

# **THE MASSACHUSETTS SPECIAL COMMISSION ON AFTER SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL TIME**

---



## **A PROGRESS REPORT**

**The Honorable Thomas McGee, Chair,  
Labor & Workforce Development Committee**

**The Honorable Marie St. Fleur, Vice Chair,  
House Committee on Ways and Means**

**Co-Chairs**

**By Debra McLaughlin  
The Kunnusta Group  
Consultant to the Commission**

**August 9, 2007**

# The Special Commission's Progress: A Snapshot

---

**Since the Special Commission started in March 2007, it has:**

- Held 2 Full Commission meetings
- Conducted 6 public hearings
- Visited 5 diverse afterschool programs
- Convened the 3 Special Commission's Work Groups
- Launched the Special Commission's website and blog

# The Special Commission's Next Steps: A Preview

---

In the next four months, the Special Commission will:

- Publish 8 Issue Briefs\* by Labor Day focusing on:
  - **The Realm of Afterschool** – Priscilla Little
  - **Dissecting the Barriers to Afterschool Participation** – Priscilla Little
  - **Addressing the Summer Loss of Learning** – Dr. Beth Miller
  - **Arts and Afterschool** – Dr. Julia Gittleman
  - **Sports, Recreation, Physical Education & Afterschool** – Beth Beard
  - **Bridging School and Afterschool** – Dr. Gil Noam
  - **Making the Case for Quality** – Dr. Georgia Hall
  - **Meeting the Needs of Older Youth** – Dr. Georgia Hall
- Hold at least 2 more Full Commission meetings
  - The next one is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 5 from 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM, Members Lounge at the State House** with a focus on the Commonwealth's School Redesign: Expanded Learning Time Program

\*Note: The titles of the Issue Briefs may change prior to publication but the content will remain the same.

# The Special Commission's Next Steps: A Preview

---

- Convene 4 public hearings
  - **September 11**, Cape & the Islands
  - **September 18**, Merrimack Valley (please note change of date)
  - **September 20**, Lynn
  - **September 25**, Boston
- Visit 4 different afterschool programs prior to the scheduled public hearings
- Continue to convene the Special Commission's three different work groups to craft, review and vet recommendations based on analysis of the public hearing themes and other collected data

# The Public Hearings

---

- Six public hearings have been held in Springfield, Pittsfield, Worcester, Framingham, Quincy and Dartmouth.
- To-date, nearly 250 (248) people have attended the six public hearings and 66% or 165 people who have attended have testified.
- Based on the analysis of six public hearings the following categories have been presented either by attendance or through testimony:
  - 39% of people have been from community or school-based afterschool programs
  - 22% have been educators
  - 7% have been children and youth
  - 7% have been parents
  - 25% have been “other” meaning police officers, librarians, business people, municipal officials, parks and recreation staff, advocates, and district attorney’s offices.
- Copies of submitted public testimony and a list of people with their organizational affiliation who have attended the public hearings will be made available upon request to Special Commission members. Contact information remains under the domain of the Special Commission.

# What We Have Learned So Far

## Public Hearing Themes – Info and Access

---

### Access

- Lack of transportation a problem both in urban and rural settings.
- Consider eligibility of children vs. eligibility of parents.
- Needs of older youth unmet; outreach to older youth too expensive.
- More year round and summer programming needed.
- More demand than supply.
- Children cannot attend programs on days parents do not work.
- Lack of programs for special populations such as special needs, foster care and gay and lesbian youth.
- Lack of programs in rural areas.
- Linguistic and other cultural barriers exist that prevent full participation.
- Lack of funding prevents programs from operating at full capacity when capacity exists.

### Information

- Lack of infrastructure to better coordinate existing and emerging efforts within communities, regions, and across the Commonwealth.
- Parents surveyed want 5 day a week programs.
- Do not overlook private schools that serve high-need children and youth using MA DOE Curriculum Frameworks.

# What We Have Learned So Far

## Public Hearing Themes –

### Quality, Workforce and Professional Development

---

#### Quality

- Desire for higher quality activities with imbedded learning.
- Need ways for ASOST staff to better integrate planning with school officials.
- Some regions creating their own infrastructure to support quality due to lack of unified state system.
- Continuum with indicators for children and youth ages 5-18 desirable.
- Successful outcomes with children and youth are rooted in positive relationships with adults and strong community partnerships.

#### Workforce and Professional Development

- Wages too low and hours too few and at odd times of day to retain quality staff; turnover of staff is high as result.
- Certificate or degree program needed.
- Need staff well versed in child/youth development and behavior management.
- Not enough staff to address children and youth with special needs.
- Staff may not be able to help with homework especially math homework.
- Workforce needs to be as diverse as the children and youth in programs they serve.

# What We Have Learned So Far

## Public Hearing Themes - Sustainability

---

### Lack of Funding...

- Makes it difficult to consistently serve children and youth.
- Removes children from the system when they turn 13 at a time when they need support the most.
- Does not address needs of older youth and other special populations (e.g. special needs, youth in foster care, gay and lesbian youth).
- Makes it difficult for rural areas and other communities to get support because they are not eligible for or do not easily meet existing funding guidelines or criteria due to their size and other demographics.

### Financing

- Better understand the financial limits of vouchers.
- Need coordinated funding strategy that includes federal, state, private and local resources.
- Need multiple funding streams to provide options/different models for children, youth, and families.
- Make it easier for community-based organizations to gain access to existing public funding streams.

### Systems

- Need to have a systems perspective that can address the institutional issues of poverty and racism which prevent afterschool efforts from being sustained at state, regional and local levels.

### Public/Private Partnerships

- Lack of public/private partnerships to support sector.
- Opportunity to build better collaborations across silos to better serve children and youth more efficiently.
- Provide seed grants to foster creative and collaborative, out of the box thinking, to sustain afterschool programs.
- Fund programs at regional and local levels – another opportunity to see how dollars can be spent leveraging other existing community resources.

# The Site Visits

---

Five program site visits focusing on different program models and age groups:

- **Conte Elementary School 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Program in Pittsfield**

Serving over 100 elementary school children in their Connected for Success Program, this school-based program effectively partners with community-based organizations to provide enrichment in math and the sciences.

- **Boys and Girls Club of Greater Worcester in Worcester**

With a new multi-million dollar facility, the Club offers a rich array of drop-in and structured programming to 185 children and youth ages 5 through 18.

- **High Flight Program for At-Risk Teens, MetroWest YMCA in Hopkinton**

Serving over 700 youth since it began in 1998, this unique adventured based program teaches at-risk teens 12 through 17 leadership, self-confidence and social skills.

- **Atlantic After School Program, South Shore Day Care Services in Quincy**

Creatively integrating EEC vouchers, contracts, parent fees and 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funding, this community-based program serves 52 children annually K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

- **Sgt. William Carney Academy's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Program in New Bedford**

Serving 60 elementary school children, this school-based program works with community partners to provide arts enrichment and other activities. They also serve nearly 25% of students with special needs in their afterschool programs.

# Charge of Special Commission's Work Groups

---

## Overarching Principles

- To study each issue in-depth drawing upon the expertise of Commission members and invited guests.
- To identify and promote coordination and leveraging of existing resources to support the state's afterschool system.
- To foster public/private partnerships to strengthen a system that promotes a continuum of care to support healthy child and youth development in and out of school.

## Information & Access

- To evaluate the different age populations served by before school, after school and out-of-school time programs in terms of access.
- To identify the barriers that prevent participation in after school programs.
- To make recommendations for and review the final report.

## Quality, Workforce and Professional Development

- To help support the creation of a workforce system to bolster the education, training and compensation of the out-of-school time workforce.
- To review existing data on effectiveness and quality of out-of-school time programming in the Commonwealth.
- To make recommendations for and review the final report.

## Sustainability

- To analyze how afterschool programs are currently financed.
- To promote efficiencies through increased integration and coordination of publicly funded afterschool programs.
- To spur the development of state public/private partnerships to support the afterschool system.
- To make recommendations for and review the final report.

# The Work Group Meetings

---

- Six work group meetings have occurred (two for each Work Group) with a third round of meetings scheduled for August.
- Each Work Group has approved work plans and draft frameworks have been developed in each area.
- Work Groups will begin to review draft recommendations at their August meetings.
- Power Point presentations and meeting summaries have been created for each Work Group meeting and sent to members of that Work Group.
- Work Group materials are available to other Special Commission members upon request.

# The Website and Blog

---

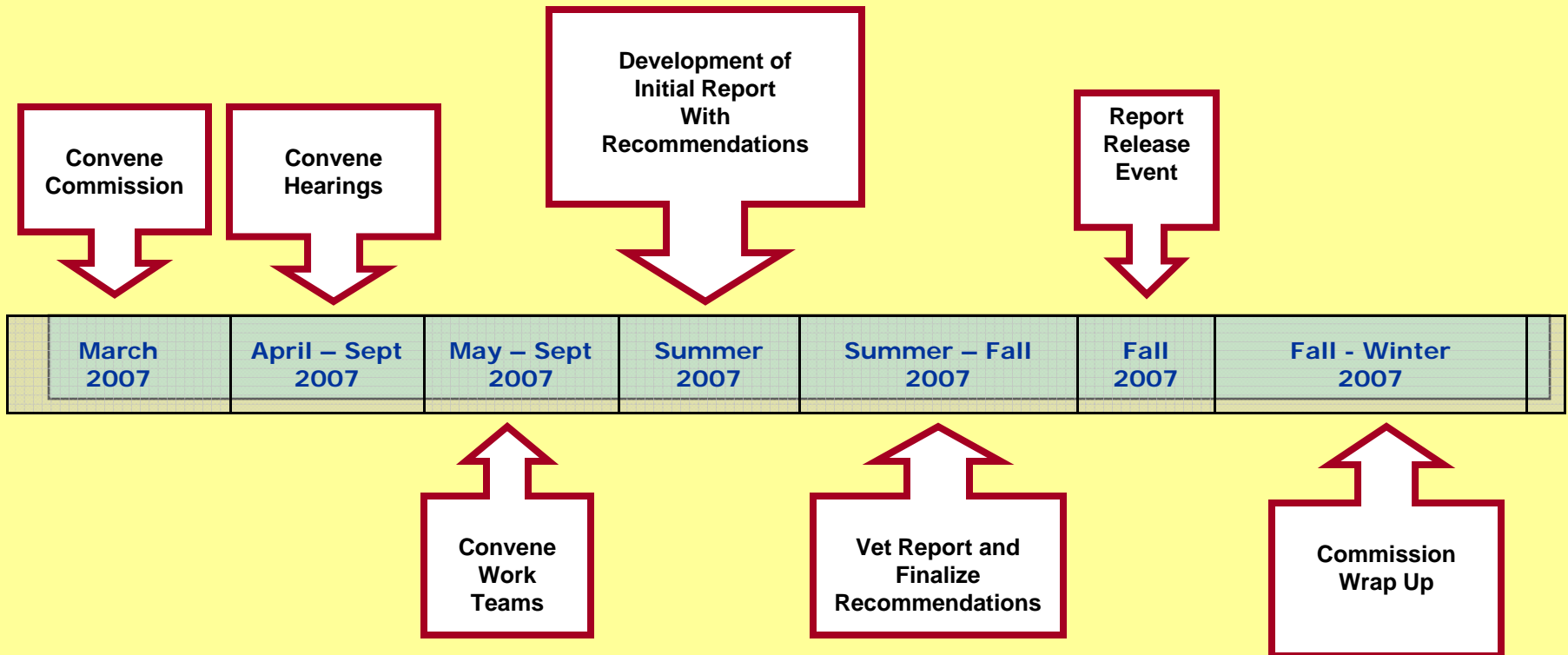
- The Special Commission's web site and blog were launched in April 2007.
- Website address: <http://www.massafterschoolcomm.org>
- Blog address: <http://www.massafterschoolcomm.blogspot.com>
- Traffic counters show the web site has received 24,015 server requests with 3,323 requests for different pages.
- Traffic counters show the blog has been visited 419 times since it was launched.

# Media Coverage

---

- Six press releases have been issued about the Special Commission's public hearings.
- TV, radio and print media has covered the Special Commission's work with articles or pieces appearing in the following media outlets:
  - **Springfield Union News**
  - **WAMC Radio**
  - **IBerkshire.com**
  - **CBS Channel 6 – Albany**
  - **Metrowest Daily News**
  - **Framingham Online News**
  - **FPACTV – Channel 3/9**
  - **Patriot Ledger**
  - **Fall River Herald News**
  - **New Bedford Times**
  - **DCTV – Channel 16**
  - **State House News**

# Massachusetts Special Commission on After School and Out of School Time Draft Timeline



# Appendix

---

- **What We Know about Massachusetts' Children and Youth**
- **Special Commission Vision and Purpose**
- **Special Commission Operating Principles**
- **Special Commission Deliverables**
- **Special Commission Organizational Chart**
- **Special Commission Members**
- **Contact Information**

# What We Know About Massachusetts' School-Aged Children and Youth

---

- 1.1 million school aged children ages 5 -18 live in Massachusetts; 720,000 are ages 5-13; 380,000 are ages 14 -19.
- Current known public/private funding in the state only able to serve nearly 205,500 children and youth or 19% of the population.
- Approximately 5,700 school aged children are waiting for services.
- Nearly 14% of children and youth live at or below the poverty level.
- Young people are the fastest growing segment of the population, with an estimated increase of 53,046 by 2010.

# Special Commission's Vision and Purpose

---

## **Vision**

As children and youth are the cornerstone of a civil society, the Massachusetts Special Commission on After School and Out of School Time envisions embracing public/private partnerships to help create and strengthen a system that promotes a continuum of care to nurture and support their healthy development and learning when they are in and out of school.

## **Purpose**

“To study and recommend how to ‘define and’ better coordinate, expand, finance and improve accessible, affordable, and quality out-of-school time programming for school age children in all settings in Massachusetts.”

Note: When the Commission uses the term “afterschool”, it is meant to include before, after, school vacation and summer opportunities for children and youth ages K-12.

# Special Commission's Operating Principles

---

- To define what children and youth need to learn and grow into healthy and productive adults.
- To identify a range of out-of-school time options and models that help support the healthy development of children and youth in and out of school including articulating the key elements and tools of quality afterschool and extended learning opportunities.
- To engage a broad variety of stakeholders in an open and constructive dialogue through the Special Commission's public hearings and working group process.
- To value the contributions of all stakeholders such as community-based organizations, schools, parents, youth, among other allies that serve children, youth and families.
- To build upon, strengthen, coordinate and maximize the effectiveness of existing resources, programs and systems.
- To generate short-term and long-term recommendations that will positively impact the state's afterschool and extended learning system.
- To promote collaboration and coordination whenever possible including fostering public/private partnerships.
- To foster and create a learning environment to explore what is needed to support all children and youth when they are not in school with a particular emphasis on those most vulnerable.
- To have measurable outcomes for our work together.
- To hold ourselves accountable for the work we do.

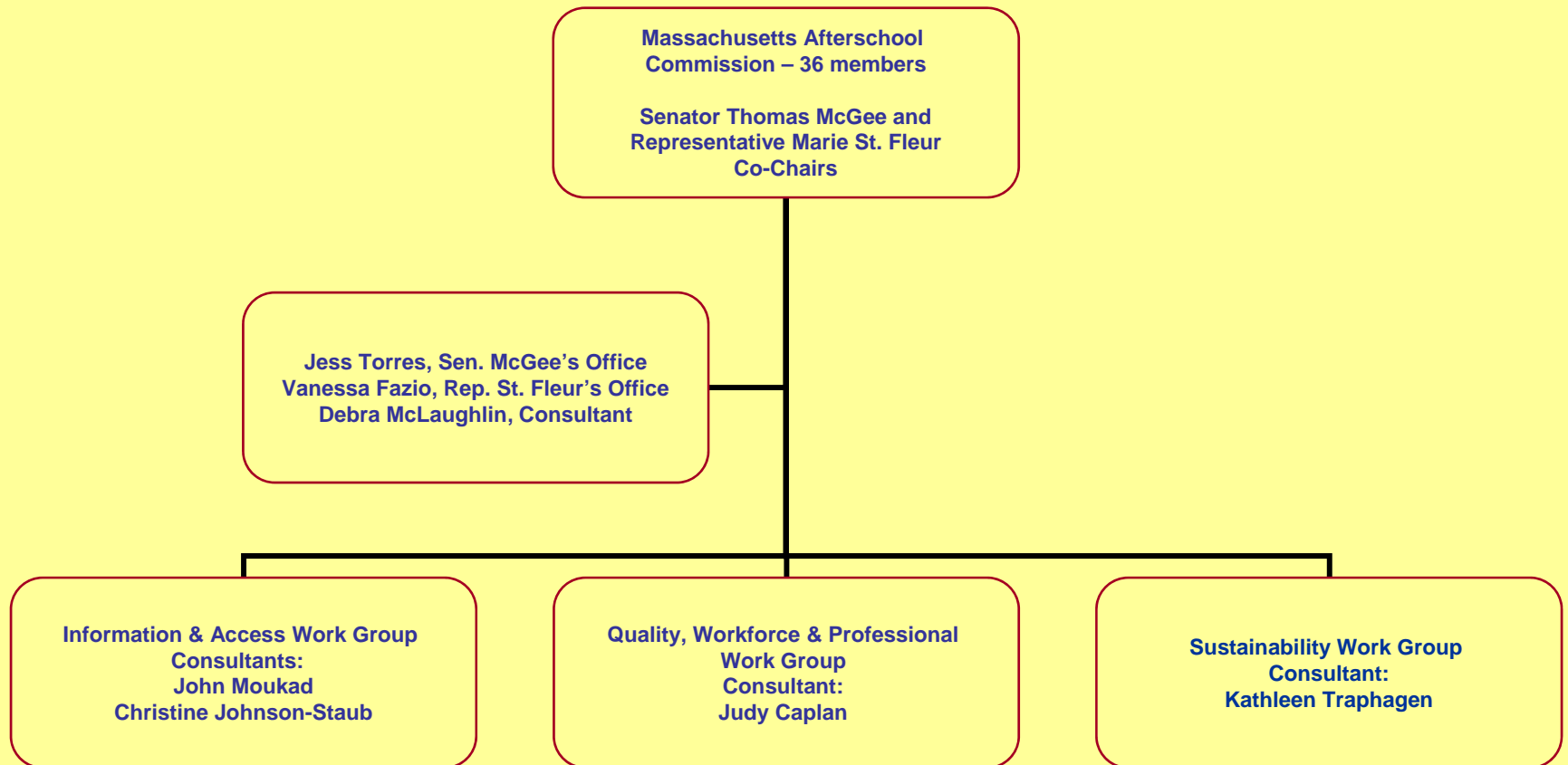
# Special Commission Deliverables

---

- Development of a report using data collected from Commission meetings, statewide hearings and working team meetings to generate recommendations in six key areas that call for the:
  1. Streamlined and increased coordination and integration of publicly funded out-of-school time administration and functions.
  2. Identified resources and policies regarding public funding streams for school aged children.
  3. Strengthened consumer education.
  4. Creation of a data collection system to support the necessary functions of an integrated afterschool system.
  5. Balanced funding for direct services, quality enhancement and administration.
  6. Development of a workforce system to support the education, training and compensation of the out-of-school time workforce.
- Increased access and affordability for children and youth who face a variety of barriers when participating in the state's afterschool system.
- Increased awareness about the impact of afterschool upon children and youth within and outside of state government.
- Enhanced existing and newly created commitments of all types (resources, policies, partners) that will support children and youth in afterschool in all settings.
- Increased public/private partnerships to support access to afterschool programs statewide.
- Increased coordination and leveraging of existing resources to support the afterschool system.

# Special Commission's Operating Structure

---



# Special Commission Members

---

- Senator Robert Antonioni, [Worcester & Middlesex](#)
- Michael P. Cahill, [YMCAs of Massachusetts](#)
- Erik Champy, [MA Parent Teacher Association](#)
- Maryellen Coffey, [BOSTNet](#)
- Joan Connolly, [Massachusetts Superintendent's Assoc.](#)
- Dr. Deborah Dancy, [MA Elementary School Principal's Assoc.](#)
- Edward Doherty, [American Federation of Teachers - MA](#)
- Margaret Donnelly, [Northfield Mt. Hermon School](#)
- Sally Fogerty, [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#)
- Joseph Gillis, Jr., [MA Association of School Committees](#)
- Laurie Glassman, [Child Care Choices of Boston](#)
- Gwynn Hughes, [Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership](#)
- Donna Jasak, [Massachusetts School Aged Coalition](#)
- Deborah Kneeland, [MA Association of Day Care Agencies](#)
- Rep. Stephen LeDuc, [4th Middlesex District](#)
- Ben Lummis, [Mass2020](#)
- Ed Madaus, [Guild of St. Agnes Child Care](#)
- Berna Mann, [Parents Alliance for Catholic Education](#)
- Maureen Marshal, [MA Association of Regional Schools](#)
- Kathleen McDermott, [MA Association for Community](#)
- Sen. Thomas McGee, [Co-Chair](#)
- Frederick Metters, [MA Alliance of Boys & Girls Club](#)
- Ann Nunes, [MA Independent Child Care Organization](#)
- Susan O'Connor, [WestMOST Network](#)
- Senator Robert O'Leary, [Cape & Islands](#)
- Lisa Silverman Pickard, [United Way of MA Bay](#)
- Commissioner Ann Reale, [MA Dept. Early Education & Care](#)
- Rep. Pam Richardson, [6th Middlesex District](#)
- Gerry Ruane, [Massachusetts Teachers Association](#)
- Rep. Marie St. Fleur, [Co-Chair](#)
- Lourdes Sariol, [The Childcare Project](#)
- Sharon Scott-Chandler, [ABCD](#)
- Harold Sparrow, [Black Ministerial Alliance](#)
- Senator Karen Spilka, [2nd Middlesex and Norfolk District](#)
- Carole Thomson, [MA Department of Education](#)
- Rep. Alice Wolf, [25th Middlesex District](#)

# Contact Information

---

## **Senator Thomas McGee's Office**

Jess Torres, Legislative Aide  
Room 112, The State House  
617.722.1350

[Jess.Torres@state.ma.us](mailto:Jess.Torres@state.ma.us)

## **Consultant to the Commission**

Debra McLaughlin, Managing Partner  
The Kunnusta Group  
617.792.3173

[dmclaughlin@kunnusta.com](mailto:dmclaughlin@kunnusta.com)

## **Representative Marie St. Fleur's Office**

Vanessa Fazio, Research Analyst  
Room 238, The State House  
617.722.2380

[Vanessa.Fazio@state.ma.ua](mailto:Vanessa.Fazio@state.ma.ua)

## **Commission Blog:**

<http://massafterschoolcomm.blogspot.com>

## **Commission Website:**

<http://massafterschoolcomm.org>