

Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities Commission Meeting Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Time: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Place: Hybrid

In Person Hearing Room 222

MA State House

24 Beacon Street,

Boston, MA, 02108

Access to the recording: [Meeting Recording](#)

Members Present	
1	Gyasi Burks-Abbott – LEND Faculty, Boston Children’s Hospital/UMass Boston Institute for Community Inclusion
2	The Honorable Denise Garlick
3	Nancy Garr-Colzie – Member, Worcester Disability Commission; Board Chair, Center for Living and Working
4	Victoria Gill – Disabled Persons Protection Commission
5	Representative Jay Livingstone – House of Representatives
6	Ann Lynch – Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office
7	Representative John Marsi – House of Representatives
8	Oswald Mondejar – Mucho Gusto Consulting
9	Bridget Murphy – Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth Willian Francis Galvin
10	Angela Ortiz – MA Health Council
11	Kathy Petkauskos – University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School
12	Carl Richardson – State House ADA Coordinator
13	Leo Sarkissian – The Arc of Massachusetts
14	Lexi Semanchik – State Treasurer’s Office
15	Rachel Stanton – State Treasurer’s Office
16	Christopher White – Road to Responsibility, Inc (RTR)
Members Not Present	
17	Charles Carr – Disability Policy Consortium
18	Craig Hall – Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council
19	Representative Vanna Howard – House of Representatives
20	Rachel Kaprielian – Triangle, Inc.
21	Regina Marshall – Advocates
22	Senator Patrick O’Connor – Senate
23	Representative Lindsay Sabadosa – House of Representatives
24	Meghan Todd – City of Framingham

Proceedings

1. Welcome, Roll Call, Approval of September Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to approve September meeting minutes was made and seconded.
 - Motion approved.

2. Meeting the Moment feedback
 - Survey was sent out to all participants
 - Held November 4 at Needham Town Hall and via Zoom.
 - 190+ registrations.
 - Included individuals with disabilities, caregivers, advocates, local disability commissions, community organizations, and state agencies.
 - Format included:
 - Overview of Commission work
 - Community testimony
 - Resource fair
 - Overall experience:
 - 48% Very positive
 - 34% Positive
 - Usefulness of Information:
 - 58% Very useful
 - 34% Somewhat useful
 - Connection to Community Resources:
 - 48% Felt more connected
 - 44% Felt somewhat more connected
 - Accessibility:
 - 79% reported the event was accessible and comfortable
 - What Participants Valued:
 - Lived-experience testimony
 - Networking opportunities
 - Resource fair access
 - Learning about Commission subcommittee work
 - Hybrid participation option
 - Recommendations for Future Events:
 - More time for networking
 - Avoid major scheduling conflicts (e.g., local Election Day)
 - Discussion included:
 - Strong virtual participation in the resource fair despite minor technical issues.
 - Positive feedback on speaker balance.
 - Planning underway for future events in Lowell and Northampton.

The Commission agreed that the event demonstrated strong public interest in engagement and partnership. Lessons learned regarding accessibility, scheduling, and hybrid participation will inform future events.

3. Advisory Council update

- Overview of the process in identifying Advisory Council members, strong emphasis on individuals with lived experience and recommendations from all 24 Commissioners.
- Commissioners were invited to attend the January 30 Advisory Council gathering in the Members Lounge.
- Commissioners were encouraged to attend with the Advisory Council members they nominated to strengthen relationships.

4. Subcommittee and Executive Director report

- Disability Employment Subcommittee:
 - SEED Meeting (September 24, 2025)
 - Discussed collaboration opportunities.
 - Identified overlap in initiatives and potential resource pooling.
 - Explored Department of Economic Research employment dashboard data and policy recommendation opportunities.
 - Requested updated 2025 data.
 - MAPSE Conference (October 9, 2025)
 - Presented at “Employment Matters” conference (approx. 150 attendees). Link to presentation: [MA APSE 2025 Strength in Supports Presentation](#)
 - Topics included inclusive workplaces, curbside effect, tax incentives, and Commission resources.
 - Interactive components included Q&A and live engagement tools.
 - Boston Children’s Disability ERG (November 17, 2025)
 - Learned about ERG role in workplace inclusion and internal advocacy.
 - Upcoming:
 - SEED presentation to subcommittee (early 2026)
 - Meeting with Veterans Advocates Office
 - Scheduled meetings: 1/26, 2/23, 4/27, 5/18, 8/31 (2026)
- Workforce Supports Subcommittee:
 - Recognition of Commissioner Andrew Levrault for his service.
 - Subcommittee seeking new Co-Chairs.
 - Presentation from Behavioral Health Workforce Center (HPC).
 - Identified need for better workforce data, particularly for unlicensed roles.
 - Needs assessment underway (completion expected Spring).
 - January presentation scheduled with Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (2025 Workforce Metrics Survey).
- Long-Term Services & Supports (LTSS) and Health Equity Subcommittee:
 - Presentation by Lurie Institute for Disability Policy.
 - Focus areas:

- Home- and community-based services (HCBS)
 - Equity in service access
 - Direct care workforce recruitment/retention
 - Affordable housing models
 - Medicaid waiver impacts
 - Community Living Data Dashboard
 - Race/ethnicity data gaps in Medicaid
 - Presentation by Housing Navigator Massachusetts.
 - Discussion included:
 - Affordable housing access barriers
 - Accessible unit availability
 - Data transparency gaps
 - Section 811 PRA
 - Outreach strategies
 - Action items:
 - Invite MassHealth to return for updates
- Executive Director Report:
 - Annual Report released (accessible format; artwork by Gateway Arts).
 - Engagement with Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce; follow-up meeting scheduled.
 - Meeting with Office of the Veteran Advocate.
 - Participation in national State as a Model Employer Community of Practice.
 - Participation in Intellectual and Developmental Disability/Autism Alliance Working Group.
 - Meeting with Governor’s Cabinet Affairs & Strategic Planning staff.

5. Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Update: New State Institution Records Access Law. Presentation by DDS leadership regarding [Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025](#).

- Changes to DDS statute regarding public records access.
- Best interest determinations required prior to disclosure.
- Documentation requirements (proof of kinship, etc.).
- Record destruction review process via Records Conservation Board.
- Notice of privacy practices will be updated.
- Collaboration required with DMH for consistency.
- Secure request processes being developed.
- Seeking input from stakeholders: [more info link](#)
- Discussion:
 - Importance of historical transparency.
 - Potential learning opportunities regarding community integration and stigma reduction.

6. Commissioner Announcements

- Acknowledgment of the passing of [Alice Wong](#), a prominent national disability activist and recognition of her contributions.
- Work Without Limits virtual career fair announcement (February 25, 2026). [Career Fair Link](#)
- Discussion of workforce funding and rate adjustments.

7. Adjournment

Next meeting dates:

- March 11, 2026
- June 3, 2026
- September 16, 2026
- December 9, 2026