"The Moment You Give Hope A Chance, Your Life Starts Again."

- Reverend June Cooper
Thank you to
The Breakout Group Presenters & Facilitators
Our Board of Directors
The Consumer Advocacy Team
The Policy Action Team
Bright Horizons Family Solutions and all the child care volunteers
JaLisa Anderson, the recipient of one of our inspiring leadership awards

And a special thank you to all the attendees, and especially the parents currently experiencing and overcoming homelessness. Visioning Day only works because of your presence and participation.

About Visioning Day
Visioning Day is an annual statewide convening of families, shelter staff, policymakers, and other stakeholders in the movement to end family homelessness. Visioning Day is an interactive event aimed to re-establish a collective vision for increasing housing stability in the Commonwealth. The feedback collected at the event, and synthesized in this report, becomes the blueprint for Homes for Families’ advocacy and programmatic agendas for the year.

About Homes For Families
Homes for Families is a state-wide policy advocacy organization that seeks meaningful engagement of housing-unstable families, families experiencing homelessness, shelter providers, elected officials, and communities as central in the fight to end homelessness. We understand that the best way forward is collaboratively, through family and provider-driven, ground up organizing, advocacy and policymaking. We have a holistic approach of cross educating, grassroots organizing, and lobbying to address the devastating impacts of housing instability on families.

Deputy Director
Nilaya Montalvo

Director of Provider Engagement and Operations
Elizabeth Peck

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Voting For Priorities

Visioning Day 2019 was our largest yet. **Over 350** attendees had the opportunity to complete a ballot to set Homes for Families’ priorities for the upcoming year.

- **122 ballots** were completed.
- **26%** were completed by people who were experiencing homelessness or had previously experienced homelessness.

*Categories highlighted in *blue* were highly prioritized by families who have experienced homelessness.

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**Funding**

- Subsidized housing
- Childcare/early education/after school
- Homelessness prevention (RAFT, TPP)
- HomeBASE/short-term rental assistance
- Employment/training
- Emergency shelter
- Transportation
- Domestic violence programs
- Healthcare
- Asset building/economic mobility
- Out of school activities
- Food/nutrition programs
- Other

- **Has Experienced Homelessness**
- **Hasn't Experienced Homelessness**

*Subsidized housing (e.g. rental vouchers (MRVP), public housing, supportive housing)*

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**Advocacy**

- Access to support services
- Housing access/rules/regulations
- Child care/after school/ school programming
- Shelter access/rules/regulations
- "Cliff effect" (program income caps, time limits)
- HomeBASE access/rules/regulations
- Access to job search, training, and education
- Immigration
- Welfare rules/regulations (TAFDC, SNAP)
- Collaboration across state agencies
- Staff training
- Disabilities/accomodations
- Health care access
- Food/nutrition access
- Other:

- **Has Experienced Homelessness**
- **Hasn't Experienced Homelessness**

*Support Services such as domestic violence, mental health, substance use, counseling, etc.*
To effectively reduce family homelessness and address the contributing factors to housing instability in the Commonwealth, we must:

1. **Improve access to subsidized housing** (e.g. MRVP) and the effectiveness of short term rental assistance (HomeBASE), which sets families up for long term housing stability.

2. **Deepen our attention to children’s issues** including accessible, affordable early education and care; after and out of school time; and practical tools and resources for children within shelter.

3. **Engage in a trauma informed review of the implementation of EA rules and regulations** and increase access to trainings that promote trauma-informed, anti-racist approaches and equitable implementation of policy.

4. **Improve communication and transparency** between state agencies, providers and families for greater equity in implementation of DCF* and shelter system processes.

5. **Increase access to support services** (e.g. related to: domestic violence, health and wellness, substance use, and immigration).

*Department of Children and Families*
Domestic Violence and Safety Planning

Providers and participants engaged in dialogue and shared tips, tools and techniques as well as a nuanced understanding of safety planning 101 and how it intersects with other important issue areas.

Domestic Violence in a Time of Heightened Oppression

This workshop outlined some of what it means for survivors of domestic violence and others from marginalized groups to be safe in the current climate. Much of the discussion was around how programs and shelters can adapt to support survivors with a particular focus on undocumented survivors and survivors of color.

Reclaiming Our Time

This workshop focused on healing through dance. Participants learned basic steps of Afro-Cuban Rumba while connecting resilience, resistance, culture and joy.

Health, Wellness and Access

Representatives from the Department of Public Health and the Department of Mental Health shared what programs are available and how to access them with participants. The discussion explored removing stigma and stereotypes in an effort to promote wellness and truly equal access for everyone.

Teens, Tweens and Self-Esteem

This breakout unpacked some of the challenges and experiences that teens and tweens experiencing homelessness face. Parents, community and providers discussed creating a culture that promotes the joys of youth while navigating the crisis of experiencing homelessness.

Shelter Procurement Workgroup

The Department of Housing and Community Development is in the process of re-contracting with shelter providers. This breakout group was geared toward shelter providers and included discussion on program models and budgeting.

“I am impressed by Visioning Day's influence on state policies.”
-VISIONING DAY PARTICIPANT
We are grateful to our state agency partners who participated in the day, including:

- The Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), in an interview and as the recipient of one of our inspiring leadership awards;
- The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) during opening remarks;
- The Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Department of Public Health (DPH) in a break out group; and
- The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) in the state agency panel.

People being heard by state agencies was my favorite part.

- Visioning Day Participant
Thank you to our CoSponsors!

CITY MISSION

Father Bill’s & MainSpring
NOBODY SHOULD BE HOMELESS

United Way
United Way of Central Massachusetts

CHAPA

DHCD Massachusetts

HORIZONS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

OAK FOUNDATION

Many thanks

Stay Engaged and Help Strengthen Our Voice

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