

Memorandum

To: Representative Toll, House Appropriations Chair
From: Ken Schatz, DCF Commissioner *KAS*
Re: Specialized Child Care Transportation
Date: March 10, 2020

This is in response to your inquiries regarding the DCF plan to shift \$650,000 of specialized child care transportation funds to one-time funds in the SFY21 budget. I have also provided a spreadsheet that breaks out transportation spending by DCF division and shows the total budget for specialized child care transportation.

In the fall of 2019, DCF created a transportation workgroup to share information about each division's transportation contracts and to look at ways to increase uniformity such as creating a department-wide policy on driver background checks. This workgroup has identified overlap in the children and families who utilize our transportation services across divisions.

In recognition of these findings, the SFY21 Governor's proposed budget includes a \$650K reduction to the CDD base budget for specialized childcare transportation. The SFY21 Governor's proposed budget recommends using \$650K in one-time funds for CDD's SFY21 transportation budget to continue current services and asked DCF to look for cost savings in transportation contracts across the department for SFY22, ideally with the creation of a statewide contract.

In preparation of the needed savings for SFY22, the DCF transportation workgroup will be attending an ACF Region 1 transportation meeting in Lowell, MA on March 10th to learn how other New England states handle transportation and what federal resources are available to assist states in achieving cost-effective, coordinated systems of transportation.

In SFY21, DCF anticipates issuing a public Request for Information (RFI) and will send targeted communications to all current DCF transportation vendors soliciting ideas for a more uniform and coordinated transportation system that could serve all DCF children and families in need of transportation.

From the outcome of the RFI, DCF hopes to issue a transportation Request for Proposal (RFP) in SFY22 that would move DCF towards having one statewide transportation contract serving all DCF's divisions. We anticipate that one statewide transportation contract would result in cost savings, but at this time, we do not have a projection on how much savings we could achieve.

