Keeping Families Together

- Family Support and Respite is the most cost effective service provided by the Commonwealth.
- Out of home placement costs are delayed by providing relief to families as well as in home therapies and nursing support.
- DESE-DDS program works to keep kids living at home. Evaluations rate this program as highly effective at keeping families together avoiding further significant costs. The waiting list is currently at 200.
- Demand for Autism Services increasing at significant rate.
- The waiting list for individuals applying for the federal autism waiver is currently at 400. Additional funding is needed for both the waiver and the Autism Support Centers.

Promoting Work & Self-Sufficiency

- Day and Employment Services are undergoing a dramatic change across the nation to comply with Olmstead, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Justice and consumer concerns.
- DDS and EOHHS are implementing plans to offer greater challenges for people with disabilities to encourage more self sufficiency and earning potential.
- Funding the DDS/Arc/ADDP Employment Blueprint is needed to protect the Commonwealth from U.S. Department of Justice/ U.S. Department of Labor adverse action similar to Rhode Island and other states.

Living in the Community

- In FY 15, Chapter 257 compliance will be achieved thanks to the vision of Massachusetts policymakers.
- 804 more students will transition from public schools to adult services and will need supports and services in the most inclusive day, employment and residential settings.
- Through Turning 22 Supports and Services, young adults will be able to live and work in the community.