

Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities

Commission Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date of meeting: Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Start time: 10:00am

End time: 11:30am

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members Participating Remotely	
1	Gyasi Burks-Abbott - Developmental Disabilities Council
2	Charles Carr - Disability Policy Consortium
3	Representative Gerard Cassidy - House of Representatives
4	Representative Denise Garlick - House of Representatives
5	Nancy Garr-Colzie - Member, Worcester Disability Commission; Board Chair, Center for Living & Working
6	Representative Kay Khan - House of Representatives
7	Andrew Levrault - Disabled Persons Protection Commission
8	Ann Lynch - Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
9	Oswald Mondejar - Spaulding Rehabilitation Network (MGB)
10	Representative Mathew Muratore - House of Representatives
11	Bridget Murphy - Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin
12	Senator Patrick O'Connor - Massachusetts Senate
13	Angela Ortiz - Massachusetts Pediatric Home Nursing Campaign
14	Kathy Petkauskus - University of Massachusetts Medical School
15	Nancy Rumbolt-Trzcinski - Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council
16	Dan Shannon - MA Developmental Disabilities Council
17	Paul Spooner - Metrowest Center for Independent Living
18	Kerry Thompson - Silent Rhythms Inc. / Disability Rights Fund
19	Christopher White - Road To Responsibility, Inc. (RTR)
20	Liz Zelnick - Office of the Massachusetts State Treasurer
Members Not Present	
	Felix Martinez

Proceedings

I. Welcome, Roll Call, and Oath – 10:00am

- a. Representative Garlick welcomed and congratulated Commission members on their appointments. The Commission was established in Chapter 253 of the Acts of 2020 and Rep. Garlick convened the meeting because the initiative started in the House of Representatives. Rep. Garlick described the meeting agenda as primarily housekeeping and explained the accessibility: ASL interpreters were on the Zoom call, CART services were available, and it was being livestreamed on YouTube for public viewing.
- b. Roll Call was called with 20 members present (See table on page 1).
- c. Commissioners were sworn in by Jordan Maynard, Chief Secretary, Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions.

II. Conflict of Interest Overview – 10:11am

- a. David Giannotti, Public Education and Communications Division Chief of the State Ethics Commission, provided an overview of the state conflict of interest law since commissioners are subject to the provisions of chapter 268A as they apply to special state employees.
- b. Information covered by David can be found in the accompanying meeting materials document named "State Ethics Commission - Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities 07.21.21." Topics included gifts, nepotism and self-dealing, code of conduct, and duty of loyalty.
- c. David stated that disclosures for conflict of interest should be filed with the appointing authority for each Commission member.

III. Open Meeting Law Overview – 10:32am

- a. Carrie Benedon, Assistant Attorney General and Director of the Attorney General's Division of Open Government, provided an overview of the open meeting law.
- b. Information covered by Carrie can be found in the accompanying meeting materials document named "Open Meeting Law Commission on Status of Persons with Disabilities 07.21.21." Topics included quorum and deliberation, meeting, accessibility, notice, and resources.
- c. Member must sign certification within 2 weeks of receipt that states they have received Open Meeting Law materials and understand the requirements of the law. The document and accompanying materials were distributed to Commissioners after the meeting.

IV. Charge to the Commission 10:51am

- a. Representative Josh Cutler, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, greeted the Commission. Representative Cutler spearheaded the Workability Subcommittee in the House of Representatives during the 2019-20 session and creation of the Commission was a key recommendation of the Subcommittee's report.
- b. Representative Denise Garlick read the charge of the commission.

V. Personal Introductions

- a. Commissioners provided personal introductions and described their involvement in the disability community.
- b. Gyasi Burks-Abbott: Member of Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC).

- c. Charles Carr: Legislative Liaison for Disability Policy Consortium.
- d. Representative Gerard Cassidy: State Representative for the 9th Plymouth District (Brockton).
- e. Representative Denise Garlick: State Representative for the 13th Norfolk District (Needham, Dover, Medfield), Chair of the House Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, and mother of young adult with a disability.
- f. Nancy Garr-Colzie: Mobility disability and is working on transportation access.
- g. Representative Kay Khan: State Representative for the 11th Middlesex District (Newton) and former House Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.
- h. Andrew Leverault: Deputy General Counsel for Disabled Persons Protection Commission.
- i. Ann Lynch: Assistant Attorney General working in Consumer Protection and Civil Rights Division.
- j. Oswald Mondejar: Senior Administrator at Mass General Brigham with Spaulding Rehabilitation and has a limb difference.
- k. Representative Mathew Muratore: State Representative for the 1st Plymouth District, served on the Workability Subcommittee, was a licensed nursing home administrator, and ran a pediatric unit.
- l. Bridget Murphy: Appointee of State Secretary William F. Galvin and has a history of working on voting accessibility.
- m. Senator Patrick O'Connor: State Senator for the Plymouth and Norfolk District and has focused on disabilities since entering office.
- n. Angela Ortiz: Mother of daughter with complex needs, founder of the Massachusetts Pediatric Home Nursing Campaign, and is involved with MDDC.
- o. Kathy Petkauskos: Director of Work without Limits at UMass Medical School, mother of legally blind child, and worked on Workability Subcommittee
- p. Nancy Rumbolt-Trzcinski: Chair of the Massachusetts Independent Living Council, career has focused on working with persons with disabilities, and has visual impairment.
- q. Dan Shannon: Director of MDDC.
- r. Paul Spooner: Director of MetroWest Center for Independent Living in Framingham.
- s. Kerry Thompson: Executive Director for Silent Rhythms and Disability Rights Fund.
- t. Chris White: Appointee of the Association of Developmental Disability Providers and CEO of Road to Responsibility.
- u. Liz Zelnick: Deputy Policy and Legislative Director for Treasurer Deb Goldberg.

VI. Vote of Officers – 11:19am

- a. Representative Garlick explained that the statute calls for the Commission to elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk, and Treasurer from among its members. She suggested electing a Chair and Vice Chair today to plan for future meetings. Representative Garlick asked commissioners if they had thoughts and objections to this plan. No thoughts or objections were put forward.
- b. The Commission temporarily elected Senator O'Connor to chair the meeting and conduct the election of Chair since he did not anticipate being nominated for the position. Chris

White nominated Representative Denise Garlick for Chair; the motion was seconded. No other commissioners were nominated. Representative Denise Garlick was elected Chair by affirmation.

- c. Representative Garlick opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chair. Representative Garlick nominated Chris White; the motion was seconded. Charles Carr nominated Paul Spooner; the motion was seconded. Paul Spooner declined nomination. Some Commissioners voiced a desire for a person with disabilities to be Vice Chair; there was agreement that the Commission should aim to have representation of the disability community among officers. Representative Khan nominated Oswald Mondejar; motion was seconded. Roll call was conducted. Chris White was elected Vice Chair.
- d. Representative Garlick congratulated Chris White and stated that she would work with Chris to ensure commissioners with disabilities would be nominated to Clerk and Treasurer.

VII. Budget Update – 11:34am

- a. Representative Garlick explained that the supplemental budget passed in the House and Senate included \$150,000 for the Commission. The Conference Committee report was recently passed in the House and was pending in the Senate (NOTE: The supplemental budget has since been signed into law by the Governor).

VIII. Proposed Meeting Schedule – 11:34am

- a. Representative Garlick's suggested meeting in September and October, with another meeting at the end of October if necessary to approve the Commission's annual report. Representative Garlick's office would be sending a follow-up email asking commissioners to hold the following dates:
 - i. Wednesday, September 22 at 10:00am
 - ii. Wednesday, October 20 at 10:00am
 - iii. Friday, October 29 at 10:00am, (if necessary, for approval of annual report).

IX. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 11:36am.