

Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities

Workforce Supports Subcommittee Meeting

Meeting Agenda

Date of Meeting: Thursday, May 9, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Virtual: [Zoom Link](#)

This is a meeting of the **Workforce Supports Subcommittee** of the permanent Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities. This subcommittee will collect data and analyze initiatives that address the workforce crisis for people who provide services to individuals with disabilities.

Members Participating Remotely	
1	Angela Ortiz (Chair) – Director of Business Development and Strategy, Partners for Youth with Disabilities.
2	Andrew Levrault – Deputy General Counsel, Disabled Persons Protection Commission
3	Chris White – CEO & President, Road to Responsibility, Inc
Members Not Present	
4	Representative Kay Khan – Massachusetts House of Representatives

Agenda

1. Welcome, Roll Call
2. Caregiver to Caregiver (C2C) Respite Network Presentation by Elizabeth Bostic, Assistant Director for the Division for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs at the MA Department of Public Health
 - Q&A Discussion:
 - How does C2C work?
 - Caregivers apply to join the network. We will match families to one another based on:
 - The child's medical and support needs
 - Where families live
 - Language and cultural identities and preferences
 - Staff provide initial and ongoing support to anyone involved in providing and receiving respite. CORI

and SORI background checks will also be performed. A virtual learning platform will enable caregivers to participate in trainings, discussion forums and other learning opportunities. Once caregivers have been matched to one another, check-ins will be provided at least monthly. Learn more by clicking the link below:

<https://fcsn.org/c2c/#1706558010096-e4e541bf-3e29>

- How can this program become sustainable and reach other states? Did you receive initial seed funding?
 - The grant cycle began in 2023, and we faced challenges, including the hiring process. However, a significant portion of this grant is dedicated to building the necessary database.
 - We created employment opportunities as we make these matches.
 - The [Federation of Children with Special Needs](#) has been an amazing partner in this initiative.
 - We are exploring various models, including licensing opportunities, to sustain this effort and maintain the integrity of this program, which is about thinking of families first.
- Regarding data, you mentioned using a lot of data for the adult population. Are there more efforts focused on pediatric data? Is there anything you can educate us on so we can support your efforts?
 - I used a mix of data, and in cases where we only had adult data, we applied a proportion method conservatively. We know that the [ARCH Life Respite Innovation Center](#) is collecting extensive data on children.
 - I discovered that Chicago Children's Hospital is specifically examining caregivers supporting children with special health care needs.
 - Additionally, I am attending a conference in New York to further explore these numbers.
 - Here in Massachusetts, various individuals from different academic institutions have offered to collect data for us

and develop hypotheses on why certain things may or may not be working. They will work directly with families to provide an accurate picture and help us make informed decisions regarding caregiver supports.

- Where can a caregiver fill out an intake form?
 - On the following link: <https://fcsn.org/c2c/>

3. Adjournment

Next meetings:

1. July 11
2. October 10
3. November 14