

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Executive Office of Health and Human Services
 Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
 Fort Point Place
 27 Wormwood Street
 Boston, MA 02210-1616
 Consumer Involvement Program*

DEVAL L. PATRICK
 GOVERNOR

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 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Dr. JUDYANN BIGBY
 SECRETARY

CHARLES CARR
 COMMISSIONER

1 (800) 245-6543
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September 22, 2010

Dear ADA Coordinator:

The Consumer Involvement Program (CI) is an integral part of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC). As our name indicates we are one of the outreach instruments of the MRC. We recently developed a proposal to address the need to reform the MRC regional consumer advisory councils.

The reorganization of the regional advisory council infrastructure will result in the formation of a District Consumer Advocacy Council (DCAC), where community resources and information will be elevated to a key area of strategic focus involving the MRC Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

There will be three District Consumer Advocacy Councils, North, South and West. Each District Consumer Advocacy Council is recommended to start with a membership composed of MRC successfully closed consumers, Independent Living Center staff, community based disability advocates, representatives of municipal disability offices and/or commissions and any other resources who are interested in the quality of life for people with disabilities.

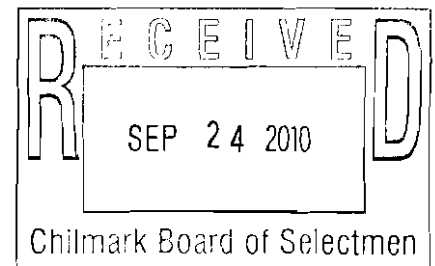
The initial solicitation of Council members will be by application which is attached to this letter of introduction. I am requesting your recommendation and participation in the DCAC council. Your recommendation will be given priority. The Council will meet quarterly.

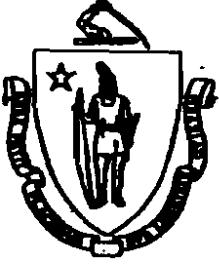
The office of the Consumer Involvement Program ensures the DCAC serves the MRC with its full assets. We encourage you to share this information with community-based organizations and town disability commissions that may be interested in this new public engagement model.

If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to reach me at (617) 204-3665 or email at consumer.involvement@mrc.state.ma.us

Sincerely,


 Emeka Nwokeji
 Director of Consumer Involvement





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District Consumer Advocacy Council Membership Application Form 2010

I recommend:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Employment Title: _____

Educational Qualifications: _____

Please check your preferred District:

- North District South District West District

Supporting Documents Required:

- Resume
- Other

Signature of Nominating Authority

Date

**Please return to: Eneta Nwokafor, Director
 MRC Consumer Involvement
 27 Wormwood St. Suite 600
 Boston, MA 02210
 Fax 617-204-3665 or e-mail consumer.involvement@mrc.state.us**

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) District Consumer Advocacy Council Fact Sheet



The foundation of the commitment to consumer involvement at the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) is the belief that people with disabilities have life experiences and expertise that are valuable resources in the development of agency policy and the solution of problems relative to the service objectives of MRC.

The MRC public engagement strategy is an innovative approach to public vocational rehabilitation (VR) program services. It is designed to create new partnerships between the community resources and Community Living Services through the District Consumer Advocacy Council to address comprehensive community rehabilitation concerns for people with disabilities.

We strive to promote stronger collaborations within and across our divisions and advance the use of regional resources and measures to enrich the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission's (MRC) regional base.

Public engagement is recognized as the primary foundation and practice in the development of partnerships in the regions or municipalities in our VR districts.

The Consumer Involvement (CI) program is strengthening its focus on regional activities and efforts that significantly support consumer involvement pathways through empowerment and choice.

The CI program is moving beyond the problem solving approach to design community advocacy avenues based on assets, capabilities and potential. This will demonstrate the effectiveness of our VR districts presence with results based on the management of community resources.

These proven approaches are increasingly being used in the regions, focusing on new ways to partner towards employment, housing, transportation, social security benefits, Home Care Assistance Services, Personal Care Assistance, community resource sharing and management of programs that assist people with disabilities.

We live in a complex world that calls us to think and act in new ways in order to work together for social change for a healthier, more just and resilient planet and people. Organization needs challenge us to ask ourselves important questions.

- Are we willing to collaborate across sectors, culture and demographics in order to create potential solutions to our most pressing problems?
- How can we work to shift power relationships so that we can imagine new ways of using information and regional resources?
- Are we prepared to co-create and share knowledge in new and useful ways?

We ask you to join our public engagement and District Consumer Advocacy Council by contacting Ms. Lisa Weber CI Program coordinator at 617-204-3665, fax 617-204-3885 or e-mail consumer.involvement@mrc.state.ma.us

MRC-VR

SOUTH DISTRICT CATCHMENT

Abington, Acushnet, Aquinnah, Assonet, Attleboro, Avon, Back Bay
Barnstable, Beacon Hill, Berkley, Boston, Bourne, Braintree, Brewster
Bridgewater, Brockton, Buzzards Bay, Canton, Carver, Cataumet
Centerville, Charlestown, Chatham, Chelsea, Chilmark, Chilton
Cohasset, Cotuit, Dartmouth, Dedham, Dennis, Dennisport, Dighton
Dorchester, Duxbury, East Boston, East Bridgewater
East Freetown, East Sandwich, Eastham, Easton, Edgartown
Fairhaven, Fall River, Falmouth, Forestdale, Foxboro, Freetown
Gay Head, Gosnold, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Harwich, Hingham
Holbrook, Hull, Hyde Park, Kingston, Lakeville, Mansfield, Marion,
Marshfield, Mashpee, Mattapan, Mattapoisett, Middleboro, Milton,
Monument Beach, Nantucket, New Bedford, North Attleboro, North
Dorchester, Norton, Norwell, Norwood, Oak Bluffs, Onset, Orleans,
Osterville, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Provincetown, Quincy,
Randolph, Raynham, Rehoboth, Revere, Rochester, Rockland,
Roxbury, Sandwich, Scituate, Seekonk, Sharon, Somerset, South
Boston, South End, Stoughton, Swansea, Taunton, Tisbury, Truro,
Walpole, Wareham, Wellfleet, West Bridgewater, West End, West
Tisbury, West Roxbury, Westport, Weymouth, Whitman, Winthrop,
Yarmouth