

Department of Children and Families Adolescent Services Unit

Provides supportive services to adolescents in out-of-home placements to assist them in developing the life skills and permanent connections with caring, committed adults that will assist them transition successfully from agency care and lead healthy, productive lives within the community.

PAYA – Preparing Adolescents for Young Adulthood

Life skills curriculum designed to assist youth in building concrete skills and relationships needed to function as an adult. PAYA is based on the premise that all youth need at least one connection to a permanent, caring adult along with life skills to be successful. DCF social workers, outreach workers, foster parents, and contract providers assist youth in locating, building, and maintaining relationships with caring adults and aid them in learning about money management, personal care, job seeking, parenting, healthy relationships, housing, and other essentials through community based, real-life experiences.

Youth Mentoring Program

Offers youth an opportunity to enter into a mentoring relationship with a responsible and caring adult. The mentors provide guidance, encouragement, support, and positive role modeling and community connections to help youth succeed in their transitions into adulthood.

Youth Employment – Internship Program

DCF works with community partners to help youth gain employment experience. Assist youth in identifying career interests and internship placements that will provide career building experience. DCF has partnered with state agencies and private companies to match youth to summer employment opportunities.

Life Skills Support Program

Provides Funds for youth ages 14-21 in placement to support their independent living preparatory needs, such as bus passes, SAT fees, athletic uniforms, sports fees, senior class expenses, etc.

THE WAVE

DCF youth newsletter written by and for agency youth. It is published quarterly and includes articles, poems, artwork, resource information, etc. Youth share their experiences, observations, suggestions, challenges and achievements with others who may benefit. *THE WAVE* is also an effective means of informing youth of the many youth sponsored activities in which they can participate, i.e. Peer Support Groups, Higher Education Fairs, Employment and Mentoring Programs.

Massachusetts Department of Children and Families - Adolescent Outreach Program

Provides intensive, individualized life skills assessment and training to youth in out-of-home placement to prepare them to cope with the challenges of adulthood and lead productive lives within the community following agency discharge. The model allows for a highly individualized approach and accommodates youth with a variety of clinical issues and cognitive functions. Each full-time Outreach Worker carries 15 cases and meets weekly with each youth. Following discharge from the program, youth receive aftercare services for 6 months. Outreach staff maintain contact with youth to monitor their functioning in the community and to provide support, as needed, to maintain youth's self-sufficiency. Former foster care youth who left agency care at age 18 or older are also eligible for Outreach services.

NAME	Title	Office	Number
Maureen Fallon Messeder	Director	Central Office	617-748-2231
Michelle Banks	Supervisor	Central Office	617-748-2430
Lisa Ciullo	Supervisor	Central Office	617-748-2421
Timothy O'Brien	ETV Social Worker	Central Office	617-748-2309
Kristen Quinlan	ETV Social Worker	Central Office	617-748-2204
Kathy Martin	Program Coordinator	Central Office	617-748-2232
Jillian Bulger	Outreach Worker	Dimock St./ Hyde Park	617-989-2830
Stephanie Burke	Supervisor	Lowell Office	978-275-6921
Amy Chenette	Outreach Worker	Coastal/Arlington	781-682-0903
Mark Cronin	Outreach Worker	Holyoke Office	413-493-7615
Bernadette Cruz	Outreach Worker	Springfield Area	413-452-3270
Christine Fraiton	Outreach Worker	Cape & Islands	508-760-0311
Heather Gates	Outreach Worker	Greenfield Office	413-261-6104
Madlynn Haber	Supervisor	Northampton Office	413-585-8071
Dawn Holdsworth	Supervisor	Lawrence Office	978-557-2572
Susan Howard	Resource Coordinator	Southeast Region	508-760-0232
Jennifer Hubbard	Outreach Worker	Salern/Lynn	978-825-3918
Lynne Lopez	Outreach Worker	Haverhill Office	978-469-8874
Nicole Marchand	Outreach Worker	New Bedford	508-910-1118
Karen Montana	Outreach Worker	Lawrence/Lynn	781-641-8584
Mercy Morgan	Outreach Worker	South Central Office	508-234-1011
Cheryl Penney	Outreach Worker	Fall River Area Office	508-235-9934
Francesca Rogato	Outreach Worker	Malden/Chelsea Offices	781-388-7189
Kelly Roy	Outreach Worker	Lowell/ Framingham	978-275-6824
Melinda St. Pierre	Outreach Worker	Park St. Office	617-822-4767
Eyema Sutton	Outreach Worker	Brocton Office	508-894-3902
Eryn Tobin	Outreach Worker	Van Wart	413-205-0644

Discharge Support Program

Provides financial and Outreach support to youth discharging from DCF at or after age 18 who are not returning home or adopted, including money toward first and last months' rent, security deposit, initial utilities charges, as well as support with budgeting, home management, employment, etc.

Youth Advisory Board

Provides a medium for DCF youth to voice their ideas/recommendations to the administration on issues facing youth served by the agency. There are five Regional Advisory Boards; representatives from each region sit on the Central Office Advisory Board, representing their peers from across the state.