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## Charles D. Baker

## Governor

## Karyn E. Polito

## Lieutenant Governor

## Marylou Sudders

## Secretary HHS

## Dr. Opeoluwa S. Sotonwa

## Commissioner

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

The **Children and Family Services** at Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provides unique support services to families with children who are Deaf or hard of hearing throughout the Commonwealth.

**Children’s Specialists** are carefully selected staff experienced in working with children and adolescents with varying degrees of hearing loss. Each staff possesses a wealth of knowledge in communicative and educational choices available for deaf and hard of hearing children. All Children’s Specialists are bilingual in English and American Sign Language (ASL).

## CHILDREN’S SPECIALISTS

**Boston/North Region**

Melissa Dowler

600 Washington Street

Boston, MA 02111

617-694-9781 Cell/Text

617-861-8847 VP

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**South Region**

Melissa Adams, LCSW

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Boston, MA 02111

617-872-4087 Cell/Text

617-409-7496 VP

melissa.adams@mass.gov

**Central Region**

Terri Pancare, MA

167 Lyman Street

Westborough, MA 01581

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terri.pancare@mass.gov

**Berkshire/Western Region**

Emily Graves-Harrison

436 Dwight Street, Suite 204

Springfield, MA 01103

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413-276-4524 VP

emily.graves-harrison@mass.gov

It is the goal of the Children’s Specialists at MCDHH to empower families and children to access equitable education options, services, and resources in their communities.

**SERVICES**

* + - **Parent Education** relative to the effects of hearing loss at birth, during childhood and in the teenage years.
		- **Identification of Intervention Strategies** for parents and others, including the appropriate usage of hearing aids, assistive listening devices and system, alerting and signaling devices, medical procedures, early intervention, communication and language development and more.
		- **Objective Information** regarding choices for early language development.
		- **Information and Referral** to specialized services such as mental health (or “behavioral” health or both?), psycho-educational evaluation and testing, speech and language pathologist and audiologists.
		- **Technical Assistance** to Early Intervention and educational programs regarding the communication needs and cultural perspectives of Deaf and hard of hearing children.
		- **Advocacy and Support** to families and agencies in the development and utilization of service plans.
		- **Connecting Children and Families** to recreational and social activities as well as other families and Deaf adult role models.
		- **General Case Management** services as needed**.**

*All services are free and confidential*

**Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

**600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111**

**Toll free numbers: 800.882.1155 (V) | 617.326.7546 (VP)**

[***http://www.mass.gov/mcdhh***](http://www.mass.gov/mcdhh)

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