



MASSACHUSETTS ADVOCATES STANDING STRONG

IT'S A NEW WORLD AND YOUR IDEAS COUNT!

THE 23ND ANNUAL MASS
SELF-ADVOCACY CONFERENCE



Feb 19 - Feb 24, Online via Zoom
10:30 AM to 3:30 PM



www.WeAreMASS.org/annual-conference

THANKS TO OUR GROW SPONSOR!

Beaverbrook STEP, Inc.



85 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Watertown, MA 02472 (617) 926-1113
www.beaverbrookstep.org



"Your Ideas Count"

Explore your abilities



Congratulations to Mass Advocates Standing Strong

Annual Statewide Self Advocacy Conference - 23 YEARS STRONG

February 19, 2022 through February 24, 2022

Since 1973 Beaverbrook STEP has been dedicated to providing progressive residential, day and support services to adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In addition, we are committed to strengthening relationships among individuals, families and communities. We welcome your participation in our work.

THANKS TO OUR GROW SPONSOR! ²



Advocates is proud to support Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong!

*Thank you for empowering individuals
to become stronger self-advocates.*

Advocates champions people who face developmental, mental health, or other life challenges. We partner with individuals and families to shape creative solutions to even the greatest obstacles.

First, we listen. Then, together, we do what it takes to help people thrive.



WELCOME



Welcome Message from MASS Chairperson Al Milne and Statewide Coordinator Brian Kremer

Hello and welcome to Your Ideas Count! The 23rd Annual MASS Self-Advocacy Conference. We're delighted to have you here. We have three great days ahead of us, starting with today. We'll be hearing from keynote speaker Max Barrows, have a Q&A with DDS Commissioner Jane Ryder, watch two groups lead workshops, see self-advocates and supporters receive awards, and have an exciting raffle for those who attend the full day. Thank you for coming and have fun!

THANKS TO OUR BUILD SPONSOR! 4



VINFEN IS PROUD TO SUPPORT MASSACHUSETTS ADVOCATES STANDING STRONG (MASS)

Together, we share in a vision where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are fully empowered to make choices that improve and enrich their lives.

Vinfen transforms lives by building the capacity of individuals, families, organizations, and communities to learn, thrive, and achieve their goals. Our services and advocacy promote the recovery, resiliency, habilitation, and self-determination of the people we serve. As a human services leader, we strive to be the provider, employer, and partner of choice.

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One Person at a Time



Road to Responsibility is proud to support the mission of MASS

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1831 Ocean Street, Marshfield, MA 02050



HAVE YOU SEEN THE MASS FLASH?

Not Yet?

What is it?

The MASS FLASH is the monthly MASS Self-Advocacy Newsletter that will keep you in the know regarding what self-advocates are doing. Learn about regional events, legislative action, and read monthly self-advocate stories (the next one could be you!), and stay up to date on all MASS happenings.



Kamisha Heriveaux, our amazing Mass Flash Editor and Self-Advocate Content Expert, will keep you in the know. She is always looking for great stories, so if you have a story about self-advocacy or any suggestions, she would love to hear from you!

Contact her at kamisha@wearemass.org and submit a story to share in a future MASS Flash.

<https://www.wearemass.org/mass-flash>

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Max Barrows

Max Barrows is Outreach Director for Green Mountain Self-Advocates, a position he has held since 2007. He mentors youth and adults with developmental disabilities to speak up for themselves and become leaders. GMSA is a lead partner of the Self-Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC). Max leads SARTAC's technical assistance team assisting local and state self-advocacy organizations across the nation. Max connects with people on all levels advocating for true-inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. In his work, he advances the message that when you meet an individual with a disability, presume competence. He received a White House Champions of Change award for this work in 2015 and Champion of Equal Opportunity award from the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities in 2019. Max is an accomplished self-advocate from Vermont who served as a board member for Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered from 2008 to 2016. On a personal level, Max has a very high interest in extreme weather and he likes to watch college and professional sports.

HONORED GUEST SPEAKER

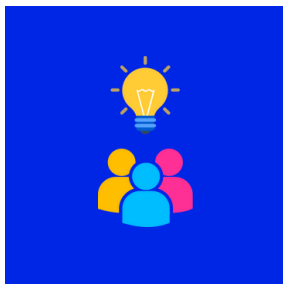


We are excited to welcome the commissioner to our conference again this year to take questions during the opening Question and Answer (Q&A) session on Saturday, Feb. 19th!

Commissioner Jane F. Ryder

Jane Ryder was named Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS) in January of 2018, and has worked for DDS since 1995. She was key in the implementation of DDS priorities including waiver enrollment, promotion of shared living and self-direction, and improvement of consistency in practice across the state.

“Jane has spent much of her career advocating on behalf of individuals with disabilities for equality, empowerment and independence,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Our administration is committed to providing meaningful supports and training opportunities to help every individual with a disability fully integrate in their communities...”



OPENING DAY - MORNING SATURDAY FEB 19

- 10:30 AM-11:00 AM** **Welcome and Announcements from the
MASS Board and Staff**
MASS Chairperson, Albert Milne,
Statewide Coordinator, Brian Kremer
- 11:00 AM-11:45 AM** **Keynote Speaker - Max Barrows**
- 11:45 AM-12:15 PM** **Q&A with DDS Commissioner
Jane F. Ryder**
- 12:15 PM-12:30pm** **The Gunnar Dybwad Supporter Award
Presented by Commissioner Jane F.
Ryder**
Gunnar was a tireless advocate. He is
known for his work in disability
advocacy, including advocating for
complete integration and providing every
self-advocate with access to their
communities.



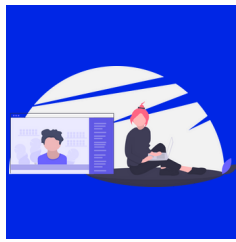
OPENING DAY - MORNING SATURDAY FEB 19

12:30 PM - 1:15 PM **Everyone enjoy a lunch break!**

1:15 PM - 1:45 PM **We Can Be Leaders: So Can You!!!**
Presenters - Francesco Hladysz,
Samantha Wood, Tim Holmes

1:45 PM - 1:55 PM **The Judith "Judi" Rodger Mentorship
Award**

In memory of MASS co-founder Judi Rodger, we have created the Judi Rodger Mentorship Award. Judi worked as hard for others as she did to advocate for herself.



OPENING DAY - AFTERNOON SATURDAY FEB 19

1:55 PM - 2:05 PM

The Janet Laperle Encouragement Award

The Janet Laperle Encouragement Award was established in 2021 in memory of Janet Laperle, a fierce self-advocate and friend. Janet was loved by many because she was genuinely interested in helping people advocate and reach their goals. She was a friend to anyone and everyone.

2:05 PM - 2:10 PM

Break

2:10 PM - 2:55 PM

MASS: Stories From Our History

Presenters - Anne Fracht, Sandra Houghton, Melissa Probst, Colleen Ryan, Barbara Pandolfi



OPENING DAY - AFTERNOON SATURDAY FEB 19

2:55 PM - 3:10 PM

The Nancy Maynard Leadership Award

Nancy was known for her strong advocacy and relentless efforts to secure services for the individuals living at home with aging parents. She served a number of years on DDS's North Shore Area Office's Advisory Board and spoke regularly to the students at North Shore Community College.

3:10 PM - 3:20 PM

The John Gibbons Rainbow Group of the Year Award

The John Gibbons Rainbow Group of the Year Award is a new award honoring John Gibbons. His career was dedicated to working and advocating for adults with developmental disabilities.



OPENING DAY - AFTERNOON SATURDAY FEB 19

3:20 PM - 3:30 PM

The Alfred "Big Al" Daigle LGBTQ+ Community Support Award

The Alfred "Big Al" Daigle LGBTQ+ Community Support is a new award honoring Alfred "Big Al" Daigle. Al was a great supporter who made sure the members of his Rainbow Support Group could go to LGBTQ+ events. Before Big Al passed away, he gave Pauline Bosma a Rainbow bracelet to show his support for her groups.

3:30 PM

Opening Day Raffle Items - All full day attendees will be entered into a free raffle drawing for really exciting prizes such as a signed football by Patriots Captain Matthew Slater, free museum passes, and other gift cards.

THANKS TO OUR DEVELOP SPONSORS!¹⁴



www.bridgewell.org

Thank You to Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong

You provide the leadership that empowers our self-advocates to create their futures!

Bridgewell strengthens communities by providing an unmatched range of social and human services that empower people with life challenges to live safe, self-directed and productive lives.

Bridgewell delivers support through community housing, day programs, outpatient treatment, recovery services, education and employment training.

Pictured Above: Bridgewell Advocates at recent self advocacy conferences.



Bay Cove's Developmental Services programs offer individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities a continuum of supports that includes residential, educational, social connection and employment options. Our programs are designed to help foster each person's independence, wellness, and full participation in all aspects of life.

Learn more about our services and programs at www.baycovehumanservices.org

Bay Cove Human Services is proud to support Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong, and your annual conference.

Thank you for all you do each day to give individuals the education, the tools and the confidence to advocate for themselves and let their voices be heard!



BAY COVE
HUMAN SERVICES

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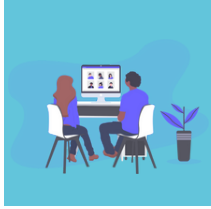
Delta Projects



DISABILITY LAW CENTER, INC.

The Disability Law Center proudly supports
Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong
in its mission to empower self-advocates through
education to make informed choices to improve and
enrich the lives of people with disabilities.

www.dlc-ma.org | 617-723-8455 | mail@dlc-ma.org



11:00 AM-11:30 AM

How to Use Zoom; How to Access the MASS Website

Presenters - Francesco Hladysz, Brian Kremer

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Let's Talk About Sex!

Presenters - Pauline Bosma, Oscar Hughes, Jenn Rioux

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Everyone enjoy a lunch break!

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

How DPPC Helps People with Disabilities

Presenters - Leigh-Ann Barry, Jennefer Raymond

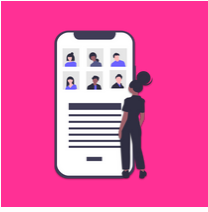
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Friendship Matters!: Tools and tips from self-advocates on building and maintaining friendships

Presenters - Sam Paster, Jonathan Spiller, Norma Laureano, Rachel Hayward, Meg Gaydos, Lucky Garcia

3:30 PM

Raffle for Attendees - People that attended all the workshops for today will be entered into a free raffle drawing for really exciting prizes. Stay tuned for information on the raffle prizes!



THURSDAY, FEB 24

17

11:00 AM-11:30 AM

How to Use Zoom; How to Access the MASS Website

Presenters - Francesco Hladysz, Brian Kremer

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Mass Rights For Change: Survivor Support; We're Here To Help

Presenters - John Mullaly, Inger Riley, Kelsey Worline, Pauline Bosma, Brian Kelly, Heidi Sue LaBoeuf, Jenn Rioux, Sue Moriarty

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Everyone enjoy a lunch break!

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Overview of Supported Decision Making and the SDM Task Force

Presenters - Austin Carr, Anne Fracht, Kim Plaut, Hezzy Smith

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Self-Advocacy Impact Lab

Presenters - Amber Pettell, Steven Tobey, Genna Lewis, Kat Stone, Irene Morrison, Francesco Hladysz, Donna Jay, Sarah Binney, Brian Kremer

3:30 PM

Raffle for Attendees - People that attended all the workshops for today will be entered into a free raffle drawing for really exciting prizes. Stay tuned for information on the raffle prizes!

**THANKS TO OUR
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Self-Advocacy is Essential

The Arc of Plymouth
and Upper Cape
Cod is proud to
support the 23rd
Annual "Your Ideas
Count!"
Self-Advocacy
Conference



The Arc of Plymouth and Upper Cape Cod

Since 1966, our organization has been growing to meet the needs of people with disabilities and their families throughout Greater Plymouth, Upper Cape Cod, and surrounding Southeastern MA communities.

The Arc is recognized as a leading service innovator, offering services that are individualized, flexible, and self-directed in nature.

Support Services Include:

- Adult Family Care
- Brain Injury Services and Supports
- Day Services
- Employment Support
- Family Resources and Guidance
- Individual Home Support
- Self-Directed Services
- Shared Living

Visit www.PlymouthCapeArc.org
for more information on services.

**The Arc of Plymouth and Upper Cape Cod empowers
and supports people with disabilities and their families to
belong, contribute and thrive.**

52 Armstrong Road, Plymouth, MA 02360 • (508) 732-9292 • www.plymouthcapearc.org

SELF-ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP SERIES (SALS)



MASS is now offering the Self-Advocacy Leadership Series (SALS)!

SALS is an eight-class series that focuses on the fundamentals of leadership! All trainings are currently online and are offered to groups only.

All classes are peer-led with technical support from MASS Staff.

If you would like to learn more, you can go to our website <https://www.wearemass.org/self-advocacy-leadership-series-sals> or email kelsey.oates@wearemass.org!

Self-Advocacy in The Regions

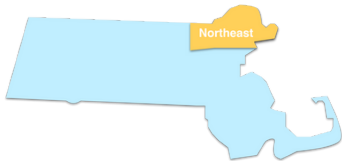
Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Regional Group Meetings

MASS organizes regional meetings and groups throughout the state. Groups of self-advocates work together advocating on issues such as employment, human rights, self-direction, supported decision-making, and more. We are available to help you start your own self-advocacy group, where you can learn about your rights, speak up, and advocate to make your ideas count!



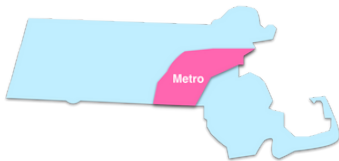
March 8, 3:30pm - 5:30pm

Contact: Sue Moriarty, Central Regional Coordinator



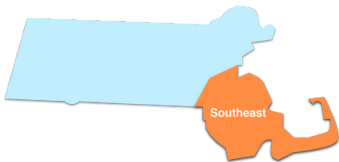
March 9, 4pm - 5:30pm

Contact: Bridget Crowley, Northeast Regional Coordinator



March 17, 6pm - 7:30pm

Contact: Valerie Horn, Metro Regional Coordinator



March 24, 6pm - 7:30pm

Contact: Sarah Binney, Southeast Regional Coordinator



March 23, 5:30pm - 7:30pm


Self Advocacy Impact Lab

<https://www.wearemass.org/events/self-advocacy-impact-lab>




<https://www.wearemass.org/events>

THANKS TO OUR DEVELOP SPONSOR!



The Arc
Greater Haverhill-Newburyport



The Passing of the Torch

The Arc is proud to support MASS

The voice of self-advocates grow stronger and louder every day and every year. They are the new movers and shakers. They are role models and they lead.

WORKSHOPS



We Can Be Leaders: So Can You!!!

In this workshop, we will be showing our video stories about becoming leaders and talk about what we learned from doing our Leadership Summit and how we also came to learn about leadership summit committee members in other regions. We will show how we were able to expand our advocacy and show we can work together as a team to make one big, beautiful project!

Presenters - Francesco Hladysz, Samantha Wood, Tim Holmes

Organization - MASS

WORKSHOPS



MASS: Stories from our History

This workshop will bring together leaders and supporters who got MASS off the ground to preserve our history. The format will include stories as well as questions and answers to highlight our mission and our growth. We'll also share pictures and historic documents.

Presenters - Anne Fracht, Sandra Houghton, Melissa Probst, Colleen Ryan, Barbara Pandolfi
Organization - MASS



Zoom How to Use Zoom; How to Access the MASS Website

In this workshop, we will show you how to use Zoom. We will also show you the MASS website and how to find what you are looking for.

Presenters - Francesco Hladysz, Brian Kremer



Let's Talk About Sex!

In this workshop, we will talk about safe and healthy relationships. We will give an introduction to dating, talking to your partner, using consent, and having safe sex.

Presenters - Oscar Hughes, Pauline Bosma, Jenn Rioux
Organization - MASS

WORKSHOPS



How DPPC Helps People with Disabilities

The Disabled Persons Protections Commission's (DPPC) mission is to protect adults with disabilities from abuse. This training, designed specifically for persons served, describes how the agency works toward this mission through reporting and investigations. Co-presented with a DPPC Sexual Assault Response- Peer Support Leader, this presentation provides an overview introduction of the different DPPC units that are a part of the investigation process.

Presenters - Leigh-Ann Barry, Jennefer Raymond

Organization - DPPC (Disabled Persons Protection Committee)



Friendship Matters!: Tools and tips from self-advocates on building and maintaining friendships

This workshop explores the very important topic of friendship. Friendship makes us happier, healthier, and safer, and every single one of us needs and deserves it! Workshop participants will discuss what makes a friend and why friendship is important, and will also learn some methods for making friends, and for overcoming challenges to building friendship.

Presenters - Sam Paster, Jonathan Spiller, Norma Laureano, Rachel Hayward, Meg Gaydos, Lucky Garcia

Organization - The Arc of MA

WORKSHOPS



Mass Rights For Change: Survivor Support; We're Here To Help

In this workshop, we will be presenting the Mass Rights for Change (MRfC) team and the Survivor Support Packet (SSP) as an example of our work. We will highlight the need for people to support survivors of sexual violence. We will also highlight the need for self care, and practice self care during the workshop. We will show people how to use the SSP and where to find self-care videos on the MASS website. A Pathways for Change counselor will be available if people need to talk with someone.

Presenters - John Mullaly, Inger Riley, Kelsey Worline, Pauline Bosma, Brian Kelly, Heidi Sue LaBoeuf, Jenn Rioux, Eliza Corderman, Sue Moriarty

Organization - MASS, Pathways for Change and Victim's Rights Law Center



Overview of Supported Decision Making and the SDM Task Force

The MASS Supported Decision Making Task Force will host a workshop about the creation of the SDM Task Force and the value of Supported Decision Making (SDM). There will be different topics covered during the workshop including: the difference between guardianship and supported decision making and creating a form for supported decision making agreements.

Presenters - Austin Carr, Anne Fracht, Kim Plaut and Hezzy Smith

WORKSHOPS



Self-Advocacy Impact Lab

Massachusetts West Region Self Advocacy in partnership with Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong is excited to introduce Self Advocacy Impact Lab, a hands-on intensive experience in which self advocates can learn and experience the power of social change communication by creating change from the ground up. Participants will have a chance to engage in a discussion and start learning some of the unique strategies and tools that this group will use to create meaningful campaigns for change.

Bring your ideas and be ready to learn!

Presenters - Amber Pettell, Steven Tobey, Genna Lewis, Kat Stone, Irene Morrison, Francesco Hladysz, Donna Jay, Sarah Binney, and Brian Kremer

Organization - Western Mass Training Consortium and MASS

Reminder:

March 23, 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Self Advocacy Impact Lab

<https://www.wearemass.org/events/self-advocacy-impact-lab>

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*Your
Ideas
Count!*

CONGRATULATIONS ON A
GREAT CONFERENCE!

FROM ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS
AT SUNSHINE VILLAGE



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The Guild
FOR HUMAN SERVICES



Educating, encouraging, and empowering people with intellectual disabilities since 1952

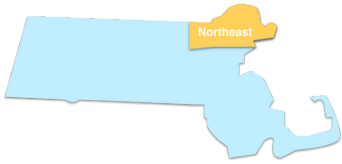
The Guild for Human Services offers a continuum of services for youth and adults with intellectual disabilities, including autism, and behavioral/mental health challenges. The Guild is committed to offering services that are strengths-based, trauma-informed and outcomes-oriented.



@GuildHumanServices

Learn more at
GuildHumanServices.org





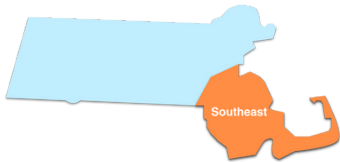
Northeast

Sandra Jones - Treasurer
Steven Comeau
Therese LaPorte



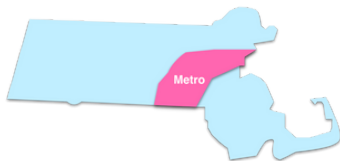
Central

Karen Kent - Vice Chair
Jillian Berube - Secretary
Francesco Hladysz
Jackie Dulmaine
Samantha Wood



Southeast

Albert Milne - Chairperson
George Brown
Thom Fulginiti
Brenda Rankin
Ashley Quick



Metro

Anne Fracht
Kim Plaut - 2nd Vice Chair
Joe O'Connell
Matthew Bander



West

Steven Tobey
Bill Hurley

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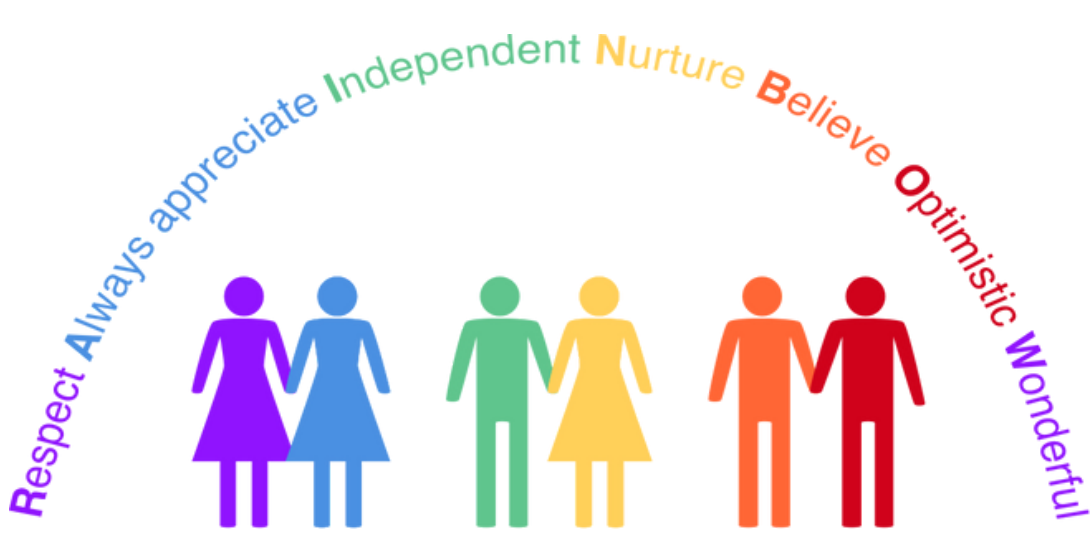
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The Guild for Human Services

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HMEA
Work, Inc



The Rainbow Support Groups are for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning their gender or sexuality and for friends and supporters. We are a supportive and open group to help people meet others and talk about gender and sexuality topics

Anyone is welcome at our online Rainbow Support Group. The online group meets the second Wednesday and last Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm Eastern Time. Our next meetings are February 22nd and March 9th. Come to this Zoom link to check out the online Rainbow Group: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84122253807>

You can also go to our website for information about other Rainbow Groups in MA: <https://www.wearemass.org/rainbow-group>

If you have any questions or want to start your own Rainbow Group, contact Pauline Bosma Rainbow Support Group Coordinator at 508-944-5797 or pauline@wearemass.org or contact Oscar Hughes Rainbow Group Support at 857-262-0481 or oscar.hughes@wearemass.org.



<https://www.wearemass.org/rainbow-group>



Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong

PO Box 560100
Medford, MA 02156

info@wearemass.org

Al Milne, Chairperson

Email: chairperson@wearemass.org

Brian Kremer, Statewide Coordinator

Email: brian.kremer@wearemass.org | Phone: (857) 225-6841

Grant Yosenick, Operations Coordinator

Email: grant.yosenick@wearemass.org | Phone: (857) 360-0134

Kelsey Oates, Trainings and Communications Manager

Email: kelsey.oates@wearemass.org

Kamisha Heriveaux, Self-Advocate Content Expert

Email: kamisha@wearemass.org | Phone: (781) 960-3233

Deb Lloyd, Project Coordinator

Email: deb.lloyd@wearemass.org | Phone: (802) 343-2013

Bridget Crowley, Lead Regional & Northeast Coordinator

Email: bridget@wearemass.org | Phone: (781) 789-4274

Sue Moriarty, Central Regional Coordinator

Email: sue@wearemass.org | Phone: (508) 209-7184

Valerie Horn, Metro Regional Coordinator

Email: valerie.horn@wearemass.org | Phone (Text-Only): (339) 2832-2922 | Phone (Call Only): (617) 440-773

Sarah Binney, Southeast Regional Coordinator

Email: sarah.binney@wearemass.org | Phone: (857) 360-0183

Pauline Bosma, Rainbow Support Group Coordinator

Email: pauline@wearemass.org | Phone: (508) 944-5797

Oscar Hughes, Rainbow Group Support

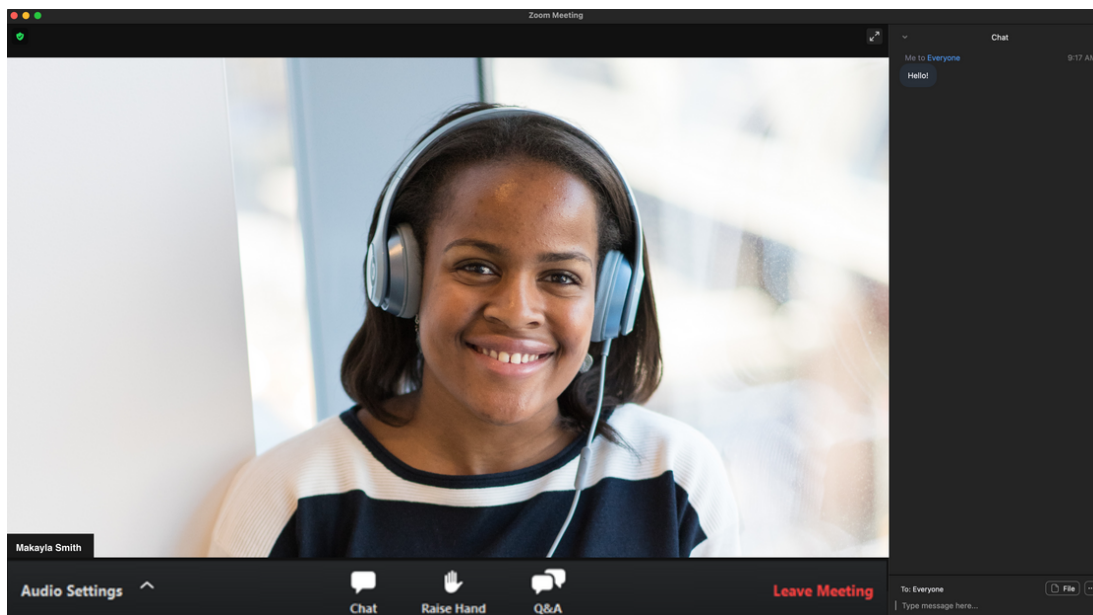
Email: oscar.hughes@wearemass.org | Phone: (857) 262-0481



Click on the "Chat" icon
to open the chat box.



Click on the "Q&A" icon
to ask your questions.



The chat box is where you can send a message to the panelists. **Please use the 'Q&A' icon when asking your questions.**



Chat



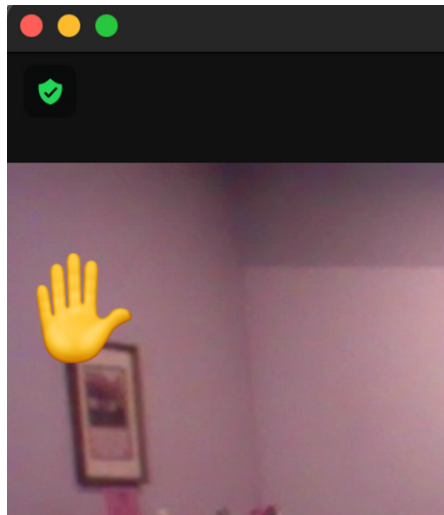
Raise Hand



Q&A



Click on “Raise Hand” so the host will see that you have your hand raised. We will call on some attendees at the end of each presentation to ask their questions live via audio and/or video.



Your host will see that you are raising your hand by seeing a small icon next to your name.