



Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change

A grassroots coalition of individuals with disabilities and/or medical needs and their families.

2020 Western Massachusetts Family Leadership Series

Dear Family Member(s),

We are pleased to announce our annual Western Massachusetts Family Leadership Series! This series focuses on providing families and individuals with the vision, knowledge and leadership skills they need to live in their communities as naturally and typically as desired. **Space is limited**, so we encourage families impacted by developmental disability, chronic illness, and/or complex medical needs to complete and return the enclosed application if they wish to participate in this unique opportunity.

The Family Leadership Series is organized into three, two-day workshops, and one full-day workshop. *Participants are required to attend all sessions.*

The Series is scheduled for the following dates and will be held at the Delaney House, 3 Country Club Rd, Holyoke, MA :

Friday, February 7th & Saturday, February 8th, 2020

Friday, March 13th & Saturday, March 14th, 2020

Friday, April 10th & Saturday, April 11thth, 2020

Friday, May 8th, 2020

Session Topics Include:

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 and for their family members that will guide their leadership and advocacy.

Policy-Making:

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

Additionally, families learn strategies to decrease stress, develop support systems, and sustain momentum in caring and advocating for yourself and others.

THIS EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY IS FREE FOR PARTICIPANTS!

The Department of Developmental Services will fund all food, and overnight lodging expenses. Scholarships for respite/child care are available. There will be **NO COST** to you to attend this series!!



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Families attending will be required to do the following:

- 1. Attend each of the four sessions.**
- 2. Participate in activities/experiences during the sessions.**
- 3. Upon completion of the Series, continue to work to create change for your family and others. We also hope that you will join the MFOFC statewide network, which will provide opportunities to advocate for policies, practices, and funding that maximizes our loved ones' support, and their ability to live meaningful and enviable lives in the community.**

Families who have completed the Series over these past years have had a tremendous impact on systems change for families and individuals with disabilities in Massachusetts. Family members have been active in policy and decision making locally, regionally and statewide, and some have decided to do legislative advocacy work. Others have used their talents and skills to create change for their loved-ones with disabilities and/or their families.

We are very excited to be able to organize this event in collaboration with Multicultural Community Services and the Central-West Region of the Department of Developmental Services.

We encourage you to return your application as soon as possible. Please note that submitting an application does not ensure acceptance. Applications will be reviewed upon receipt, and you will be notified of your acceptance into the series.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Susan Crosby

Susan Crosby, MSW
Western Massachusetts Regional Coordinator, Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change
Family Leadership Coordinator, Multicultural Community Services

P.S. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 413 782-2500, ext. 321 or susancrosby@mcsnet.org



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Thank you for your interest! If you have any questions, please call Susan Crosby, MCS at (413) 782-2500 ext. 321 or email: susancrosby@mcsnetorg

APPLICATION

Name(s) (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Email _____

1. Does your family include someone with a disability? Yes No

What is your relationship to that person? _____

2. Please answer the following questions so that we can be sure that our group represents diverse needs and interests:

What is the age of the individual? _____

What is the disability? _____

What services are you, your child, or your family member currently receiving?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical | <input type="checkbox"/> Respite Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | |

Please describe:

3. Are you currently involved with any family or advocacy groups? Yes No
Have you been involved with family or advocacy groups in the past? Yes No

If yes to either question, please describe your involvement:

4. What specific areas of concern or interest lead you to apply for this Leadership Series?



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5. How do you hope to utilize the information learned through this Series?
6. Each session of the Leadership series runs from 9:00AM on Friday until 4:00PM on Saturday with time off for socializing and sleep! Are you able to make a time commitment to the following sessions? **Remember – it is very important that you attend all three sessions!**
- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fri. February 7th & Sat. February 8th 2020: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Fri. March 13th & Sat. March 14th 2020: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Fri. April 12th & Sat. April 13th 2020: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Friday, May 8th 2020 : | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
- These dates **are not** convenient for my schedule. Please mail me an application when you schedule your next Leadership Series.
7. Do you need assistance with traveling to Holyoke? Yes No
- If yes, what is your need? _____
8. Will you need any special considerations (translation, interpretation, accessible room, etc.) in order to participate in the Series? If yes, please describe.
9. Is there anything else you would like to share about yourself and/or your family that would assist us in reviewing your application (other children, family dynamics, family composition, special hobbies/interests, etc.)? **Please use the back of this form if necessary.**
10. Who referred you to this Family Leadership Series?

Return your application today to:
Susan Crosby – Multicultural Community Services
1000 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01109
Tel: 413 782-2500, ext. 321 or Email: susancrosby@mcsnet.org