

The Peabody Team was very honored to welcome Senator Joan Lovely to our offices on June 23rd to learn about some of the work we are doing in her district. As a champion of children and families, Senator Lovely is as committed as we are to strengthening communities and giving them the resources they need to succeed. During her visit, she heard presentations from four of our staff members on their work. Highlights included:

- Barbara St. Pierre spoke about the rewards of working with families in transition at two homeless shelters in partnership with Citizens for Adequate Housing.
- Andrea Hein shared her experiences working with inmates at Middleton House of Correction and the rewards of helping individuals succeed after their release.
- Chirstina Vesprini's presentation on her work with mothers battling post partum depression highlighted the need for increased screening and erasing the stigma associated with this disorder.
- Indira Gumbe shared the struggles facing our refugee community and the work she is doing to help them get the mental health services they need to thrive.
- Lauren Chiancolo's work at Higgins Middle School reminded us that integrating care in a school setting increases access to services for young people.

A lively conversation followed that centered on the challenges and successes of our work and the steps she is taking in the Senate to support the communities we serve. She even offered to come back and provide a screening for staff and stakeholders of " Dark Side of the Full Moon," a documentary about Post Partum Depression.

We look forward to our continued relationship. Given the ever-changing mental health landscape in Massachusetts, it is more important than ever for providers and legislators to stay connected about issues affecting their communities. This visit highlights the commitment both parties have to working together to strengthen local families.