



MassAdvocates for Children

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

Agenda

- Welcome from Commissioner Toni Wolf
- Workforce Shortages
- DESE Update
- College Options- At the Table with MACEI
 - - Focus on Certificate Programs
- MassHealth Eligibility
- NextGen Careers Update
- Family Partnerships Update
- MOA with DDS

Coordinated Pandemic-Related Transition: Services Provided

Collaborating Agencies:

- **Department of Developmental Services (DDS)**
- **Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB)**
- **Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)**

| External Referral Sources | # of participants | % of participants |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| # of Referrals from DESE | 102 | 24.06% |
| # of DESE Applicants Eligible for NextGen | 90 | 21.23% |
| # of Referrals from MCB | 14 | 3.30% |
| # of MCB Applicants Determined Eligible for NextGen | 14 | 3.30% |
| # of Referrals to/from DTA | 0 | 0.00% |
| # of Referrals to/from DMH | 28 | 6.60% |
| # of Referrals to/from DDS | 92 | 21.70% |
| # of Referrals to/from ACCS | 1 | 0.24% |
| # of Referrals to/from MassHire Career Center | 1 | 0.24% |
| # of Referrals to/from Other Workforce Development Programs | 2 | 0.47% |
| Grand Total (non-exclusive) | 344 | NA |



MassHealth Eligibility

- MRC continues to monitor a weekly list shared by MassHealth of MRC consumers in the process of redetermination
- MRC program staff outreach to the consumers on the list, prioritizing those who are in termination status
- MRC programs work with providers to amplify the message to consumers to pay attention to the "blue" envelope from MassHealth, and get assistance in completing the forms

NextGen Update

- NextGen Careers- 5 -year, federal demonstration grant-currently in Year 3
- Over **400** young adults from across Massachusetts have accessed the program since it opened in October 2022
- Geographic Catchment:
 - 40% of enrollments from the North Region (Lawrence, Lowell)
 - 35% West Region (Springfield, Worcester)
 - 25% South Region (Boston, Braintree)
- NextGen has developed partnerships with 4 Community Colleges, Red River Technology, MGH/Brigham to help young adults explore and identify career paths in STEM related fields.
- About ½ of the current NextGeners have Autism and/or an Intellectual Disability



Family Partnerships

- MRC recruited, hired and onboarded a diverse group of family members to help us infuse and elevate family voice throughout the agency and beyond
- Families put a face to the issues and challenges. Their voices matter. Their lived experience & expertise should always be considered in the decision-making process.
- **Intentional action steps:**
 - Outreach, engagement, partnership
 - Building bridges and strengthening connections
 - Partnering to break down barriers and improve inclusion and access
 - Working on different projects to empower **all** families and equip them with the tools and info they need





Q&A