



AUGUST NEWS



Dear Supporters,

It's been a busy summer for the Children's Mental Health Campaign! Thank you for your continued support and advocacy even through the hottest and most humid days of the summer.

TAKE ACTION

Stay Connected



Join Our Mailing List!

Are you on our list?

The campaign is growing, and quickly! We want to make sure every organization interested in being one of the 140+ supporting organizations is recognized. Please take a look at our [supporting organization page](#) on our website and if you don't see your organization but are interested in being a supporter, fill out [this form](#) and send it to us at cmhc@mspcc.org, or just email us!

Legislative Updates

Things haven't slowed down for the summer at the State House for the Campaign—three of our priority bills on the move! The bills heard by the Joint Committee on Mental Health & Substance Abuse were all reported out favorably to the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing.

- HB 175 *An act regarding proportional payments of the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Project (MCPAP)*
- SB 284 *An act relative to preventing adolescent substance abuse by expanding SBIRT*
- HB 1804 *An act to protect children's mental health services*

Our two remaining priority bills, HB 789 *An act to increase access to children's mental health*

services in the community and HB 1807 An act relative to health policy commission oversight of insurer transactions are both waiting to be heard in committee by Financial Services and Mental Health & Substance Abuse respectively. For more information about all of CMHC's legislative priorities please visit our [website](#).

A message from Department of Mental Health Commissioner Joan Mikula

Dear friends and colleagues,

I want to share with you some important work around the issues of mental illness, stigma and the power of the language that we use. Recently, Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders joined an eminent panel of experts convened by the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare to talk about the stigma of mental illness and the serious and harmful impact it has on those living with mental health conditions.

Moderated by Carey Goldberg, co-host of WBUR's [CommonHealth](#) blog, Secretary Sudders was joined by Joseph Gold, M.D., Chief Medical Officer at McLean Hospital; Lisa Halpern, Director of Recovery Services at Vinfen; and Steve Rosenfeld, President of the National Alliance on Mental Illness/Massachusetts.

This health policy discussion resulted in a white paper entitled "Overcoming the Stigma of Mental Illness to Ensure Compassionate Care for Patients and Families." Several major themes emerged from this dialogue, themes so critical to our work and our lives that I believe it's important to share this white paper with you.

Among the major ideas that emerged were:

- o The power of language and how the words we use to describe people with mental illness shape our attitudes*
- o The false separation between physical and behavioral healthcare and the often inferior care that people with mental illness receive for medical problems*
- o The harmful effects of stigma in the workplace*

Please [click here](#) to download a copy of the white paper and feel free to share widely. Everyone needs to understand how attitudes about mental illness can be changed for the better. And please visit the Schwartz Center website at <http://www.theschwartzcenter.org/> for more information and materials about compassionate health care.

Thank you.

In case you missed it

The MA Child Psychiatry Access Project (MCPAP) also included a [great article about SBIRT](#) for adolescents in their most recent newsletter!

Coming and Goings

The Campaign wishes Laura Goodman from Health Law Advocates all the best as she embarks on her next professional adventure. We want to thank her for all the great work she has done over the years for advancing kids mental health and especially her work in parity for kids with behavior health conditions. We wish her well in her next endeavor!

We are excited to welcome Corey Fitzgerald to the Campaign team as the newest policy associate at the MSPCC. Corey comes to us with a background in communications and media and will be focusing on the campaign's work on pediatric boarding. You can reach Corey at cfitzgerald@mspcc.org.

Thank you for your support and please don't hesitate to contact me with any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Courtney Chelo
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