





## OUR ADVOCACY



### Chapter 171

#### AN ACT PROVIDING SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

Signed into law in 2002 after 11 years of hard work by MFOFC and our allies, this legislation expanded the array of supports available to keep families intact and increased access to life in the community.

### MA21

#### MASSACHUSETTS ALLIANCE FOR A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY DISABILITY POLICY

A collaborative effort of the state's leading disability advocacy organizations whose mission is to advance full community participation for individuals with disabilities. Members of the MA21 Alliance produced a comprehensive, essential guide for the implementation of policies and practices to support this mission.

### Chapter 255

#### AN ACT RELATIVE TO REAL LIVES

A signature accomplishment of MA21, this bill's passage in August of 2014 empowered individuals and families with the option to direct their own public funds. It also requires the Massachusetts administration to implement new policies and procedures to increase the flexibility with which these funds are used.

## Our Trainings

### Family Leadership Series

Since 1990, MFOFC has provided this training to empower families and individuals to live and engage in their communities.

This training has a two-fold purpose: to offer information about "best practices" for people with disabilities; to assist families in creating a vision for their family member and a process to achieve this vision.

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



The Family Leadership Series focuses on:

#### **INITIATIVE & LEADERSHIP**

*Background of the Family Support Movement; leadership, advocacy, and the significance of self-advocacy; how to effectively advocate for change, ways to influence funding and delivery systems*

#### **CREATING A VISION**

*Families are supported to "imagine better" and create a vision with a for their family members that will guide their leadership and advocacy*

#### **POLICY-MAKING**

*How to develop networks with professionals and families, and how to use legislative change to procure resources and enact system-wide change.*

### A Full Life Ahead

Series of monthly workshops for parents and



guardians of transition-age youth and adults with disabilities. Topics include

employment, housing, friendships, and more that will lead to independent and interdependent lives in the community.

### Advocacy Bootcamp

For primary caregivers of young children (birth to



10) with developmental disabilities, chronic illnesses, and/or complex medical needs. Content focuses on building foundational advocacy

skills so that participants can empower their children to lead rich and meaningful lives.

