

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to sincerely thank you for taking the time away from your busy schedules to attend our Housing and Benefits Committee meetings.

We enjoyed having you provide positive feedback, announcements, event opportunities, and, most importantly, your personal advocacy and support for the many priorities we have shared with you this past fiscal year.

Our advocacy and efforts affect so many people in Massachusetts, and we especially appreciate your commitment to helping and serving the individuals, unaccompanied youth, elders, people with disabilities, immigrants, children and families who are in desperate need of the supports and resources your organization provides. I look forward to sitting around the table with you this following year, and working together.

Here are the 2017-2018 Housing and Benefits Committee Meeting dates:

September 29, 2017	March 30, 2018
October 27, 2017	April 27, 2018
December 1, 2017 (combined Nov/Dec)	May 25, 2018
January 26, 2018	June 29, 2018
February 23, 2018	July 27, 2018

Meetings are held on Friday mornings 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the Church on the Hill.

If you would like to be a presenter at a meeting in the months to come, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Tina Giarla

Community Organizer
Policy and Advocacy

MA Coalition for the Homeless

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PRESENTATION MATERIALS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

PRESENTATIONS BY:

- [Healthy Start in Housing](#), presented by Patricia Whitworth, Registered Nurse/ Director of Client Services with the Healthy Baby Health Child Program/Boston Public Health Commission.
- [Yes for a Better Boston](#), presented by Kathy Brown of the Boston Tenant Coalition.

OCTOBER 28, 2016

PRESENTATIONS BY:

- [The Growing Cost of Special Business Tax Breaks](#), presented by Mary Tittmann, Director of Outreach at Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center.

NOVEMBER + DECEMBER 2, 2016

PRESENTATIONS BY:

- [2017 Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) changes and McKinney-Vento Guidelines](#), presented by Sarah Slutterback, Homeless Education Specialist at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- [Streamlining Access to Childcare Vouchers for Families Living in Shelter](#), presented by Emily Levine, Director of Policy and Advocacy at Horizons for Homeless Children.

JANUARY 27, 2017

PRESENTATIONS BY:

- [Fiscal Year 2018 Legislative Updates](#), presented by Tina Giarla, Community Organizer and Kelly Turley, Associate Director/Director of Legislative Advocacy at the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless.

FEBRUARY 24, 2017

PRESENTATIONS BY:

- [2014 Boston Housing Court Data Report](#), presented by Kristin Haas, Data and Policy Coordinator from Project Hope, and Vinny Wisniewski, Homelessness Prevention Manager from HomeStart.

MARCH 31, 2017

PRESENTATIONS BY:

- [The Positive Ripple Effect of Affordable Housing](#), presented by Allison Bovell, M.Div, Research, Policy, and Communications Coordinator at Children's HealthWatch.

APRIL 28, 2017

PRESENTATIONS BY:

- [The New England Center and Home for Veterans](#), presented by Christine Pineda, Employment and Outreach Coordinator, Julia Franklin, VTS Outreach Specialist, and Alison McGuirk, SSVF Outreach Specialist.

MAY 26, 2017

PRESENTATIONS BY:

- [PAIR Project - Know Your Rights](#), presented by Eileen F. Morrison, Esq., The Law Office of Eileen Morrison, and Volunteer at the PAIR Project.

JUNE 30, 2017

PRESENTATIONS BY:

- [The Massachusetts Olmstead Plan](#), presented by Linn Torto, Executive Director of the Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness

JULY 28, 2017

PRESENTATIONS BY:

- [Project Hope's Programs](#), presented by Seth Michaelson, Director of Housing and Case Management at Project Hope.
- [SNAP, School Breakfast/Lunch benefits](#), and the [Healthy Incentives Program](#), presented by Roxanne Reddington-Wilde, Community Planner, ABCD, Inc., and Kelly Torosian, MD/MPH candidate at Tufts Medical School, Tisch Fellow, and intern at ABCD, Inc.
- [Overview of the WIC Nutrition Program](#), presented by Jasmine Bengier, Assistant Health and Human Services Coordinator at the Department of Public Health - Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

FY'18 LEGISLATIVE MATERIALS

BILLS

- [House Bill 1129: An Act to establish a bill of rights for people experiencing homelessness](#)
- [House Bill 529: An Act relative to assisting elders in the Commonwealth](#)
- [House Bill 4506, in line item 7004-0101: An Act to change policies that require many families with children to stay in a place "not meant for human habitation"](#)
- [House Bill 84: Homelessness prevention bill to create a rental arrearage for families, individuals, and unaccompanied youth](#)
- [Senate Bill 1906/House Bill 2737 An Act to provide identification to homeless youth and families](#)

BUDGET PRIORITIES

- [Residential Assistance for Families in Transition \(RAFT, line item 7004-9316\)](#)
- [Housing and Services for Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness \(line item 4000-0007\)](#)
- [Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children \(EAEDC, line item 4408-1000\)](#)
- [Emergency Assistance Family Shelters and Services \(EA, line item 7004-0101\)](#)
- [Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program \(MRVP, line item 7004-9024\)](#)
- [Protect Children with a Severely Disabled Parent and Lift the Cap on Kids \(TAFDC, line item 4403-2000\)](#)

FY'18 BUDGET TRACKING AND OUTCOMES

- The Coalition's [budget chart](#), tracking from the initial House 1 budget to the Governor's vetoes.