metropolitan family services

What is the Government Affairs (GA) Department?

The GA Department at MFS deploys staff expertise to create impact for Metropolitan's families through actively listening to staff and program participants, influencing policy outcomes, and supporting the agency's strategic goals. The GA department is based out of HQ.

What does the GA Department do?

Each year, the GA department conducts an advocacy needs assessment with input from all staff on the structural issues facing Metropolitan's families that stunt healing and growth. Using the assessment and with the help of MFS's Advocacy Task force and agency leadership, the GA team drafts a legislative agenda that is in line with MFS's values and strategic priorities. This guide is used by the team to mobilize for policy solutions through coalition building with outside organizations, meetings with lawmakers and public officials, and supporting agency operations.

What is the Advocacy Task Force (ATF)?

The ATF is a volunteer group of MFS staff and participants who express an interest in policy and advocacy. The task force guides the GA department policy agenda, helps mobilize agency among Center Staff on the policy agenda, and serves as a liaison between the GA department and Center Staff. ATF members will meet once every quarter, join ad hoc committees on specific issues, share advocacy actions and stories of impact, and join advocacy workshops to develop leadership skills and support their communities.

How do I learn more?

To learn more about the GA department or for information on how to join ATF, please feel free to visit the Advocacy Action Center on the MFS intranet Page or contact the assigned site member of the team on the right.

Meet the Team!



Anne Vanderweele Director of Government Affairs Sites: DuPage, Southwest, Evanston VanderweeleA@metrofamily.o





Anthony Bryant Government Affairs Sites: Southeast & Calumet bryantan@metrofamily.org



Alyssa Mendez Government Affairs Associate Sites: Midway & North MendezAl@metrofamily.org



Moriah Safford Government Affairs Intern SaffordM@metrofamily.org