

**Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities
Legislative and Budget Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes**

Date of meeting: Monday, November 13, 2023

Start time: 2:00pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members Participating Remotely	
1	Carl Richardson – ADA Coordinator, Massachusetts State House
2	Angela Ortiz – Director of Business Development & Strategy, Partners for Youth with Disabilities
3	Chris White – CEO & President, Road to Responsibility, Inc.
4	Meghan Todd – Grants Manager, City of Framingham
5	Harry Weissman – Disability Policy Consortium (sitting in for Charlie Carr)

Action Items		Person Responsible
1	Invite Rep. Cutler for WorkAbility report guidance	Carl Richardson
2	Reaching out to legislators and Barbara L'Italien regarding Disability Caucus	Angela Ortiz and Meghan Todd
3	Invite Maura Sullivan to present on legislative process resources	Carl Richardson
4	Examine Disability Employment Tax Credit (DETC) program implementation	All

Welcome, Roll Calls, and Introductions

1. Welcome, Roll Call
2. Election of Co-Chair
 - Motion to approve Carl Richardson as Co-Chair by Meghan, seconded by Angela and Chris
 - Approved
 - Reminder for each person to announce themselves before speaking
3. Discussion of FY24 Goals and other items

- Review of [WorkAbility report](#) recommendations and set priorities on page 16 of the report.
- Focus on:
 1. Set new disability hiring goals in state contracting is a current piece of legislation.
 2. Create disability hiring tax incentives and promote existing federal incentives. MA has passed the [Disability Employment Tax Credit \(DETC\) program](#). This subcommittee would examine its implementation.
 3. Remove physical/technical barriers to employment. [Bill S.1553 “An Act Building a More Accessible Massachusetts”](#)
 4. Direct Service Providers Bill H.191 [“An Act Relative to a Livable Wage for Human Services Providers”](#)
- Other topic areas suggested:
 - Transportation: create partnerships with ride share services for consumers who do not live near the transportation route/rural areas.
- Governor Healey will release H2 budget next year and subcommittee will take a closer look.
 - Disability Policy Consortium (DPC) looks at some selected bills.
 - Request from Carl to propose that DPC to work with subcommittee to Inform the community on budget priorities as it pertains to disability community.
 - Angela proposes that the subcommittee identifies and shares what the subcommittee’s and commission priorities are with the Governor prior to budget gets released in future years.
 - Chris shared that the Providers’ Council also tracks disability-oriented bills and can share that information and budget grid with the subcommittee.
 - This subcommittee is a gatherer of information.
- Angela asked what the status of the State House reigniting the Disability Caucus again. Angela and Meghan are interested in reaching out to legislators: Senator Spilka, Rep. Khan and Barbara L’Italien and find out.
- Mobilize other MA Commissions: this may not be a legislative goal: how are we involving other commissions across the state?

- Carl shared that many people are overwhelmed by legislative process. He proposes to create educative modules.
 - Members shared that the Arc of MA and other agencies have similar modules and we could invite Maura Sullivan to present. Carl will reach out to her.
 - Harry mentioned the Mass Law Reform Institute and DPC also have trainings and workshops on how the legislative process works as well as how to participate as members of the public. More information can be found here: <https://www.masslegalservices.org/content/legislative-process-massachusetts-0>
- Carl proposed inviting Rep. Cutler, who created the WorkAbility report to a future meeting and gain useful information and direction.
- Angela asked if any legislative bill has been discussed in the Disability Employment subcommittee.
 - Chris and Imene shared that the raising the asset limit federal bill has been discussed.

4. Set up schedule for the year:

- 1/8/24 at 12pm
- 2/12/24 at 12pm
- 4/8/24 at 12pm
- 5/13/24 at 12pm
- 7/8/24 at 12pm
- 8/26/24 **at 10am**
- 11/18/24 **at 10am**

5. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Disability Employment Subcommittee will be held on:
Monday, January 8, 2024 at 12:00 pm.