

**From:** June Ameen <[junedameen13@gmail.com](mailto:junedameen13@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 2:26 PM  
**To:** "Mossaides, Maria (OCA)" <[maria.mossaides@state.ma.us](mailto:maria.mossaides@state.ma.us)>  
**Cc:** Jane Lyons <[jane@friendsofchildreninc.org](mailto:jane@friendsofchildreninc.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: DCF Placement Concerns

Dear Director Mossaides,

We are surprised and dismayed by your response.

Our intention in reaching out to you, the Commonwealth's Child Advocate, was to share what we, as child/young adult service providers and statewide child advocates, have been hearing and with the understanding that you would very much want us to share this information and our concern with you as you have often stated that you want people to reach out to you/your office directly with concerns. We reached out to you with the expectation that our OCA would inform and help us to understand the problem, as well as the Commonwealth's response, to ensure the system is not further harming the children it says it is protecting.

You indicated you were aware of all the placement challenges and briefed key legislators and committee members on the actions that have been taken. Hopefully you will be sharing that information broadly, including when the problem rose to your attention, what the trend is and has been and for how long, what actions you are recommending, and how they are working. We know that you have stated your commitment to transparency and ask that you share this information publicly.

As an organization that has been working in this field for 31 years, we of course do understand the myriad reasons why there is a placement crisis right now. We also are aware that the cyclical nature of these issues, and the compounding factors that have been intensifying for the last two years, gave your office a considerable amount of time to plan for and predict these challenges and we would like to understand how you feel the system is responding to those challenges and the impact of that response on children, youth, and young adults.

We appreciate your offer regarding individual cases; however, we are concerned that this appears to be a systemic issue now.

We have reached out to the DCF Commissioner for data and information and we are also in touch with the Chairs of the Joint Committee who are committed to keeping us informed on the information and process they are part of to address these concerns.

We understand that there may be other advocates, agencies, etc., requesting information from your office. If this is the emergency that we think it is, perhaps a score card or fact sheet on your website could update all of us as to what is going on and how we all might help.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is anything we can do to assist the OCA.

Jane Lyons, Executive Director  
June Ameen, Policy Director