

Basic Needs Security as a Foundation to Supporting Racial Equity

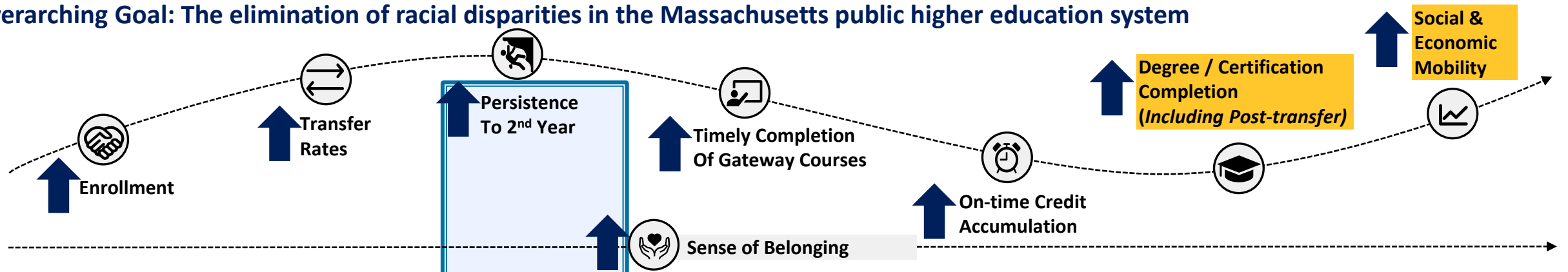
Introductions

- Allison Little - Assistant Commissioner in Academic Affairs and Student Success
- Georgiana Chevry - Director, Basic Needs Security Policy & Program
- Loyd Joseph - Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA
- Amanda Robbins - Campus Safety Advisor

The Equity Agenda

Academic Affairs & Student Success Initiatives

Overarching Goal: The elimination of racial disparities in the Massachusetts public higher education system



- **Bridges to College**^{\$}
- **Dual Enrollment/ Early College**^{\$}
- **MAICEI**^{\$}
- **SAT Optional Pilot**
- **Veterans Affairs**
- **MassTransfer**^{*}
- **SSA Transfer Academy**^{\$}
- **Basic Needs Security**^{\$}
- **Open Educational Resources**^{*}
- **SUCCESS**^{\$}
- **Developmental Education Reform**^{*}
- **STEM Starter Academy (SSA)**^{\$}
- **Competency Based Education**^{*}
- **Prior Learning Assessment**^{*}
- **Higher Education Innovation Fund**^{\$}
- **Civic Engagement & Learning**^{*}
- **Student Learning Outcomes Assessment**^{*}
- **Program Approval**
- **Community College Internships**
- **Educator Preparation (B-12)**
- **Training Resources and Internship Program (TRAIN)**^{\$}

Legend
^{\$} Line-Item Funding in FY23 State Budget
⁺ Federal Funding
^{*} Higher Education Innovation Fund

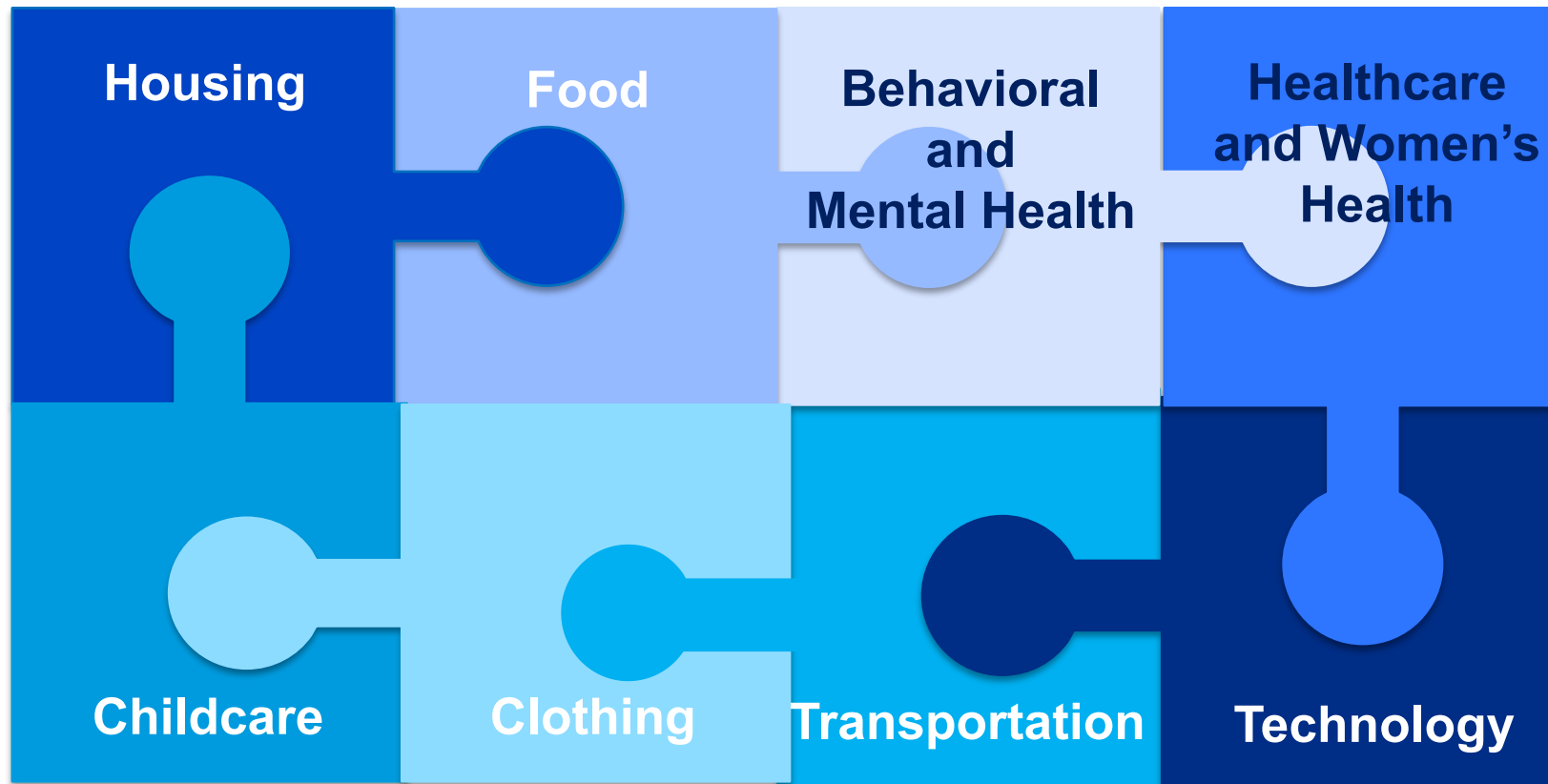
Who are our BNS students?

- **Have you ever experienced...**
 - **not knowing where you will be sleeping tonight?**
 - 43% of MA postsecondary students experienced housing insecurity in 2019
 - **the need to budget \$5 over 5 days to feed yourself?**
 - 37% of MA postsecondary students experienced food insecurity within the last 30 days
 - **asking a neighbor to watch your child because they are sick?**
 - Nearly 25% of college students in the US have dependent children

Who are our BNS students?

- Have you ever experienced...
 - **anxiety or depression?**
 - 60% of college students reported experiencing mental health issues
 - 83% of students reported at least one day of academic impairment
 - 25% young adults contemplated suicide in the last year
 - **trauma that consumed every thought?**
 - 757 hate crimes on US postsecondary campuses in 2019
 - 26.4% undergraduate females, 6.8% undergrad males sexually assaulted
 - **relying on three busses to get where you are going?**
 - 8 MA community colleges are less than 5 miles from a transit line but not connected

Holistic Approach



Partnerships

Housing

- EOHHS
- DHCD
- DESE
- Liberty Mutual

Food

- DTA
- HFCC
- DHE OSFA

Behavioral and Mental Health

- DPH
- DMH
- DHE Legal
- EOE

← BNS: ECMC Foundation →

Housing Scholarship Program

- Purpose: Use available university dormitories to provide stable housing for homeless students
- Launched in 2018
- \$1,628,280 funding from EOHHS, DHCD, and DHE
 - 72 students, each receives case management
 - Campuses are responsible for 365 meal plan
- Foundation Funding
 - Liberty Mutual-\$100,000

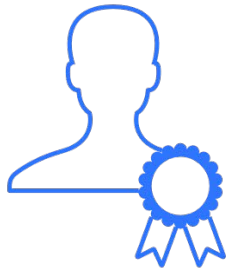
Student Impact

- ***“I am a sophomore, who’s been through a lot but being in college, has taught me how to properly succeed with being independent, and that as a female we must fight harder for what we want, and it is okay to ask for help.”*** – Kay K., FSU MTC Scholar Sophomore
- ***“I am a nursing student graduating in the spring from the MA Housing Scholarship program at Mass Bay. I am so grateful for all of the resources available to students in need that make achieving our goals possible.”*** -Alexandra T., Mass Bay Senior
- ***“I am a sophomore in the MTC program. There have been so many doors and experiences opened to me. I can honestly say that I am the happiest I have ever been. I feel like I can accomplish anything and everything. I plan to study abroad next year in my spring semester, and I cannot wait to share that experience with all of you.”*** Gerald F., FSU MTC Sophomore

Basic Needs Security "Did You Know?"

Awareness Campaign

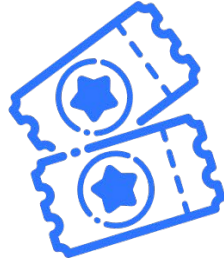
- 1 Raise awareness on Basic Needs Security Resources and Programs



BNS Student Ambassadors



Social Media



Social Events

- 2 Increase Student Civic Engagement/Campus Engagement

- 3 Build Group Cohesion/Community



- 4 Identify student short- and long-term basic needs priorities

- 5 Provide Informational Assistance

Increasing Food Security

■ **ARPA Funded Grants**

- Community College Campus Hunger Program
 - \$2.7 M serving 28,764 students
 - 13 community colleges
- Hunger Free Campus Initiative
 - \$1M to 14 IHES serving 18,635 students
 - 3 UMass institutions serving 7,050 students
 - 5 state universities serving 2,675 students
 - 3 community colleges serving 1,810 students
 - 3 private institutions serving 7,100 students

Addressing Behavioral and Mental Health

■ **FY23 Funding**

- \$2M for community colleges
 - 15 community colleges serving 32,496 students
- \$2M for state universities
 - 6 of 9 have responded thus far, to serve 40,577 students

■ **Wide range of services**

- Crisis services: 13
- Therapy: 13
- Assessment of Learning Disorders: 8
- Response to sexual assault: 8
- Substance use disorder services: 9
- Stress, anxiety, or other needs assistance: 19

Engaging Mental Health Partners

- **Intersection of Campus Safety and Violence Prevention (CSVP) and Mental Health:**
 - Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management
 - Calls for service with a mental health component
 - Impact of sexual violence on mental health
- **Public Higher Education IHEs**
 - Continued conversations between DHE / segment leads regarding funding & training opportunities, as well as other resources
- **Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts (AICUM)**
 - Recently hosted a behavioral health symposium that included over 100 leaders from across higher ed in MA (DHE staff attended)
 - AICUM recently successfully advocated for crucial investments by the Commonwealth to develop mental health support programs for students at public and private colleges

Looking Forward

Focus Area

- Behavioral & Mental Health
- SPRE/Basic Needs Security
- Food Security
- Transportation
- Childcare

Opportunity

- AICUM partnering
- ECMC Foundation BNS TAP
- Chandler Bill
- 2050 Beyond Mobility
- Two generation approach

References

- Food and Housing, #RealCollege Survey, Hope Center
 - <https://www.luminafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/real-college-2021.pdf>
- Mental Health-Healthy Minds Study, University of Michigan
 - <https://sph.umich.edu/news/2021posts/anxiety-depression-reached-record-levels-among-college-students-fall-2020.html>
 - <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2022.03.038>
- Sexual Violence-Rainn.org
 - <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence>

References

■ Childcare

- <https://edtrust.org/resource/many-determined-college-students-are-also-dedicated-parents-a-preview-of-the-student-parent-affordability-report/#:~:text=In%20fact%2C%20more%20than%20one,to%20be%20students%20of%20color>

■ Hate Crimes

- <https://www.jbhe.com/2022/07/departments-of-educations-latest-data-on-campus-hate-crimes/>

■ Transportation

- <https://www.wgbh.org/news/news/2022/09/13/community-college-students-without-cars-face-transportation-challenges-especially-during-orange-line-shutdown>

Thank you

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