

Christine's + Kathe's comments and shared resources

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Please send them your number and email if you would like to join to protest in any way

Resources shared in the chat:

- 'We Have Essentially Turned a Blind Eye to Our Own Children for Decades' Why we need to stop politicizing children's mental health, Washington Post <https://wapo.st/3lvp8l0>
- Excellent Podcast: While We Wait: Get On Board - The Mental Health Boarding Crisis <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hp20220225.566766/>
- For parents to see: Bed availability - Look at Mental Health Services - find provider opening. <https://www.mabhaccess.com/SearchResults.aspx> This is where you can see that there is most often not a single bed available in 300 miles.
- Capturing Crisis: real time charts: https://www.mhalink.org/MHA/IssuesAdvocacy/State/Behavioral_Health_Boarding/MHA/IssuesAndAdvocacy/Capturing_a_Crisis_MHAs_Weekly_Behavioral_Health_Boarding_Reports.aspx?hkey=40f7493a-e25b-4a28-9cda-d7de41e622d2
- Advocate for this to be updated. It is from 2021. 05.24.2021 The ED Boarding Crisis Boarding: An Ongoing Crisis <https://www.mhalink.org/MHA/MyMHA/Communications/MondayReportItems/Content/2021/05-24/MR-20210524.aspx>

Kathe's additional comments + ideas about advocacy:

- Additional IDEAS for Advocacy:
 1. File 51As on ED's for neglect.
 2. ADVOCATE strongly NOW for the opening of the 42 beds in Somerville.
 3. Spotlight how the Expedited Form "After a patient has been boarding for 60 hours, the case is escalated to the state Department of Mental Health, which has to try to locate a bed." This is not at all effective and is a farce.
- One study found that in Massachusetts, compared to other states in the nation, adults who were seeking psychiatric care waited 3x longer and were 20x more likely to stay at least 24 hours in the emergency department. There are currently NO beds available in 300 miles for children needing acute psychiatric care.
- CAN'T WE HOLD Gov. Baker accountable?? July 2021, the Baker administration announced a plan to use \$31 million in federal relief funds for temporary supplemental payments to recruit new behavioral health staff. The state also provided financial incentives to help add an additional 248 psychiatric beds over this last year. I think only 17 have been opened. Do we know that number for sure?
- Kathe just started a document right now, if there are any of you that would like to brainstorm about advocacy and creative ideas. Unofficially a chance to collect ideas. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pmJAsl6P6KMHGVb4QLPEJjoC_u-zN_dCMNoQVZ1_Rfs/edit?usp=s_haring