

## POSITION PAPER MEETING ATTENDANCE LOCALES

**Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change (MFOFC)**, and its affiliate regional chapters, advocates for policies and practices that enable children with disabilities/chronic illness and their families to live together in their communities **and** that reflect the principles and practice of self-determination for adults with disabilities/chronic illness. The continued use of Massachusetts state institutions and developmental centers is antithetical to this mission.

Members of MFOFC care deeply about the rights of ALL people to enjoy community life with family, friends and neighbors. We strongly believe that Massachusetts state institutions and regional developmental centers must close to enable people living in these facilities to claim their rightful place in our neighborhoods, towns and cities. Until this occurs, we shall honor these people and their rights by remaining consistent with our mission in conducting our affairs in the communities where we live, work and play.

The Board of Directors of Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change has adopted the following position concerning participation in meetings:

*Individual board members of MFOFC, **when acting in the capacity of a board member and thereby representing MFOFC**, will request that meetings he or she is asked to attend be held at locations other than the state institutions or regional developmental centers (Hogan, Templeton and Wrentham). Whenever feasible, MFOFC board members should assist in locating mutually convenient alternative sites. In those situations where an alternate meeting location is refused and barring significant unforeseen or mitigating circumstances, MFOFC board members will decline the invitation to attend such meetings.*

**No MFOFC board member, in negotiation with fiscal or other entities, shall deviate from this position.**

*Adopted by MFOFC Board of Directors*

*September 26, 2001*

*Revised by MFOFC Board of Directors*

*June 26, 2006*

*Amended November 2, 2012 – Monson Development Center closed on August 2012*

*Amended February 5, 2014 – Glavin Developmental Center closed June 2013*

*Amended February 8, 2015 – Fernald Developmental Center closed November 2014*

