

- DCF undertakes an independent external review



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## Recognizing All-Stars Foster and Adoptive Parents: National Foster Care Month

Throughout the month of May, DCF will be hosting a number of events in honor of National Foster Care Month.

**On Tuesday, May 5th**, at 10:00 am, please join DCF to recognize the contribution of foster parents who nurture and care for more than 10,000 children in the Commonwealth. Come hear about their experiences and learn more about the foster care system.

Speakers will include: Secretary JudyAnn Bigby, Executive Office of Health and Human Services; DCF Foster Parent, Real Admiral Richard Gurnon, USMS; DCF Former Foster Youth Anthony Barrows; Marylou Sudders, President and CEO, Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC); Cheryl Haddad, President of Massachusetts Alliance for Families (MAFF); and Commissioner Angelo McClain.

**On Sunday, May 17th** DCF and MSPCC will be hosting the 24th Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Brunch in Framingham. Commissioner McClain, Marylou Sudders, and Cheryl Haddad, will provide remarks. [ [top](#) ]



## Celebrating DCF Youth Achievement

**On Sunday, May 3rd**, DCF and Jordan's Furniture will celebrate DCF youth graduates from the Class of 2009. The event will be held at the Jordan's store in Reading, MA and will include a fun filled evening of dinner, games and desert ending with an awards program to acknowledge the great achievements of these youth. To date, we have 595 confirmed youth who will be graduating.

- 25 youth with a Bachelors Degree
- 9 youth with Associates Degrees
- 21 youth with post-secondary vocational training certificates
- 436 youth with high school diplomas
- 104 with a GED

Please look for complete graduation and performance data in our next newsletter. [ [top](#) ]

## MA Chosen as one of Seven States to Participate in National Governors Association (NGA) Workshop

Commissioner McClain and Maureen Messeder, Director, Adolescent Services, DCF will travel to Washington, D.C. on Thursday, May 14th along with EOHHS Deputy Assistant Secretary Kathleen Betts, and DCF Youth Keshia Morall for the National Governors' Association Learning Network Workshop on Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care. Massachusetts was chosen as one of seven states across the country to participate in this series of on-going discussions on youth transitioning out of care. [ [top](#) ]

## DCF to Participate in NGA Webcast

At the conclusion of the Learning Network Workshop on youth transitioning from foster care, Commissioner McClain and Maureen Messeder will participate in a webcast hosted by the NGA entitled: Building Supportive Pathways for Older Youth. The webcast will be held on Friday, May 15th from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET.

This is the third webcast hosted by the NGA related to the Fostering Connections Act. The Fostering Connections Act includes several provisions that provide opportunities for states to build supportive pathways for older youth in and transitioning out of care.

This webcast will highlight Massachusetts and Connecticut for having developed a strategic

approach to implementing the Fostering Connections Act to support youth. Both Massachusetts and Connecticut have long standing programs already in place that support older youth and align with the Fostering Connections Act. Commissioner McClain and Maureen Messeder will be sharing their expertise and experience alongside: Donna Cambria, Superintendent of Schools, Connecticut Department of Children and Families and Brett Rayford, Bureau Chief, Connecticut Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Adolescent and Transitional Services. To view this webcast go to: <http://www.nga.org/webcast>

There is no registration required. Viewers will be able to email in questions during the live event, and the webcast recording will be archived on the NGA website for future viewing. [ [top](#) ]

## Increased Funding for Summer Jobs for Youth

The Workforce Investment Agencies (WIA) across the state including the Career Centers have received additional funding from federal stimulus money for summer jobs for youth. Each local WIA agency will be reaching out to DCF area offices for referrals of youth in need of summer jobs. The WIA will also consider funding summer job placements for youth in the care of EOHHS agencies including DCF. If you or your staff can offer one or more of our foster youth a summer position for 25 – 30 hours per week, contact Maureen Messeder at: [Maureen.Messeder@state.ma.us](mailto:Maureen.Messeder@state.ma.us) [ [top](#) ]

## DCF Kids Fund Receives \$159k Donation

An early supporter of the DCF Kids Fund, Jane Swift recently donated the remainder of her campaign funds – about \$159,000 to the Kids Fund. The money will provide children in our care everything from car seats and clothes to piano lessons and SAT training. While she was Governor and gave birth to twin girls, Governor Swift received an outpouring of gifts and goodwill from friends, acquaintances and strangers around the nation. Governor Swift set aside nearly 400 presents of baby booties, onesies, blankets and bibs, and donated all of these to the DCF Kids Fund which at the time, was the single largest gift of items the Kids Fund had received. This latest gift to the DCF Kids Fund demonstrates her continued devotion to the children we serve. [ [top](#) ]

# Announcements

- **Carmen Pineda-Colon Receives Dean's Leadership Award**

Carmen Pineda-Colon from the DCF Lynn Area Office has been selected to receive the Dean's Leadership Award for part-time study for the academic year 2009 – 2010 at Simmons College School of Social Work. This award is given to an Urban Leadership applicant who has demonstrated leadership in and on-going commitment to social work in the urban setting. Congratulations, Carmen!

- **Pat Pumphret Receives CVS Cares Award**

Pat Pumphret, one of DCF's foster parents in the Medical Residence Foster Home program has been awarded the "CVS Cares" award. Pat is a national finalist and one of ten people from across the country that will be traveling to New York this weekend for the awards ceremony, 'For All The Ways That You Care Contest.' Pat was nominated by Charity Bell of MSPCC. Congratulations, Pat!

- **Mary Ellen Bennard Appointed to APHSA Board of Directors**

We are pleased to announce that Mary Ellen Bernard, Chief Information Office, DCF has recently been appointed to the Board of Directors for the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) as a Member At-Large. Congratulations, Mary Ellen!

- **DCF Celebrates Our Nurses**

The week of May 6th through May 12th is celebrated as National Nurses' Week. The Department of Children and Family Nurses on the Health and Medical Services Team are committed to the healthcare needs of our children and provide an extremely valuable service to our staff, children and families. Under the excellent leadership of Mary Lutz, our team of nurses include: Florence Kelley, Chris Gaudette, Carminda Jimenez, Katie Heravi, Mary Anne MacKusick, Terri Susi and Mary Zamorski; and our two Nurse Liaisons at Children's Hospital, Debby Sorentino and Karen Walsh. Thank you to our nurses for their contributions and commitment to their work!

- **Grandparents Commission Begins Work**

On Monday, May 4th, Commissioner McClain and Executive Office of Elders Affairs Interim Secretary Shea-Delaney will be hosting the first meeting of the Governor's Committee on the Status of Grandparent's. Please look for information about this meeting in our next newsletter. [ [top](#) ]

## Contact Information

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