resources about children's mental health and related topics for the benefit of parents, educators and mental health professionals in the communities it serves which include Boston, Newton, Waltham and Wellesley.

Publications

General issues

“Your Community Resource Guide” by the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services and the Commonwealth Corporation (2008-2009). Available at <http://www.commcorp.org/dys/pdf/DYSCommunityGuide-2008-2009.pdf>.

This publication includes a region by region statewide guide to education, employability, and social service support resources (including pregnancy/parenting, mental health/counseling/substance abuse, health care, domestic violence/rape/sexual assault, housing, hunger and homelessness, immigrant/refugee/ESOL, legal resources, transportation).

“Community Notebook, Out-Of-School Time Programming Edition,” by the Youth Advocacy Project (2008). Available at (617) 445-5640 and at <http://www.youthadvocacyproject.org/notebooks.htm>.

The Out-of-School Time Programming Edition of the Community Notebook features a resource guide listing over 55 specific programs and services in the Boston area.

“Community Notebook, The Girls Edition, A Resource Guide to Programs for Girls in the Boston Area,” by the Youth Advocacy Project (2009). Available at (617) 445-5640 and at <http://www.youthadvocacyproject.org/notebooks.htm>. The Girls Edition was created to help professionals better serve the fastest-growing population of the Massachusetts juvenile justice system. The Girls Edition contains a guide to nearly 70 programs in the Greater Boston area that have a gender-specific focus appropriate to girls in high-risk situations.

“From a Parent’s Perspective,” written by Linda Smelstor and published by Citizens for Juvenile Justice (2000). Available at <http://www.cfjj.org/Pdf/Handbook2.pdf>.

This guide deals with the rights of parents of committed youth.

“The Handbook on the Legal Rights of Minors,” by the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee (2001). Available at (617) 338-2345.

This handbook covers multiple topics, with an emphasis on the rights of youth with mental health issues.

Criminal law

“Kids and the Law: A User’s Guide to the Court System,” by Rebecca Pries and Carol Rosensweig (3rd ed. 2002). Available for purchase from Adolescent Consultation Services, Inc. at (617) 494-0135 or <http://www.kidsandthelaw.org/>.

This English-Spanish book guides families of court-involved youth through the Massachusetts juvenile court system. Also available in Khmer-English.

Various pamphlets, by the Youth Advocacy Project. Available at <http://www.youthadvocacyproject.org>.

This website posts pamphlets for youth and for parents that deal with the arrest and later court appearances.

Education

“Community Notebook, Education Edition,” by the Youth Advocacy Project (2007). Available at (617) 445-5640 and at <http://www.youthadvocacyproject.org/notebooks.htm>

The Education Edition of the Community Notebook is intended as a primer to the educational system in Massachusetts. A listing of advocacy resources and helpful websites is also included.

“Helping Traumatized Children Learn,” by Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC) (2005). Available at <http://www.massadvocates.org/home>.

“Children Affected by Domestic Violence or Homelessness: Helping Children Stay Safe and Succeed in School,” by Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC) (2005). Available at <http://www.massadvocates.org/home>.

“Student Records in Massachusetts,” by the Children’s Law Center of Massachusetts. Available at http://www.clcm.org/community_education.htm.

“School Suspension and Expulsion,” by the Children’s Law Center of Massachusetts. Available at http://www.clcm.org/community_education.htm.

“Supplemental Educational Services,” by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Available at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/nclb/parents.html?section=ses>. Schools receiving federal Title I funding must offer supplemental educational services to eligible children if the school is in its second year of Needs Improvement status. Student eligibility is based on family income level and youth academic achievement level. This web site provides more information about obtaining these services.

“MCAS Performance Appeals,” by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Available at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcasappeals/filing/guidelines.html>.

This web site describes the appeal process for a student who has repeatedly failed the grade 10 MCAS tests (score less than 220). A student who can demonstrate knowledge and skills in the subject area can appeal a failed test.

“A Family Guide to Getting Involved with Correctional Education,” by T. Osher & B. Huff for the National Evaluation Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Children Who Are Neglected, Delinquent or At Risk (2008). Available at <http://www.neglected-delinquent.org>.

“In School, The Right School, Finish School: A Guide to Improving Educational Opportunities for Court-Involved Youth,” by the National Children’s Law Network (2005). Available at http://www.illinoisprobono.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.dsp_content&contentID=4400.

Special education

“A Parent’s Guide to Special Education,” by the Federation of Children with Special Needs and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Available at <http://www.fcsn.org/parentguide/pgintro.html>.

“Notice of Procedural Safeguards (Parent’s Rights Brochure),” by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (2005). Available at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/parents.html>.

“IEP Process Guide,” by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (2001). Available at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/iep/>.

“Is Special Education the Right Service: A Technical Assistance Guide,” by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (2001). Available at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/iep/>.

List of approved private special education school programs, by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Available at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/spedpvtlist/>.

This web site provides a list of approved Massachusetts in-state day and residential private special education school programs. Eligibility of special education students for day and residential school placements is dependent upon a decision of the educational TEAM that such a placement is required and subsequent documentation of that decision in the student's Individualized Educational Plan.

“Directory of Member Schools,” by the Massachusetts Association of 766 Approved Private Schools (MAAPS). Available at <http://www.spedschools.com> or by contacting MAAPS at (781) 245-1220.

New England Residential School Directory, by New England Psychologist. Available at <http://www.masspsy.com/residential/index.html>.

This web site provides a list of residential schools in New England.

“Special Education in Massachusetts,” by the Children’s Law Center of Massachusetts. Available at http://www.clcm.org/community_education.htm.

Housing

How to Obtain Housing Assistance in Massachusetts, by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (2004). Available at <http://www.mas.gov/dhcd/publications/howto.htm>

This publication details how to obtain housing assistance.

Mental health services

“The Parents’ How-to Guide to Children’s Mental Health Services in Massachusetts (2nd ed.),” by the Boston Bar Association and others (2009). Available at http://www.bostonbar.org/theguide/bba_theguide_jan2009.pdf or by contacting the Boston Bar Association at (617) 742-0615. This booklet describes how to access appropriate resources for youth with mental health needs.

“Community Notebook, Health and Counseling Edition,” by the Youth Advocacy Project (YAP) (2008). Available at <http://www.youthadvocacyproject.org/notebooks.htm> or by contacting YAP at (617) 445-5640.

The Mental Health and Counseling edition of the Community Notebook

focuses on young people's health as an important factor in their overall development into successful members of their communities.

“Making Sense: A Parent’s Guide to Mental Health Resources,” by the Boston Public Health Commission. Available at <http://www.talklisten.org/>.

This guide provides good explanations of various types of groups, therapies, and emergency/intensive mental health services and how to access them.

“Making Sense: A Parent’s Guide to a Child’s Psychiatric Hospitalization,” by the Boston Public Health Commission. Available to order or download at <http://www.talklisten.org/>.

“Psychopharmacology for Children and Adolescents: An Overview,” by Robert D. Fleischner, Center for Public Representation (2001). Available at <http://www.centerforpublicrep.org/page/77910:catid=766>.

Resource List, by the Foundation for Children with Behavioral Challenges

<http://www.explosivekids.org/resources/links.html>

This web site provides a list of web sites on various topics related to raising a behaviorally challenging child, including links on helping such a child at school.

Website on *Rosie D.*, prepared by the Center for Public Representation. Available at <http://www.rosied.org/>.

This website provides information and resources to parents, attorneys, advocates, providers and other professionals regarding ongoing changes to the children's mental health system in Massachusetts as a result of the implementation of the judicial order in the *Rosie D.* class action lawsuit. The *Rosie D.* order applies to children and adolescents under the age of 21 who reside in Massachusetts and are eligible for MassHealth; are diagnosed with a serious emotional, behavioral or psychiatric condition meeting the federal definitions of serious emotional disturbance; and are determined through a mental health evaluation to need home-based services. New services should be available beginning June 30, 2009.

Federal and state laws and regulations

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): 20 U.S.C. 1400

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/>

Federal regulations implementing IDEA: 34 C.F.R. 300

http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_02/34cfr300_02.html

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/>

Massachusetts statute relating to Department of Youth Services: Mass. Gen. L. ch. 18A

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/gl-18a-toc.htm>

Massachusetts statute relating to Protection and Care of Children, and Proceedings Against Them: Mass. Gen. L. ch. 119
(Juvenile Delinquency Code can be found at Mass. Gen. L. ch. 119, §§ 52-84.)

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/gl-119-toc.htm>

Massachusetts statute guiding DYS in treating and rehabilitating committed juveniles: Mass. Gen. L. ch. 120

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/gl-120-toc.htm>

Massachusetts Department of Youth Services regulations: 109 CMR (not currently on web but available for purchase from State Bookstore Catalog at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/spr/sprcat/agencies/109.htm>)

Massachusetts special education statute: Mass. Gen. L. ch. 71B

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/gl-71b-toc.htm>

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) special education regulations: 603 CMR 28.00

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr28.html>

Massachusetts mental health statute: Mass. Gen. L. ch. 123

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/gl-123-toc.htm>

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH) inpatient regulations: 104 CMR 27.00

http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dmh/regs/reg_104cmr27.pdf

(restraint regulations at 104 CMR 27.12)

Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC)
regulations for the licensure or approval of residential programs serving
children: 102 CMR 3.00

http://www.eec.state.ma.us/docs/residential_regs.pdf

An Act Relative to Children's Mental Health: Chapter 321 of the Acts of
2008 <http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/seslaw08/sl080321.htm>

