



# Policy Action Team Description (Sept. 2016)

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**Goal:** The Policy Action Team (PAT) helps strengthen the unified provider voice across Massachusetts through increased coordination between Homes for Families (HFF) and member agencies. The PAT **benefits agencies by** fostering leadership development, peer to peer learning and deepened policy content knowledge among staff.

The Policy Action Team is an opportunity for staff from HFF member agencies who are interested in policy to develop knowledge in policy, advocacy and family engagement. Team members (liaisons) will help increase communication between HFF, its member agencies and families. This, in turn, leads to more effective policy solutions and advocacy wins.

Benefits of the Policy Action Team:

- Professional growth and leadership development for agency staff member(s) including around the larger contextual perspective of family homelessness
- Increased knowledge of advocacy issues and advocacy skills to enhance staff member's and agency's work with families
- Smooth and effective communication of important advocacy information
- Opportunities for HFF staff and PAT members with policy expertise to walk staff through policy advocacy and the budget process
- Greater connection to advocacy that impacts your agency's funding/resources for families

Homes for Families Actions:

- Plan and co-facilitate monthly PAT meetings
- Follow up on action items identified at each meeting
- Provide timely information, materials, fact sheets, and hearing information
- Be available for trainings and shelter visits

Key Liaison Actions:

- Respond to Homes for Families' action alerts: inform agency leadership, and encourage and coordinate the engagement of staff, families, and colleagues to take action
- Share priority issues and promote a unified agenda; communicate and report back to Homes for Families regarding legislative outreach, meetings and events
- Participate in PAT meetings and conference calls
- Ensure agencies are completing surveys and sharing data requested by Homes for Families for advocacy purposes
- Promote and organize participation in Homes for Families events

**Meetings take place the first Thursday of every month from 1-3 pm in HFF's conference room. Meetings may occasionally be conducted via conference call instead of in person.**

*Please contact Liz Peck with questions or if your agency is interested in joining the PAT:*

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