

OUR VISION

Our vision is one of empowerment for individual and family support that includes planning, choices and decision-making.

OUR MISSION

The mission of MFOFC is to provide sustained advocacy and leadership training in pursuit of high quality, individualized community support and service options, including family support, for people with disabilities and their families.

Who Are We?

We are a statewide, grassroots coalition of individuals with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses and their families. We believe that supports for individuals and families can be more flexible and better designed to respond to the actual needs people have. We are actively organizing families and individuals to use the power of our numbers to effect positive change.

We are the people who understand most deeply how effective services can assist in helping individuals with disabilities to achieve the best within themselves. We also understand how inclusive communities benefit us all. We have joined together and "organized for change."

Contact Us

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

CENTRAL

Celia Brown
508-918-4059
celiab@hmea.org

METRO - BOSTON

Lauri Medeiros
617-605-7404
rjmede@aol.com

NORTHEAST

Susan Nadworny
781-665-5179
snadw@aol.com

SOUTHEAST

Emily Murgo Nisenbaum
508-999-4436
emilynisenbaum@nemasketgroup.org

WEST

Ingrid Flory
413-782-2500 ext. 321
ingridflory@mcsnet.org

STATEWIDE COORDINATOR

Dianne Huggon
mfofc@mfofc.org

MFOFC

Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change

We welcome all people interested in the issues we pursue and encourage new members to join with us.

www.mfofc.org

Email: mfofc@mfofc.org

PO Box 61
Raynham, MA 02768
508-824-6946



CHAPTER 171

“An Act Providing Support to Individuals with Disabilities and Their Families”

Signed into Law July 26, 2002.

Members of MFOFC have written and championed legislation to create statewide law for Individual and Family Support. The purpose of Chapter 171 is to give individuals with disabilities and their families a voice in crucial decisions being made about their lives. This legislation is about providing a variety of home and community supports that help families stay together and live in their community.

A 21st Century Disability Policy

MFOFC, along with some of the leading statewide disability advocacy organizations, are principal members of MA 21, the Massachusetts Alliance for a 21st Century Disability Policy (MA21) whose mission is to advance full community participation for individuals with disabilities. The MA 21 Alliance, authored a comprehensive, essential guide for the implementation of a “21st Century Disability Policy”.

The advocacy of the MA21 Alliance, individuals with a disability, their families and supporting community members, facilitated passage of **Chapter 255 - “An Act Relative to Real Lives”**, signed into Law August 6, 2014. This legislation expands the ability of people to direct their own public funds and requires that the administration implement certain new policies and procedures so as to allow public funds to be used as flexibly as possible by the individual or family.

Family Leadership Series

The MFOFC Family Leadership Series (FLS) has a two-fold purpose. The first is to offer information about “best practices” for people with disabilities. The second is to assist families in creating a vision for their family member and a process to achieve the vision by incorporating that information. The FLS is organized into three (and in some regions, four), two-day workshops and focuses on:

✚ Initiative and Leadership

Information on how to effectively advocate creating change and ways that will influence funding and system policy.

✚ Creating A Vision

“Imagine Better” to create a vision, with and for their family member that becomes a guide for their leadership and advocacy.

✚ Policy Making at the Local, State and Federal Level

Participants receive information on how to develop networks with professionals and families, how to access and control resources that affect family stress and satisfaction, and how to use legislative change to procure resources.

“Leadership is the activity of mobilizing people to work toward a desired future that not only meets people’s needs but elevates them.”

Deborah Reidy, Reidy Associates

Housing Connections

The purpose of MFOFC Housing Connections is designed to help families communicate with other families with similar interests to find or create a home for their loved one with a disability.

Established in January 2013, MFOFC Housing Connections is the first of its kind offered in New England. It is our hope that this tool will serve as a key that opens doors of opportunity to help create an enriching life for the individual. A life that is filled with valued friendships, real relationships, meaningful employment, community participation and the ideal living situation to call HOME.

A Full Life Ahead Series

The future starts now! A Full Life Ahead is a series of monthly workshops designed for parents and caregivers as they plan for the future of their loved one with a disability. Workshops offered include topics on friendships, transition, employment, housing and financial planning. The workshops and resources provided will help lead to interdependent, full lives in the community for people with disabilities.