

## Brief Overview:

### *Covid-19, State and Federal Updates for Persons with IDD and Autism*

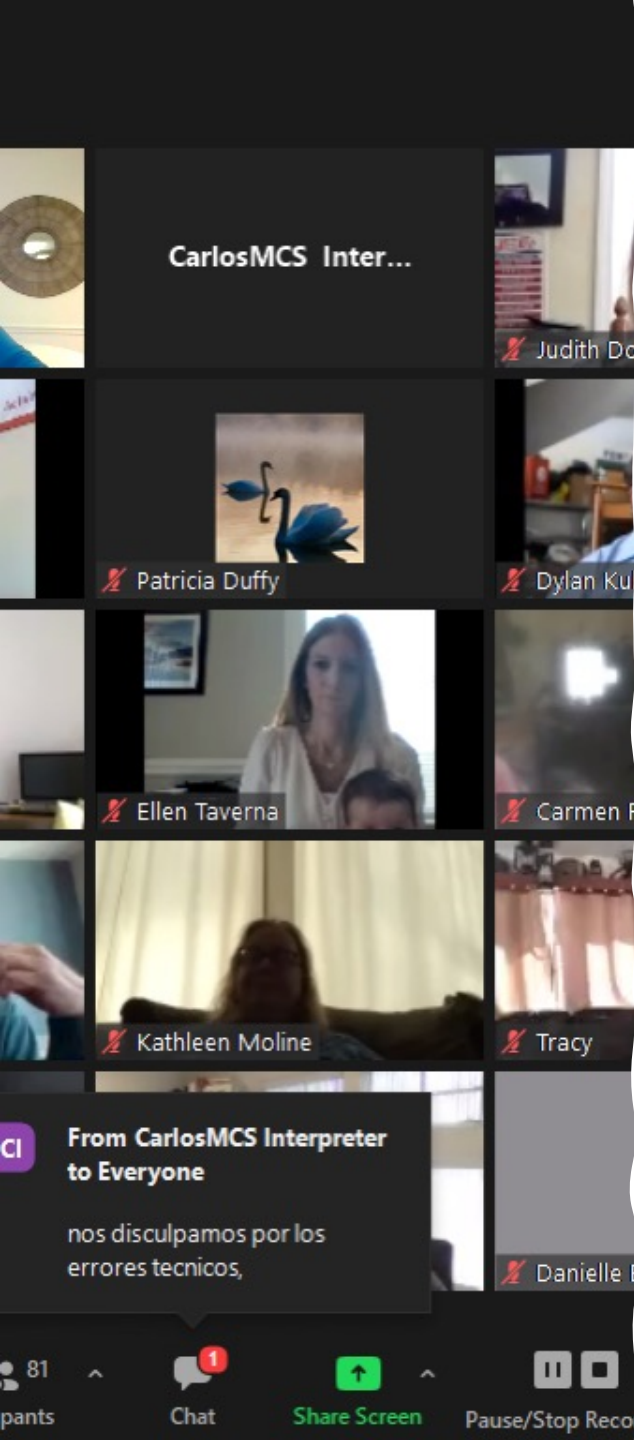
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The Arc of Mass 6/10/21



# Goals for today



- Vaccine update IDD Community
- Review of the DDS Budget: in Conference Committee
- Update on Nicky's Law Implementation: July 31<sup>st</sup>
- American Rescue Plan for MA Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)
- The latest disability related news from the Biden/Harris administration
- Committee hearings on legislation begin
- Discussion



# Covid-19 update

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- New Cases: hovering in the 100-200
- Total Confirmed Cases: 662,154 as of 6/7
- Total Deaths: 17,911
- Full Vaccinations: 3,835,277
- Home vaccine option expands eligibility
- IDD community awaits guidance

## More good news

- Virus activity in congregate care homes decreased by 7 persons to 37 persons. State ops dropped by 1 case to 9 while provider homes have 28 cases –less than 5 deaths reported.
- One state facility reported less than 5 cases. As of this report, we have these #s for catching virus by setting: 49% for the facilities; community state–op at 27.5% & private at 21.7%.
- Schools and private special ed schools

# Positive budget - now in Conference Committee

\$220M for the DDS Community Day and Work

\$84.9M for DDS to support Respite and Family Services.

\$79.9M to fully fund Turning 22

\$36.6M for specialized services for Adults with Autism.

\$27.1M for DDS Transportation services

\$7.9M for the Disabled Persons Protection Commission

\$387.9 million for Inclusive educational opportunities Special Education Circuit Breaker.

\$2M for grants offered through the Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative

\$1 million to enhance employment opportunities for young adults with disabilities.

\$500,000 for supportive technology and remote services for individuals.

\$500,000 for DCF quality assurance improvements in light of the David Almond tragedy



Budget amendment passes through both chambers for continued appropriations

- **On target for implementation on July 31, 2021**
- **Must pass legislation to align statute and regulations for successful implementation**
- **Public hearing on regulation with commentary from The Arc and DLC**

- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** provides a one-year 10% increase in federal matching for HCBS funds (projected \$420 million for MA)
  - MA will submit its initial Spending Plan to CMS by June 12<sup>th</sup>, which will focus on immediate wage enhancement
  - [MA strategy for supporting HCBS using ARPA funding](#) (posted May 28<sup>th</sup>)
  - The funding from the one-year 10% increase can be spent until March 31, 2024.
  - [The Arc of MA HCBS Factsheet](#)
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- Office of Management and Budget (OMB) RFI - [seeking comments](#) to assess whether agency policies and actions equitably serve all eligible individuals and communities (e.g., disability community)
  - [White House factsheet](#) - Biden-Harris Administration Efforts to Support Full Participation and Equality for People with Disabilities
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## Getting ready for hearings

- Have you contacted your legislators on bills that are important to you?
- Platform is growing, check it out here:
  - [www.thearcofmass.org/advocacy/bills](http://www.thearcofmass.org/advocacy/bills)

# Discussion

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[www.thearcofmass.org](http://www.thearcofmass.org)

