



# School Liaison Cohort Meeting

7/19/18

Department of Children and Families  
Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
UMass Medical School



[www.frcma.org](http://www.frcma.org)

# Agenda

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- **Welcome & Attendance**
- **Icebreaker** 10:00am-10:15am
- **Review of Initial Intent** 10:15am-10:45am
- **School Liaison Statewide Themes** 10:45am-11:30am
- **Brown Bag Lunch and Networking** 11:30am-12:00pm
- **Café Style Group Discussion** 12:00pm-1:00pm
- **Future Trainings/Next Steps** 1:00pm-1:30pm



# Ice Breaker Activity

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# School Liaison Position

# Chapter 240 Legislation

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- **Child in Need of Services Reform and Chapter 240.** The final and perhaps most substantial initiative influencing this RFR has been the multi-year Child in Need of Services (CHINS) reform effort. The CHINS system served “status offenders,” including runaways, truants, children having significant problems at home and school, and sexually exploited youth.

# Chapter 240 Legislation

- In 2007, Senator Karen Spilka and Representative Paul Donato convened a stakeholder task force from across the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of government. They sponsored hearings where youth and families testified regarding their experiences with the CHINS system, and they examined best practices from other states. The resulting CHINS reform legislation, Chapter 240 of the Acts of 2012, An Act Regarding Families and Children Engaged in Services, was passed by the legislature, signed by the Governor on August 7, 2012, and became effective on November 5, 2012.



# Chapter 240 Legislation

- Chapter 240 takes comprehensive steps to reform the former CHINS program. Chapter 240 replaces the CHINS program with the Child Requiring Assistance program. **Pursuant to Chapter 240, a “Child Requiring Assistance” is:**
  - a child between the ages of 6 and 18 years-old,
  - who repeatedly runs away from home;
  - repeatedly fails to obey the lawful and reasonable commands of their parent/guardian;
  - repeatedly fails to obey the lawful and reasonable regulations of the school;
  - is habitually truant; or is sexually exploited.

Further, pursuant to Chapter 240, a “Family Requiring Assistance” is a parent, guardian, custodian, sibling, and any relative or caretaker responsible for a Child Requiring Assistance.



# Chapter 240 Legislation

- Chapter 240 also mandates significant changes to the CHINS court process and **encourages children and their families to seek assistance from EOHHS and DCF as an alternative to seeking services through the court.** The law requires the Secretary of EOHHS to establish “Family Resource Centers” and a “network of child and family service programs” throughout the Commonwealth to provide community-based services to families and children requiring assistance.
- Chapter 240 also established the Families and Children Requiring Assistance Advisory Board. The Advisory Board’s duties relate specifically to the implementation of Chapter 240. This includes advising EOHHS and DCF, collecting and reporting data, and monitoring implementation of the legislation.





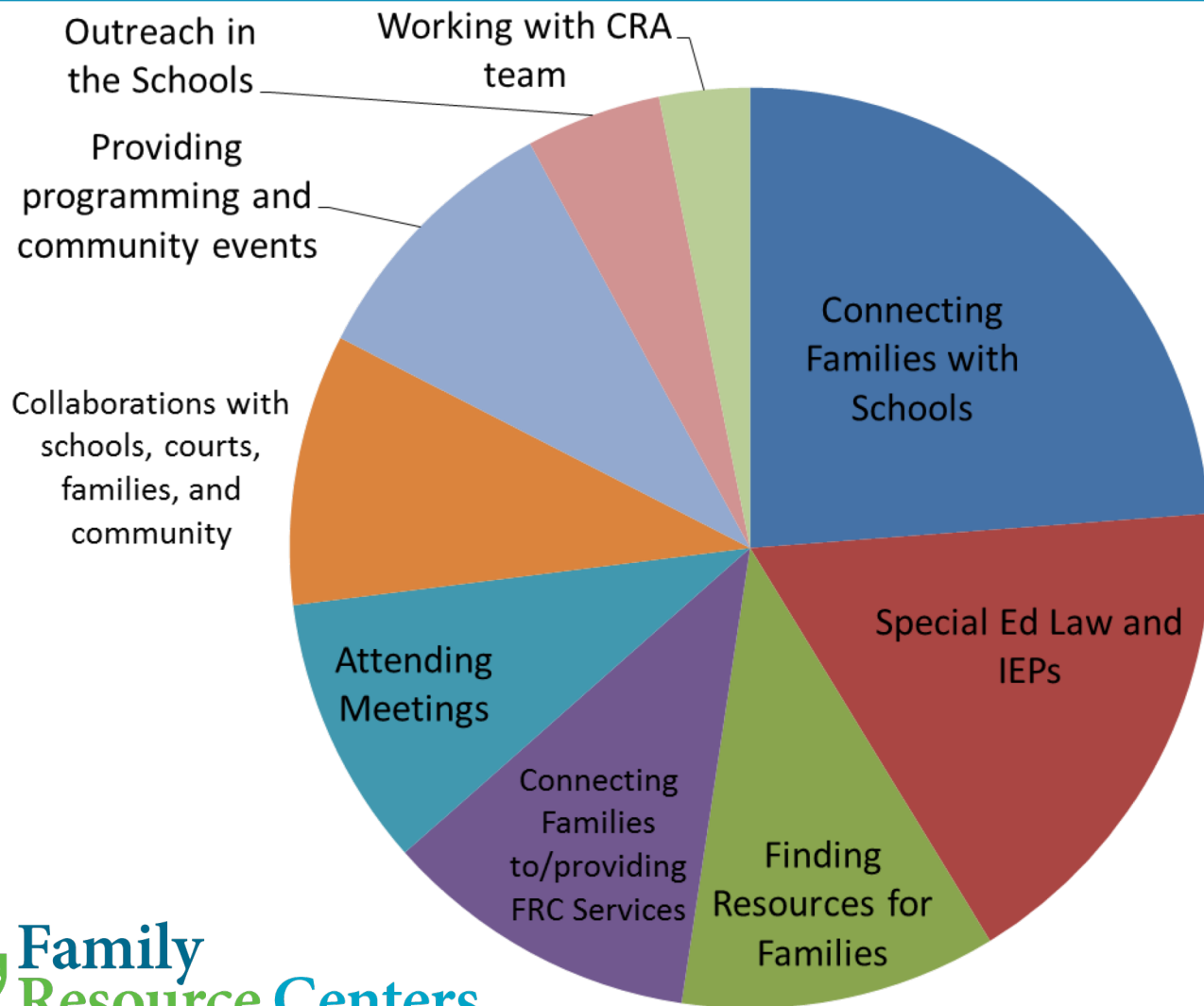
# School Liaison Contract Language

The School Liaison is an employee of the FRC **who works closely with local school districts to help Family Members navigate through educational and school-related concerns and needs, as well as works with school districts to identify Family Members that may be in need of family support services.** The school liaison shall serve as a resource to families, schools and the community in improving overall student attendance and graduation rates, reducing truancy rates, identifying systemic issues, barriers, trends and needs, networking and disseminating information, designing solutions and expanding system capacity. The Liaison shall ensure that all Family Members experiencing CRA-related issues are connected to services that meet their individual needs and shall ensure that there is a process established to provide information and referral and direct assistance where possible for individual Family Members. This may include meetings with teachers, assistance with obtaining an Individual Education Plan, and meetings with other school personnel, as necessary. Finally, the Liaison shall be responsible for negotiating and implementing special events and other interagency activities that involve schools.

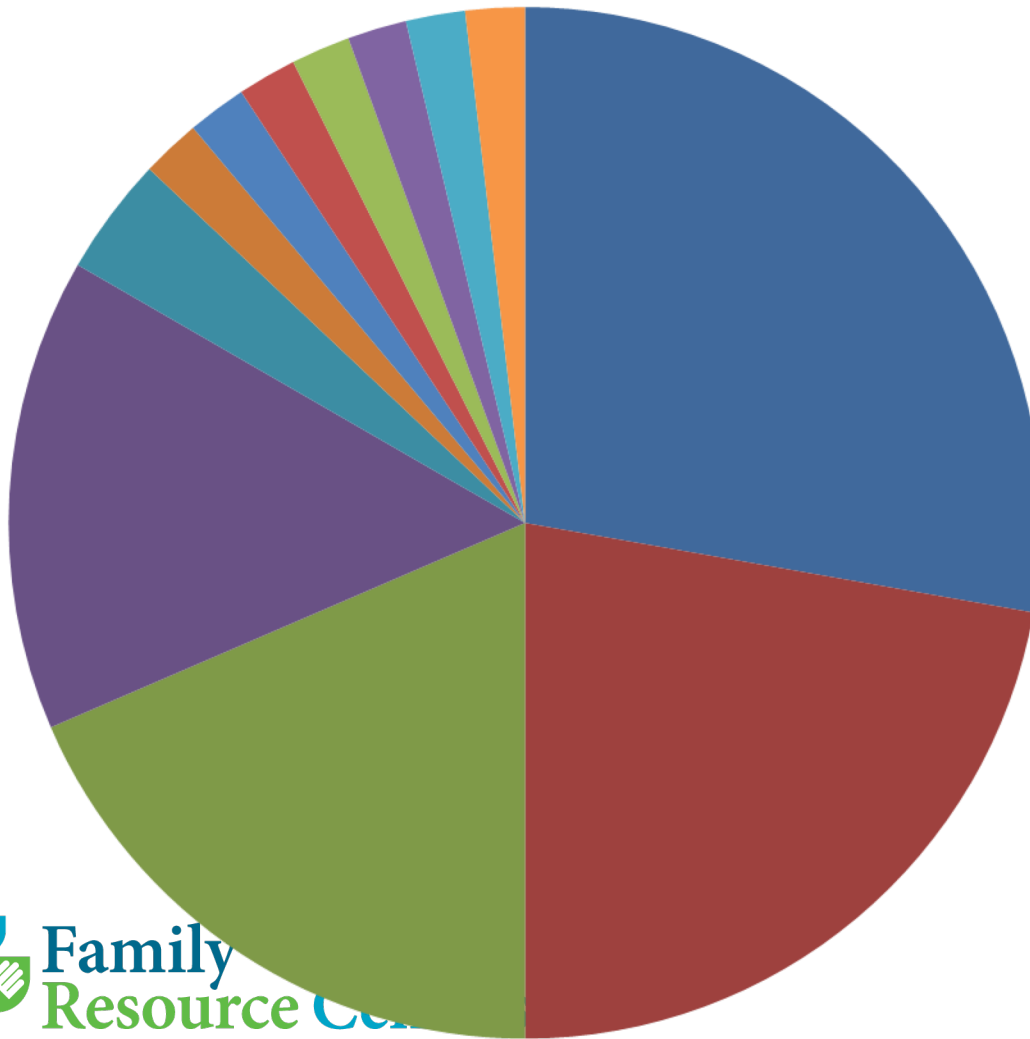


# Statewide Themes

# School Liaisons Feel are Most Critical Parts of Role



# School Liaisons Feel Are Biggest Challenges



- Connecting with the Schools
- Connecting with families
- Time Constraints
- The Line between school liaison/advocate
- Racism/discrimination in community
- Transition (pre-school/high)
- New issues in general ed
- Lack of clinical resources in community
- Losing funding
- Housing
- School Refusal
- Language barriers (IEP)

# Café Style Group Discussion

# Discovery Café Group Discussion

- Break into 4 groups of 4-5 each
- Identify a table host
- Identify a scribe
- Group facilitator will reach the 3 questions
- The group will have 20 minutes to discuss the questions
- At the end of the 20 minutes, go into a different group with different people
- Repeat above steps
- We will do 2 rounds of discussion and then join as a whole group to discuss themes



# Discovery Café Questions

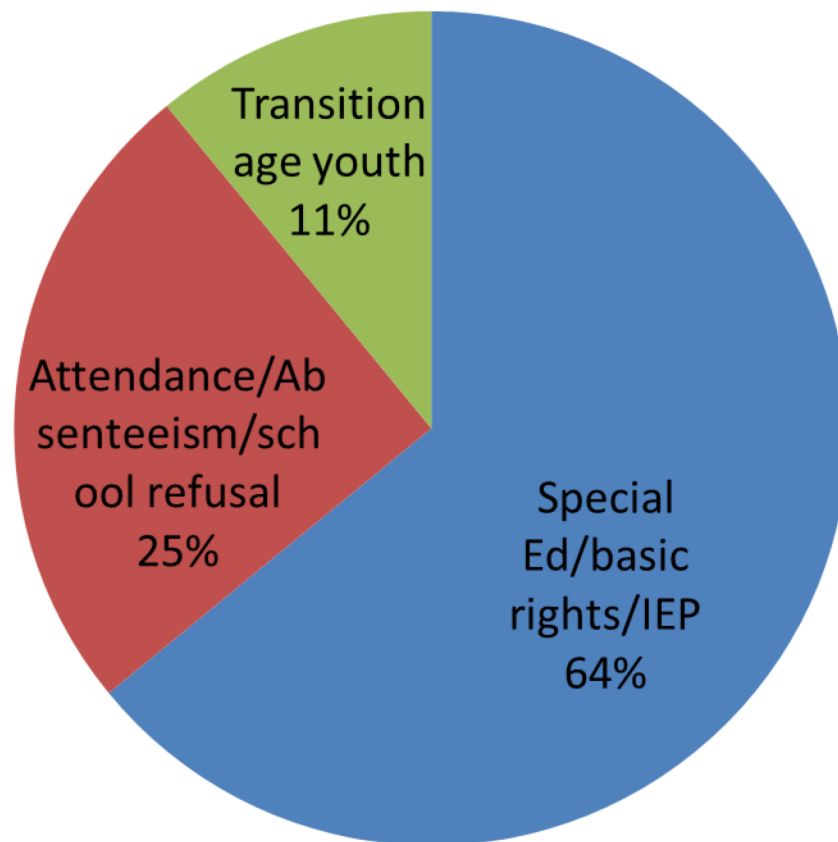
- What are the barriers to connecting with the schools in meaningful ways?
- How have you been successful (what strategies have been useful)?
- What ideas do you have for continuing to build the relationships with the schools?



# Future Trainings & Next Steps



# School Liaison Training Ideas



# Additional Ideas

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- Evaluations and Assessments
- Clarifying the School Liaison Role for self & community
- Child/family trauma
- LGBTQ
- Parenting Journey
- Discipline
- Restraint Law
- Placement Options
- Mediation process
- Drug use and the developing brain
- CRA law and process
- PCTI training
- Cultural humility
- Mindfulness



# Next Steps

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- FRConnect <https://www.frcma.org/>
- Mentor Opportunities
- Frequency of meetings
- Next meeting agenda

Questions?

# Community and Family Engagement Team

## *Western Region*

### **Jolanta Rumierz, Community Support Manager**

Department of Children and Families

413-427-2326

[Jolanta.rumierz@state.ma.us](mailto:Jolanta.rumierz@state.ma.us)

## *Southern Region*

### **Daniel Lewis, Community Support Manager**

Department of Children and Families

508-894-3959

[Daniel.lewis@state.ma.us](mailto:Daniel.lewis@state.ma.us)

## *Northern Region*

### **Tania Rivera, Community Support Manager**

Department of Children and Families

978-557-2727

[Tania.rivera@state.ma.us](mailto:Tania.rivera@state.ma.us)

### **Kate Darmetko, Training Lead**

Department of Children and Families

617-748-2357

[Kate.Darmetko@MassMail.State.MA.US](mailto:Kate.Darmetko@MassMail.State.MA.US)

### **Jenny Duval, Family Resource Centers of Massachusetts Director**

Department of Children and Families

617-748-2049

[Jenny.I.duval@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:Jenny.I.duval@massmail.state.ma.us)

### **Jose Monteiro, Director of Community and Family Engagement**

Department of Children and Families

617-748-2336

[Jose.monteiro@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:Jose.monteiro@massmail.state.ma.us)



**Website: [www.frcma.org](http://www.frcma.org)**