

**MOEC General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**October 18, 2021**  
**9:00AM -1:30PM**  
**Zoom Video Conference**

**Attendees:** Joanne Haley Sullivan, Liz McGonagle, Fran Rosenberg, Steve Donovan, Catherine Cooper, Roland Joyal, Cathy Lawson, Rick Reino, Chris Scott, Bill Lupini, Jacki Clark, Arnold Lundwall, Dympna Thomas, John Demanche, David Heimbecker, Paul Hilton, Jennifer Gates, Todd Gadza, Jeanne Sullivan, Sanchita Banerjee, Donna Flaherty, Jim George (CPA advisor to Finance Committee), Christine Romancewicz (DESE), Nina Marchese (DESE), Karen Brann (DESE), Paulajo Gaines (DESE), Ruth Hersh (DESE), Maria Mossaides (OCA), Crissy Goldman (OCA), Christine Downs (OCA), Kerry Akashian (DESE CA), Margie Daniels (MPY)

**Welcome and Executive Director Report**

Joanne Haley Sullivan welcomed everyone to the first general meeting of the year.

Joanne welcomed the following new Executive Directors: Jen Gates, CAPS Collaborative, Todd Gazda, Collaborative for Educational Services, and Bill Lupini, interim Executive Director for LABBB Collaborative, and provided her Executive Director Report.

There are currently at least two **state-wide initiatives** for collaboratives to participate in:

1. [Attached](#) is the report from [Behavioral health Integrated Resources for Children Project \(BIRCh Project\)](#) at University of Massachusetts Boston. The report outlines multi-year recommendations for the development of a School-based Behavioral Health Technical Assistance (TA) Center and recommendations for a phased strategy to support districts in developing comprehensive and sustainable school mental health structures. BIRCh has received some initial funding from DMH that will allow them to begin preliminary work to develop this center. Their hope is that someone from the Educational Collaboratives can join them on an Advisory Council.
  
2. Center for Instructional Support (CIS) at DESE.  
Grace Wang, Instructional Policy Lead of the Center for Instructional Support (CIS) at DESE coordinates informational sessions about the center’s priority projects with district leaders and regional networks such as Collaboratives. Each of the projects at CIS are designed to support the building of coherent systems that will make meaningful impact on students. They are happy to come present in person, or as a part of a remote meeting. If any of these would be helpful to your collaborative districts, Joanne suggested members reach out to discuss scheduling. Also, if you have any questions, or would like more information, you can follow up directly with Grace, or Joanne can arrange a meeting to hear more details. ([Grace.Wang@mass.gov](mailto:Grace.Wang@mass.gov))

Topic
Why Curriculum Matters
District Profiles and Data Collection

Mass Literacy
Educator Evaluation Rubric Revisions
OpenSciEd
Math Acceleration
IMplement MA
CURATE
The Professional Learning Partner Guide (PLPG)
History and Social Studies Curriculum: the Civics Project
Principals and Curriculum
Culturally Responsive Teaching Resources

### **Special Education Staffing Concerns**

MAPPS, ASE, and MOEC have been meeting with DESE (Nina Marchese and Russell Johnston) to discuss Special Education staffing shortages. We discussed the results of our [quick survey](#) at the Board meeting and as of this writing, 17 collaboratives have responded and we have openings for approximately 150 staff.

Two strategies currently being discussed include working with DESE to host statewide virtual **Job Fairs for Special Education** positions including collaboratives with districts and private special ed schools. Also being discussed is the idea of investing in a pipeline for a special education workforce, possibly using federal funds.

**Emergency License extension:** Nina informed us that the Executive Office of Education is seeking an extension of emergency licenses through April.

**Free Child Care for those who work in schools:** Nina stated if the supplemental budget is approved, the funds would be disbursed to the schools and then the employees would be reimbursed for child care costs.

**Waiving of the 960 hours for educators to work:** Not at this time.

**DPH is now willing to take postings** for school nurses across the state.

### **Funding for COVID-Related Expenses for Collaboratives**

Joanne reported that she submitted a [request for COVID-19 related reimbursement](#) to DESE on August 13th. There is a meeting scheduled October 19th where the allocations will be reviewed

and how the funding will be disbursed to collaboratives. MOEC also submitted [testimony](#) to the House Ways and Means Committee to request funding through the American Rescue Plan Act.

### **Review of Goals for the Year**

Joane reviewed the attached [goals](#) for FY22 which were adopted in June.

### **FY22 MOEC Committees**

Enclosed is a [list of committee membership](#) and chairpersons. We are seeking new members for the open positions on the Finance Committee (Central Region) and the By-Laws Committee.

### **Legislative Committee Report**

Catherine reported that the Legislative Committee has met several times this year. There is a hearing on October 19th with the Committee on Administration and Government Oversight at which we will testify. There is no opposition to the bill that we are aware of.

We have signed on to [testimony](#) with the Coalition for Special Education Funding that will expand Circuit Breaker funding and request support for a pipeline to enhance the Workforce.

Additionally, there is a Retirement Bill in process. We are not taking a position for or against this. We'll be watching this closely to see what happens.

The Committee is thinking of proactive ways to partner with our legislatures when we “don't need them”. Given the high volume of turnover in the House/Senate over the last two years, members are encouraged to reach out and develop these relationships. Catherine reported plans to host a session about ways to build relationships with legislators. Catherine will join the PD Committee for this discussion.

### **Professional Development Committee Report**

We received an update from Liz McGonagle about the PD Committee plans for this year. This year, Learning Tours will focus on vocational and/or transitional programming; we will also continue with the webinar format as last year's financial seminars were successful. We are looking for ideas and experts in various roles. Liz will resend the survey to the membership.

### **DESE Update (Ruth Hersh & PaulaJo Gaines)**

Paulajo provided [this document](#) with important links to their website. Ruth informed us that the Commissioner created a Cabinet of 6 people who report to him directly. Russell Johnston has been elevated to Deputy Commissioner and another Deputy Commissioner Regina Robinson has been brought on board. The Commissioner will be meeting with the Regional Liaison Representatives next week, we anticipate that Regina will attend that meeting as well.

### **Finance Committee Report**

We received a report from Chris Scott on [FY21 MOEC](#) end of year financials.

### **Regional Representative Reports**

We have organized Regional Liaison Representative meetings with the Commissioner on a quarterly basis this year. The first meeting is on October 25; the proposed [agenda](#) was shared.

We will also hear reports from our Regional Representatives.

**West Region** - not present

**Greater Boston Region** - Setting up once a month Friday morning meetings for their region.

**North Region** - Meeting from last week was rescheduled

**South Region** - Group has not met since August. Will be scheduling a meeting this week.

**Central Region** - no report

### **Election of new Central Mass Regional Liaison Representative**

We have solicited nominations for the Central Mass Regional Liaison Representative, since Cindy Landanno will be retiring in November.

A motion to accept the nomination of Arnold Lundwall be elected as the Regional Liaison Representative for the Central Region was made by Catherine Cooper and seconded by Jacki Clark. Unanimous.

### **Office of the Child Advocate (Maria Mossaides)**

The mission of the [Office of the Child Advocate](#) (OCA) is to ensure all children in the Commonwealth receive appropriate, timely and quality services with full respect for their human rights. Through collaboration with public and private stakeholders, the OCA examines services to children to identify gaps and trends and makes recommendations to improve the quality of those services. The OCA also serves as a resource for families who are receiving, or eligible to receive, services from the Commonwealth.

1. Ombudsman--receives complaints from pediatricians, mandated reporters, parents. Hotline where mandated reporters, family members, etc can call if a child is being abused. Emotional abuse. Not a referral line, but appropriate to call if don't believe DCF is responding appropriately to the level of urgency. Can also call for info and referral
2. Overseeing Juvenile Justice
3. Receives critical incident reports--death, serious injury, emotional injury, witnessing overdose or death by overdose. Institutional abuse and neglect.

Child Trauma Center - Wellness Center being launched soon in conjunction with UMass Medical.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention group -

DCF Data Workgroup - group working to redesign all public facing reports for DCF reports.

The OCA is creating an online training program for teachers as mandated reporters. The majority of reports come from Teachers, followed by First Responders, and then Hospital Emergency Room staff. One goal is to ensure that teachers have a clear understanding of what constitutes abuse and neglect under Massachusetts law.

OCA has a good idea on where the system is failing, one solution is to create day programs for students placed residentially. Need ideas before the budget cycle.

Family Resource Centers need to be re-bid next year. They are trying to make these hubs for supports for students and families.

We agreed to continue these conversations with a follow-up meeting.

### **DESE Connecting Activities (Dr. Kerry Akashian)**

Dr. Kerry Akashian, Career Development Education Lead at DESE reviewed the purpose of CA, successes and challenges of the last year, and goals for FY22 and beyond. She reviewed Connecting Activities, Teacher Externships, as well as Signal Success Curriculum with free training to come in the Spring. Also, next steps in utilizing the information. If any collaborative is interested, Kerry will connect them with their regional leads.

### **MPY**

MOEC has recently joined the Board of the Massachusetts Partnerships for Youth ([MPY](#)). Margie Daniels, Executive Director met with us about MPY's mission and how they bring professional development to Massachusetts educators and mental/behavioral health professionals. She shared a large number of materials that were presented to members.