

# Creating Support for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and CODA Children in Foster Care

The Massachusetts Partnership



# The Massachusetts Partnership Team

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# Nagging Questions & Experiences

What happens to kids placed in foster care?

What do the case workers know about the unique needs of DHH and CODA children?

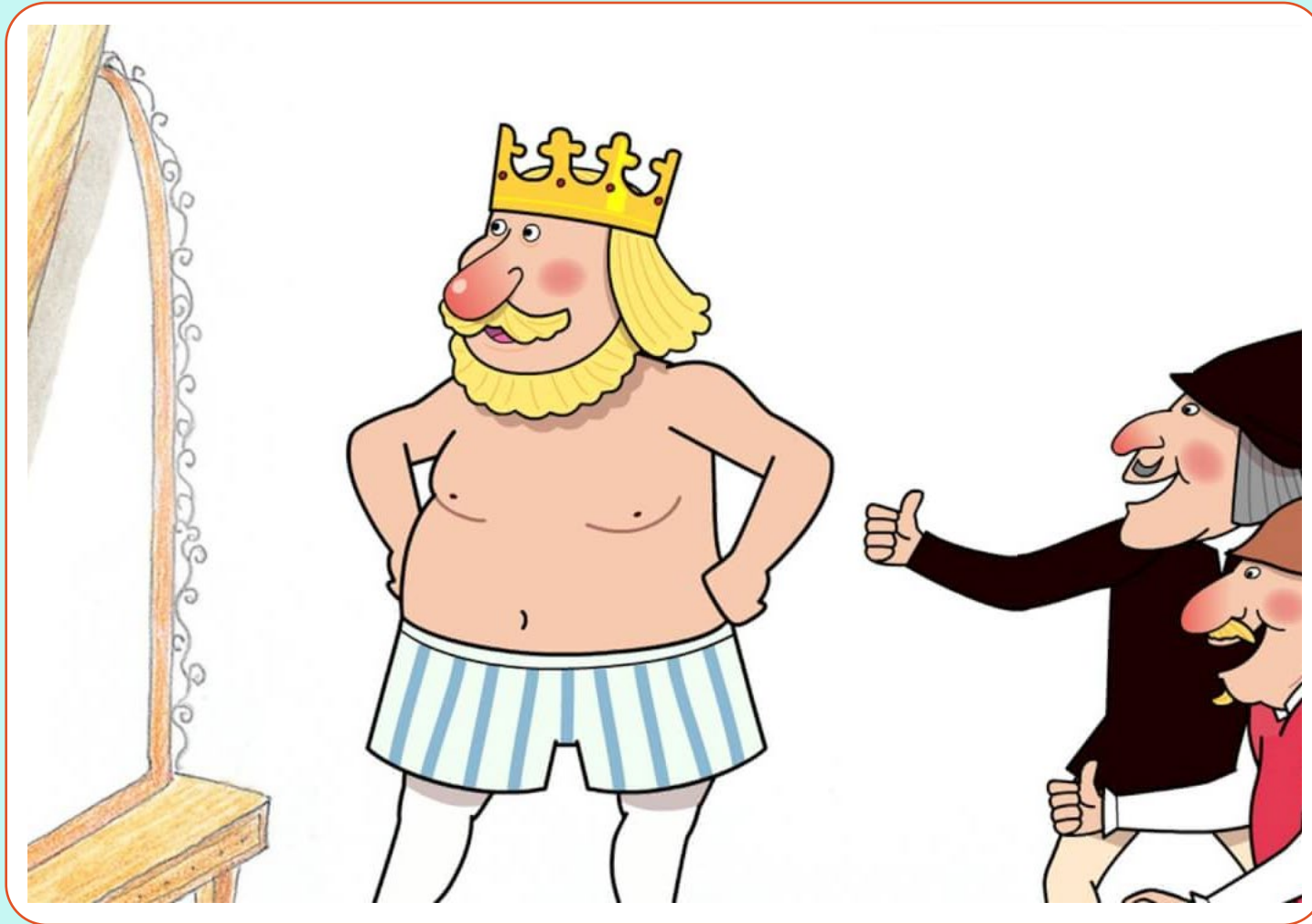
What do foster families (kinship and others) know?

Is there something more we can do to help?



THANK YOU!



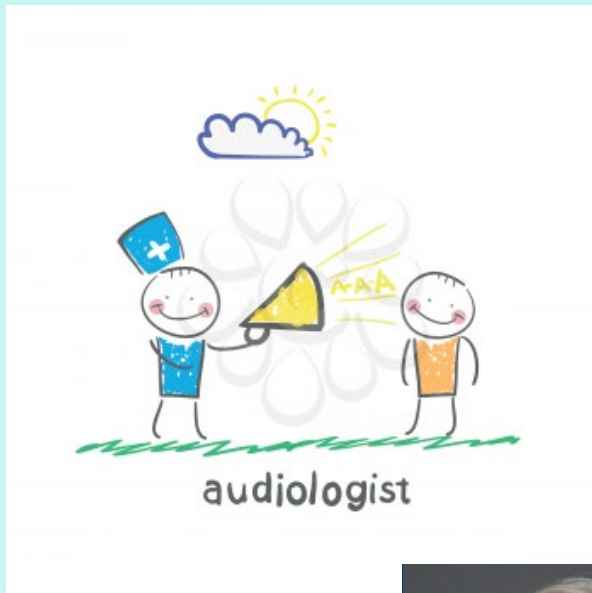


How it all  
started...

<https://www.consider.biz/the-emperors-new-clothes-arrive/>



# Question Asked...



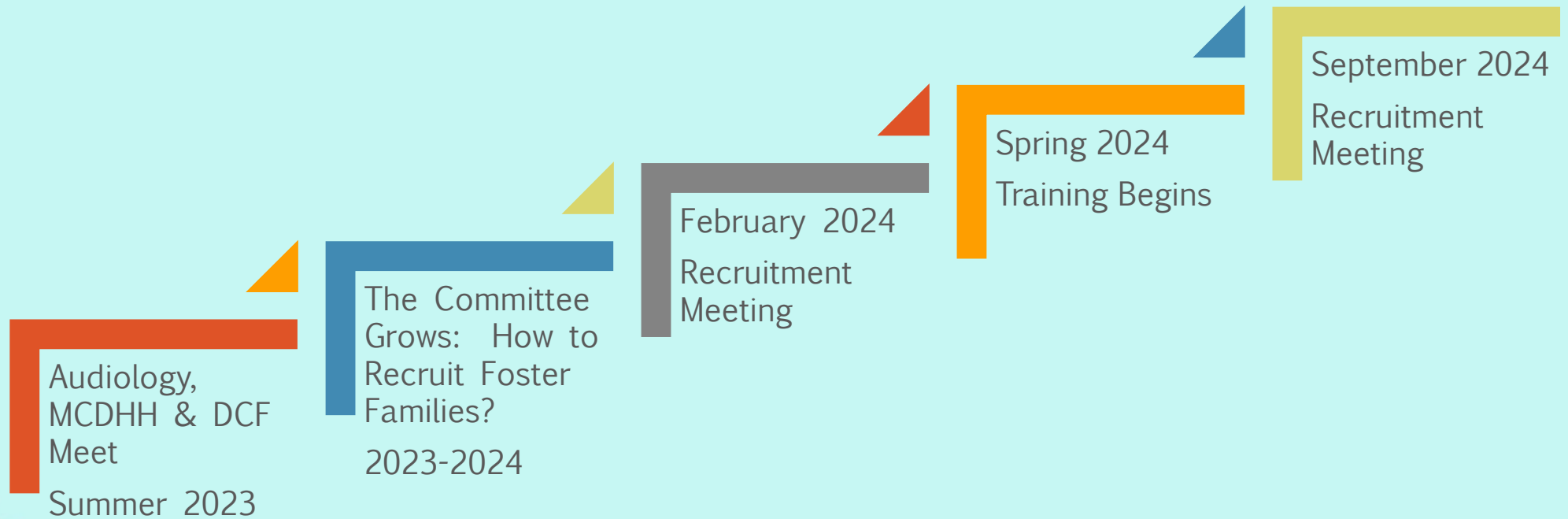




# A Timely Inquiry...



# Steps We Have Taken







# Recruitment Efforts

## February 2024

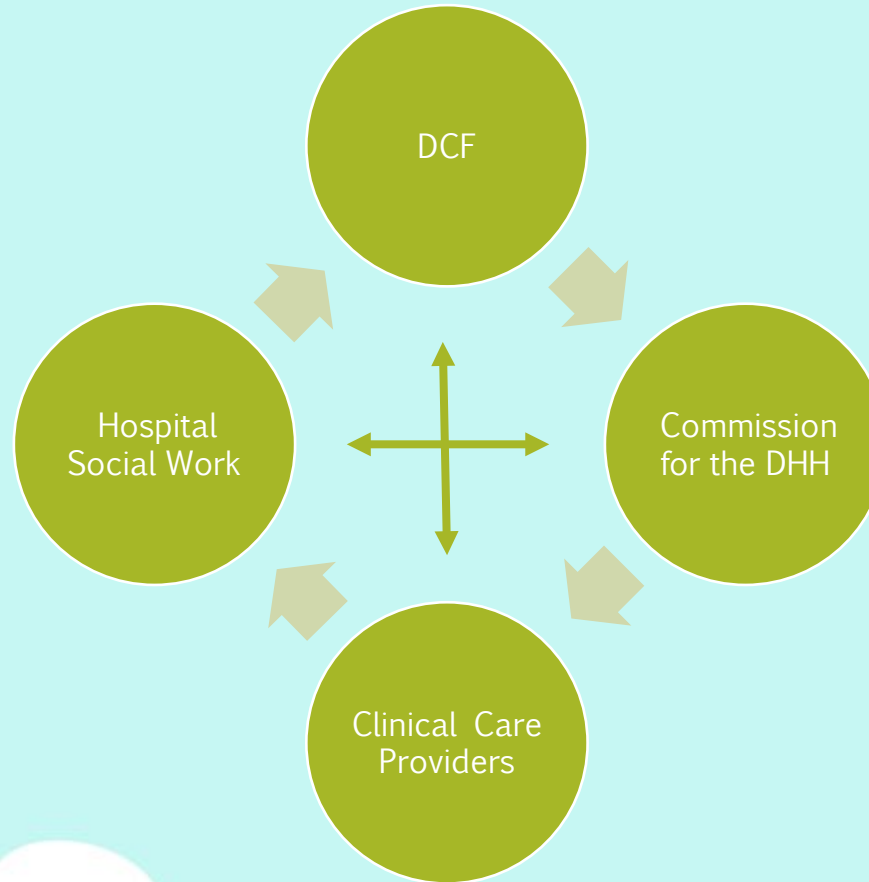
37 people registered  
23 attended  
3 new applications to become foster parents  
2 families reopened their applications  
2 families asked to be considered for adoption  
2 families were referred to other states

## September 2024

26 people registered  
22 attended  
0 applications



# The Numbers Don't Tell the Whole Story



- MCDHH is providing training to DCF staff on working with DHH families
- DCF received state approval to use Zoom to improve communication access
- DCF tracking system now has a disability indicator field to track demographic data
- DCF system tracks language access needs
- DCF intranet page (for staff): info on obtaining an interpreter, communication access, etc.
- Training for potential foster families offered in ASL
- Many Foster Parent training videos now have captions (an ongoing project)
- Deaf community is learning that DCF is willing to be a partner and collaborator
- *Collaborative work with neighboring states.*

# Next Steps

Continued dialog and planning

Create Additional Resources for:

Families

Case Workers

Host Additional Recruitment Meetings at schools for the Deaf and in conjunction with state associations for the Deaf.



# Contact Us

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