Disability Task Force Meeting: 10/22/2020

The Disability Task Force (DTF) met on October 22, 2020 via Zoom. The following speakers provided brief policy updates regarding COVID-19 and the disability community:

* Attorney Rick Glassman from Disability Law Center- discussed COVID -19 issues related to infection control, congregate living, hospital visitation, medical rationing, health care issues, accommodations, employment, housing for individuals with disabilities
* Maura Sullivan from the ARC of Massachusetts focused on state budget advocacy and COVID-19 needs identified for the legislature and administration
* Attorney Julia Landau from the Massachusetts Advocates for Children focused on education issues impacting students with disabilities during COVID-19

Presentations are attached.

Thank you to all the DTF organizations who then discussed your organization’s major activities and resources in response to the pandemic. Shared links from the chat include the following:

**Yachad** visit us at yachad.org/events, you can email me at Tillesy@ou.org if you'd like to refer anyone!

**The Arc of Massachusetts** [www.thearcofmass.org/covid19](http://www.thearcofmass.org/covid19)

* lots of career and employment folks here. Gov's budget includes a $2,000 incentive for employment of people with disabilities. email me for more Sullivan@arcmass.org
* [www.thearcofmass.org/advocacy](http://www.thearcofmass.org/advocacy)

**Disability Resource Network** (free information and referral line): 781-693-5640. Information about our other services/supports: <https://www.jfcsboston.org/Our-Services/CHAI-Disability-Services>

**Federation For Children with Special Needs** ( <https://fcsn.org/> )

* 9th Annual Making A Difference Conference <http://wavs46.attendify.io/>
* Family TIES workshops
	+ <https://www.massfamilyties.org/presentation-workshops/>
	+ <https://fcsn.org/mfv/special-health-needs-resources/>

**Waypoint** <https://www.waypointadventure.org/>

**JVS Jewish Vocational Service** - jvs-boston.org - all services being offered remotely

* Connections Program - jlevenson@jvs-boston.org
* Transitions to Work Program - mfleisig@jvs-boston.org

**Exceptional lives** <https://www.exceptionallives.org/>

* Julie.mckinney@exceptionallives.org Please contact us if you want to connect to our Facebook group or have any questions about our resources!

**The Carroll Center for the Blind** marianne.gilmore@carroll.org

**Mass. Advocates COVID Clearing house** <https://www.massadvocates.org/covid-clearinghouse>

**Mass Down syndrome Congress** MDSC is collaborating with the MIT Alana Down Syndrome Center on the New England Down Syndrome Symposium for researchers, medical providers and others on advances in Down syndrome research on November 10th <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-new-england-down-syndrome-symposium-tickets-123074159123>

**Open Door Arts** We invite anyone with adult participants with disabilities looking for arts opportunities to join us on Friday mornings for a drop in art class Open Door Arts does in partnership with the Worcester Art Museum - register here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDs3ZzNntSG9QYIGDE1zz4LDFTOX39MLGZkAkAUiPCympTgA/viewform?usp=sf_link>

**Partners for Youth with Disabilities** PYD's programs and how to apply. All are open enrollment all year round and still welcome intakes! <https://www.pyd.org/programs/>