



Parent/Professional  
Advocacy League

# The Inside Track

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*Pamela Bows*



Parent/Professional Advocacy League Training

7/25/2023

# Welcome to the Inside Track



- Confidentiality
- Bi-monthly meeting focused on policy, updates and networking
- Knowledge is power– and impact
- PPAL believes that families should have access to all information that affects them, and be able to provide feedback
- You will get a link to the slides and resources within the week



Funded by the Klarman Family Foundation

# Housekeeping



- Please introduce yourself in the chat – name and role (parent, family support) and where you're from



- Please keep yourself on mute - unless you are speaking - to reduce background noise



- Use the 'raise hand' or chat to let us know when you'd like to speak



- Please type questions into the chat box

# Agenda

- New IEP Implementation
- CRA Bill
- Interactive JDAI Data Dashboard
- Credible Messenger Strategist Position
- Summer Activities
- UPS Strike
- Accessible Summer Activities
- Behavioral Health Pediatric Integration
- Behavioral Health Terms Dictionary
- Bills with the Children's Mental Health Campaign
- Networking + Resource Sharing

# Question Of The Month



## Question of the Month

### PPAL's June Question of the Month

How was school this year?

[Want to answer for more than one child?](#)

How was school for your child this year from an academic perspective?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Totally Acceptable | <input type="radio"/> Mostly Unacceptable  |
| <input type="radio"/> Mostly Acceptable  | <input type="radio"/> Totally Unacceptable |

How was school for your child this year from a social, emotional or mental health perspective?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Totally Acceptable | <input type="radio"/> Mostly Unacceptable  |
| <input type="radio"/> Mostly Acceptable  | <input type="radio"/> Totally Unacceptable |

How would you rate/describe the support school gave to you, as the caregiver of a child with mental health needs?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Totally Acceptable | <input type="radio"/> Mostly Unacceptable  |
| <input type="radio"/> Mostly Acceptable  | <input type="radio"/> Totally Unacceptable |

How old is your child?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Elementary (K-5) | <input type="radio"/> High School (9-12) |
| <input type="radio"/> Middle (6-8)     | <input type="radio"/> Young Adult        |

If you need help from PPAL right now, request family support [here](#) or call us toll free at (866) 815-8122.



<https://ppal.net/question-of-the-month/>

**SUBMIT**

# DESE

## *New IEP Implementation*

**It is expected that schools and districts will begin using the new forms in either fall of 2023 or the fall of 2024.**

- DESE is holding meetings for professionals to learn how DESE envisions the new IEP.
- PPAL is excited about some changes on the IEP:
  - child-focused
  - bullying section
  - need-specific questions, including autism and communication
  - community and interagency connections
  - decision making options for students
  - transition plans and strategies for independent living skills
- <https://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/ImproveIEP/iep-form/>

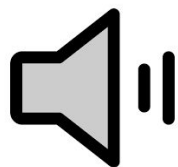
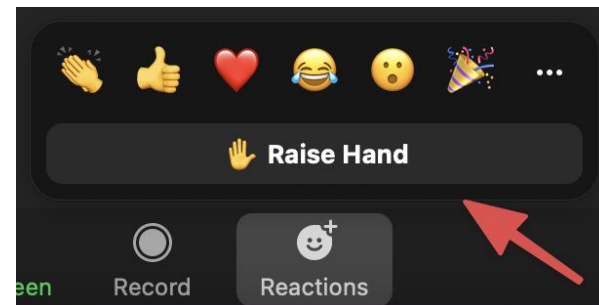


# Discussion:

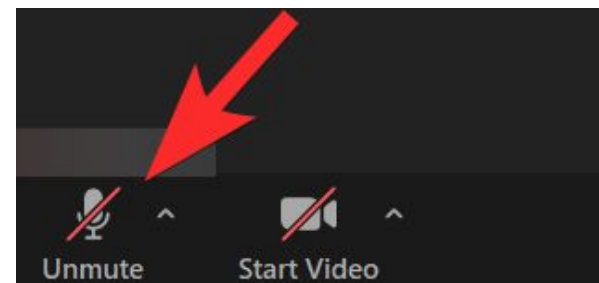
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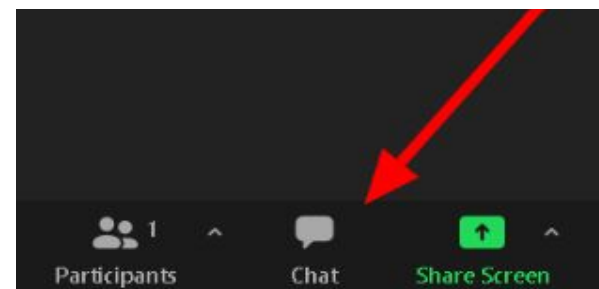
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Type questions into the chat box



# Juvenile Justice

## *S 101 / H 134 - An Act regarding families and children in need of assistance*

Sen. Kennedy and Rep. Blais

This bill proposes changes to the Commonwealth's Child Requiring Assistance (CRA) system, with the goal of ensuring that youth and families who are in need of support are better able to access it without needing to go through a lengthy and potentially harmful court process.

- Court involvement is unnecessary in many cases
- Court involvement can be harmful to children and families
- There are significant disparities in which youth are subjects of a CRA petition
- Barriers to accessing services outside the court process push families to the CRA system
- **Bill Features:**
- Expands the role and function of Family Resource Centers (FRCs) to support more children and families outside of the court process
- Changes the Juvenile Court CRA filing process to ensure the court is a true "last resort"
- Raises the lower age of Juvenile Court jurisdiction for CRA filings to 12 years old
- Fact sheet:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/8ffb27a6001/8226c313-1464-4437-b2ed-94ebaa52c3df.pdf>



# Juvenile Justice

## *Interactive JDAI Data Dashboard*

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/measuring-equity-in-juvenile-detentions>

- The goal of the Dashboard is to bring JDAI collaborators, system stakeholders, and members of the public up to date accurate data about detention trends across the Commonwealth.
- The Dashboard is interactive and allows users to filter and compare the data across a number of categories, including race, age, and county.
- Training on how to navigate the data dashboard will be offered by JDAI in the fall.

# Juvenile Justice



## *Credible Messenger Strategist*

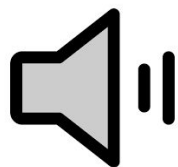
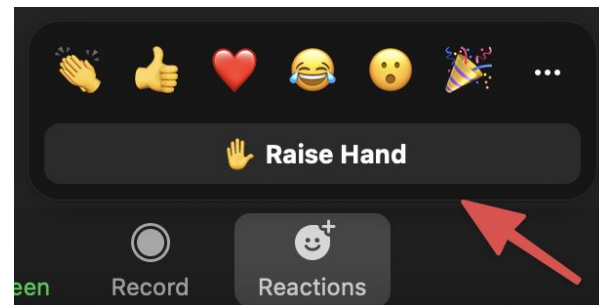
- DYS is hiring for a new position called Credible Messenger Strategists.
- They are looking for folks with recent lived system experience to help inform their work and use their personal experience to make an impact.
- The link to the posting can be found here:  
[https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=2300073J&tz=GMT-04%3A00&tzname=America%2FNew\\_York](https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=2300073J&tz=GMT-04%3A00&tzname=America%2FNew_York)

# Discussion:

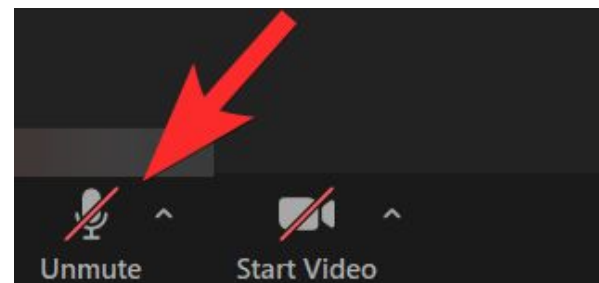
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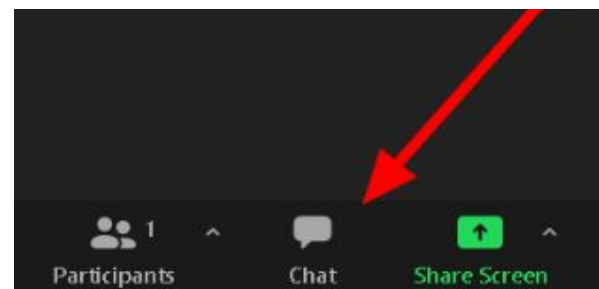
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Type questions into the chat box



## *Medical Deliveries & potential upcoming UPS strike*

- UPS drivers Strike at the end of the month will impact supply chains and all UPS deliveries, *including medical deliveries*
- DCF workers have been instructed to help families navigate this potential issue **prior** to the strike.
- This affects medical deliveries that are not related to DCF as well.
- Consider the following:
- Do you get prescriptions, medical supplies, medical equipment, or other important goods delivered to their home or business?
- Are you expecting an important document, benefit card, check, etc.?
- What can be done to help families?
- Workers can ensure families have a supply of any necessary goods, including prescriptions and medical supplies, on hand. They can help contact your prescriber to problem solve any anticipated shortage.
- If you are dependent on deliveries that typically come to their home or business, workers will help make a “Plan B” in the event of any interruption of deliveries.
- Workers have been directed to use this week to make a plan to avoid any shortages of necessary goods and supplies

**If you're worried about your medical deliveries, reach out to your supports ASAP and ask how they can help!**

# Summer Resources

## *Accessible Summer Activities (via FCSN)*

### Playgrounds and Camps

- [A Guide to All-Inclusive Playgrounds in Massachusetts](#)
- [Boston Parents Paper: Camps & Summer Programs](#)
- [Let Kids Play!](#)

### Athletic Activities

- [South Shore Special Needs Athletic Partnership](#)
- [Adaptive Recreational Programs and Events](#)

### Programs

- [Boston Children's Museum Morningstar Access Program](#)
- [Discovery Museum Accessibility & Inclusion](#)
- [Find Things to do with Kids](#)
- [The Friendship Project Facebook](#)

### Theater and Arts

- [Partners for Youth with Disabilities – Theater Arts](#)
- [Open Door Theater](#)
- [My Way Matinee](#)
- [AMC Sensory Friendly Films](#)
- [Arts Education Programs for People with Disabilities](#)

### Water Activities

- [Accessible Beaches](#)
- [New Accessible Beach Wheelchairs Available at Arlington Reservoir Beach](#)
- [Accessible Pools and Spray Decks](#)
- [Community Boating – Universal Access Program](#)
- [Piers Park Sailing Center](#)

### Parks

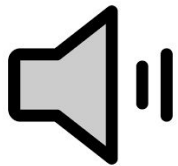
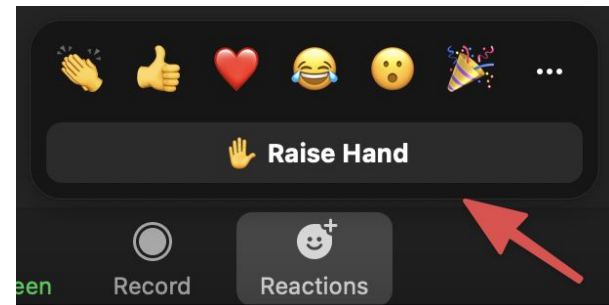
- [Accessible Trails](#)
- [U.S. Forest Service – Free Lifetime Access Pass](#)
- [Increasing Access to Yosemite National Park's Junior Ranger Program](#)
- [Learn More About Look Park](#)
- [The Zoo in Forest Park](#)
- [Forest Park Forest](#)
- [Guardians of the Seeds](#)

# Discussion:

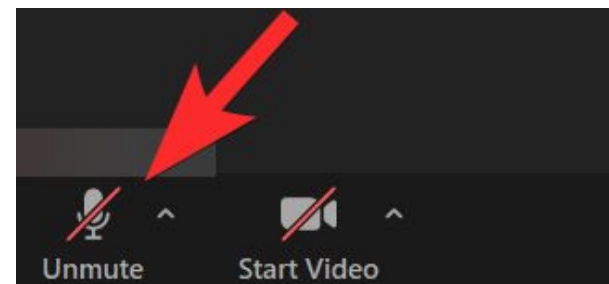
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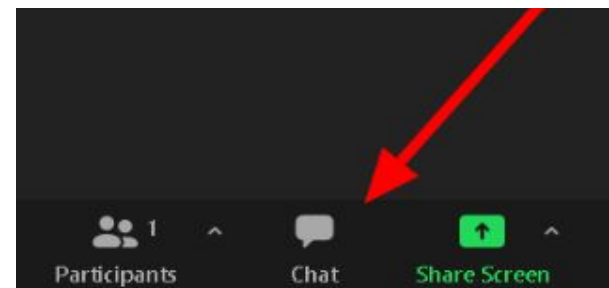
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Type questions into the chat box



# Pediatricians and Mental Health Care

*Did you know that youth under 21 who are covered by MassHealth can have 6 behavioral health visits with their pediatrician before a diagnosis?*

- Pediatricians are a straightforward way for children to be seen and evaluated for common behavioral health needs.
- More and more professionals are recognizing that mental/behavioral health care is just as important as physical health care.
- Importantly, integrating behavioral health into regular primary care checkups improves mental healthcare by challenging stigma, creating awareness, and increasing access.

## **More Information:**

learn more on page 19 of PPAL's July Newsletter!

[https://issuu.com/ppalforfamilies/docs/july\\_2023\\_ppal\\_pathfinder\\_1\\_fr=sNWU2NjYwNDcyNzg](https://issuu.com/ppalforfamilies/docs/july_2023_ppal_pathfinder_1_fr=sNWU2NjYwNDcyNzg)

# MCPAP

## (The Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Program)

### *Connecting Primary Care with Child Psychiatry*

- MCPAP supports the integration of behavioral and physical health.
- The goal of MCPAP is to improve access to treatment for children with behavioral health needs and their families by making child psychiatry services accessible to primary care providers across Massachusetts.
- The Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Program (MCPAP) is a system of regional children's behavioral health consultation teams designed to help primary care providers and their practices to promote and manage the behavioral health of their pediatric patients as a fundamental component of overall health and wellness.
- MCPAP has specific programs for ASD/ID, substance use, and new mothers.
- <https://www.mcpap.com/>

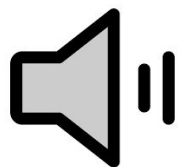
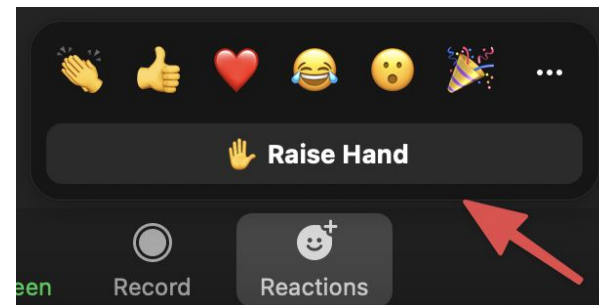


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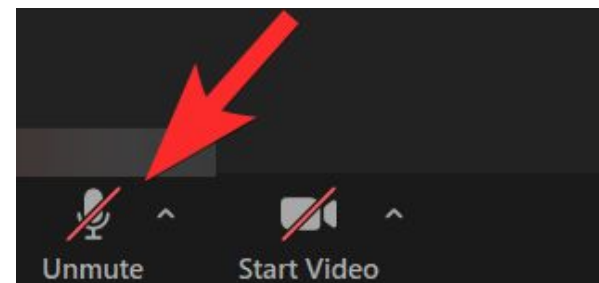
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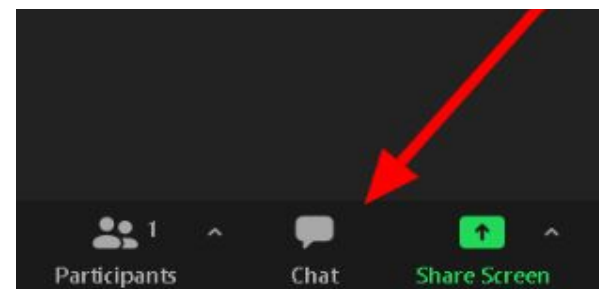
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# *A Dictionary of Massachusetts Children's Behavioral Health Terms*

- <https://files.constantcontact.com/8ffb27a6001/a200b6da-d3f2-4857-95db-bb08127569cd.pdf>

To clarify and demystify the vocabulary of child-serving systems in Massachusetts.



**A Dictionary of Massachusetts Children's Behavioral  
Health Terms**

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# *Behavioral Health Help Line (BHHL)*

- 24/7/365
- completely free (no insurance needed)
- directly connects individuals and families to qualified professionals for mental health and substance use services:
  - clinical assessments
  - personalized treatment referrals
  - crisis services
  - substance use treatments

**Call or text 833-773-2445 (BHHL)**  
**Start a chat at [masshelpline.com/chat](https://masshelpline.com/chat).**

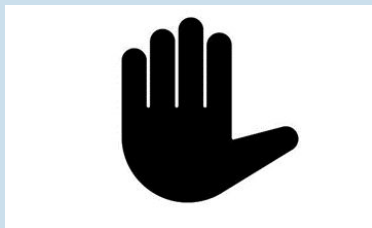


## **BY PHONE:**

Call or text the Behavioral Health Help Line **833-773-2445** to connect with a trained professional who will:

- ✓ Help you access mental health or addiction treatment.
- ✓ Stay on the line until you are connected to treatment services.
- ✓ Provide help in over 200 languages.

## **Have you called the BHHL?**



**How did it go?**

Families have generally been finding BHHL helpful!

## **PPAL wants to know:**

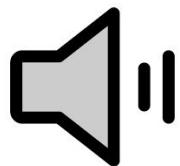
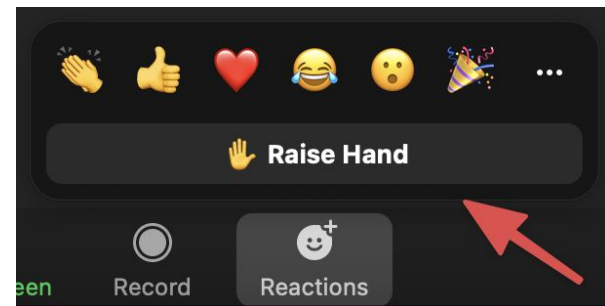
- have you called in different language?
- did offered resources work?
- BHHL warm hand off/ given introduction

# Discussion:

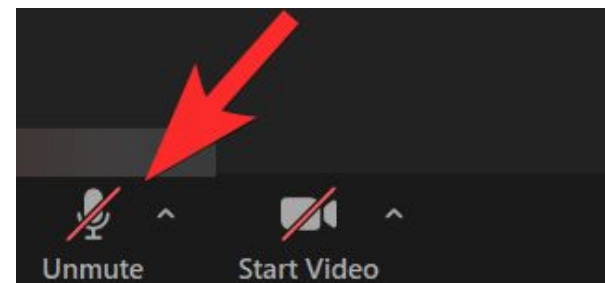
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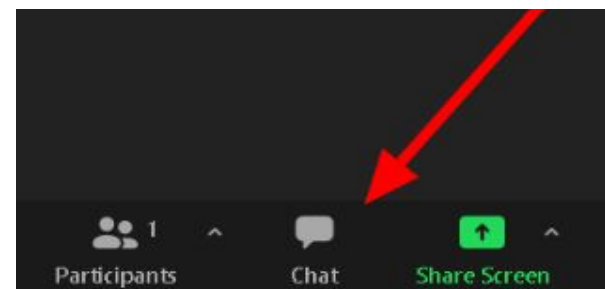
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# Upcoming MA Legislation

## *Children's Mental Health Campaign Bills*

- *An Act relative to the promotion of mental health education*
- [H.497](#) / [S.240](#)
- *referred to the Joint Committee on Education*
- Requires all K-12 public and charter schools to provide mental health education as standalone class or utilizing cross-curriculum approach

# Upcoming MA Legislation

## *Children's Mental Health Campaign Bills*

- *An Act establishing a child and adolescent behavioral health implementation coordinating council*
- [H.1979](#)
- Creates permanent School Based Behavioral Health Advisory Board + Multi-Tiered System of Support Implementation
- This means supporting schools and teachers to be able to support and teach our kids.

# Upcoming MA Legislation

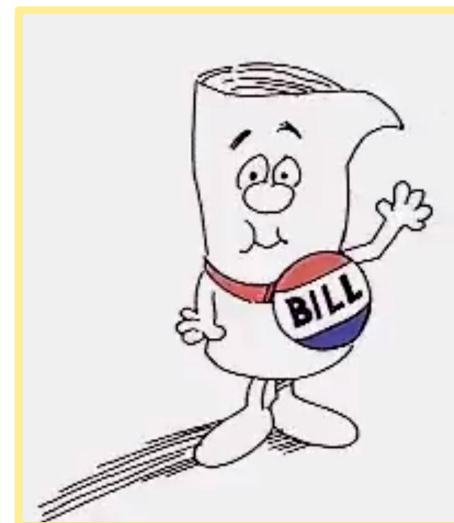
## *Children's Mental Health Campaign Bills*

- *Medicaid reimbursement back to LEA*
- [S.794 / H.1194](#)
- *referred to Health Care Financing committee*
- Redirects school medicaid reimbursement away from municipality and back to the LEA to support school health services

# What Can I Do?

## *Learn More About Children's Mental Health Advocacy and Legislation!*

- Contact your State Senator and Representative
  - look up yours here: <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>
  - Ask them to support the bills that are important to you and your family
  - Are they already supporting it? Thank them for their support– a reminder that it is important!
  - Legislators don't need hundreds of requests to support bills– just a few from their community let them know how important it is. Your voice really makes a difference in local issues!
- Learn more about issues that are important to you!
  - Stay Informed: subscribe to organizations who report out on legislative updates!
- Learn how the Massachusetts Legislature works!
  - <https://www.masslegalservices.org/content/legislative-process-massachusetts-0>



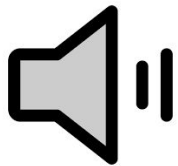
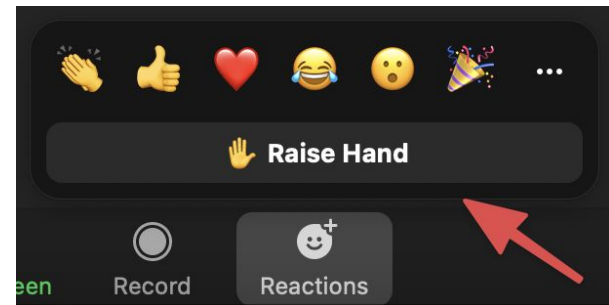


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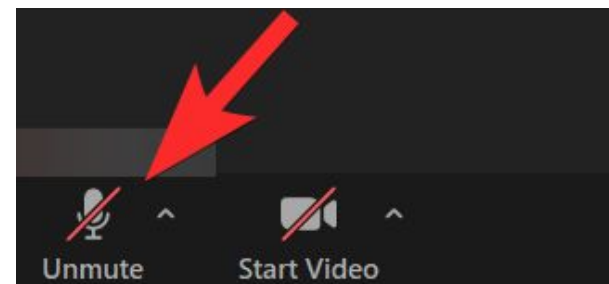
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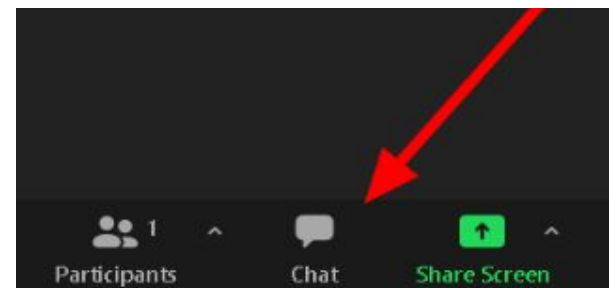
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# Networking—

Do you have

**Resources**

**Job Opportunities**

**Recommendations**

**Requests**

that you would like to share?

Please come off mute, or indicate in the chat that you would like to speak!



**Thank You for attending PPAL's Inside Track!.**

You will receive the bulletins and resources discussed within the next few days.