



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

**Special Commission on Post Traumatic
Stress Disorder**

April 11, 2025

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Call to Order
3. Approve Meeting Minutes from 3/3
4. Open Meeting Law Reminder
5. Vote to Establish Working Groups
6. Review Goals, Expectations, Commission's Charge, and Topics
7. Working Group Readouts
8. Upcoming Meetings
9. Adjournment (Vote)

Open Meeting Law Reminder

- All meetings of the Special Commission are subject to Open Meeting Law and open to the public.
- Special Commission must post notice of its meetings on its website at least 48 hours before the meeting, including a list of topics the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed.
- Please do not discuss official business with other Special Commission members outside of the publicly noticed meetings.
- The working groups are also subject to Open Meeting Law.
- The goal of Open Meeting Law is transparency in government.

Vote to Establish Working Groups

Charge of the Commission	Working Group
(i) assess and summarize the advances made in research on and treatment and diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder;	James Machado Mandy Domb John Rodolico Isabelle Rosso
(ii) assess and summarize the advances made in access to care for individuals with a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder;	Michael Allard Amy Bonneau Hema Sarang John Velis

Vote to Establish Working Groups Continued

Charge of the Commission	Working Group
<p>iii) assess and summarize research services and support activities for post-traumatic stress disorder across the commonwealth, including coordination of the commonwealth's activities and programs with respect to post-traumatic stress disorder;</p>	<p>Kevin Flanagan Michael Jefferson Sonya Taly Eliza Williamson</p>
<p>(iv) develop a comprehensive strategic plan to improve health outcomes for individuals with a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder including, but not limited to, recommendations to: (A) advance research on post-traumatic stress disorder; (B) improve the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder; (C) improve public awareness and recognition of post-traumatic stress disorder; (D) improve mental health care delivery for individuals with a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder; (E) improve the early and accurate diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder; and (F) systematically advance the full spectrum of biomedical research on post-traumatic stress disorder.</p>	<p>Donald Boyd Commissioner Doyle Commissioner Goldstein Dr. Vanja Pejic</p>

Goals & Expectations

- **Goals:**
 - Study post-traumatic stress disorder in the commonwealth.
 - Complete the Charge of the Commission before July 1st.
 - Submit all findings and recommendations to include in the report.
- **Expectations:**
 - Commission members will meet internally with their assigned working group to complete the Charge of the Commission.

Topics

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in:

- Veterans
- Maternal Health
- Substance Use Disorder
- Positive & Adverse Childhood Experiences (PACEs)
- Men's Mental Health
- Traumatic Brain Injuries & Sports Concussions
- Generalized Workplace Wellness and Accommodations
- Victims of Sexual Violence
- Victims of Domestic Violence

Statute: Section 149 of Chapter 178 of the Acts of 2024

Legislative Charge (full text):

SECTION 149. (a) There shall be a special commission to study post-traumatic stress disorder in the commonwealth.

(b) The commission shall consist of: the secretary of health and human services, or a designee, who shall serve as chair; the secretary of public safety and security, or a designee; the secretary of veterans' services, or a designee; the commissioner of mental health, or a designee; the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery; a representative of the National Guard appointed by the adjutant general of the Massachusetts National Guard; and 9 members to be appointed by the secretary of health and human services, 1 of whom shall be an expert from the Anxiety and Traumatic Stress Disorders Laboratory at Harvard University in consultation with their relevant specialty chapters, 1 of whom shall be a representative of Boston Children's Hospital, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Police Association, Inc., 1 of whom shall be a representative of Jane Doe Inc.: The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, 1 of whom shall be a representative from Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Inc., 1 of whom shall be a representative of Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Corrections Officers Federated Union, 1 of whom shall be a representative of a research advocacy or support organization primarily serving individuals with post-traumatic stress disorder and 1 of whom shall be a representative of Massachusetts General Hospital Home Base program.

Working Group 1 Readout

First Charge of the Commission:

(i) assess and summarize the advances made in research on and treatment and diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder;

Working Group 2 Readout

Second Charge of the Commission:

(ii) assess and summarize the advances made in access to care for individuals with a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder;

Working Group 3 Readout

Third Charge of the Commission:

(iii) assess and summarize research services and support activities for post-traumatic stress disorder across the commonwealth, including coordination of the commonwealth's activities and programs with respect to post-traumatic stress disorder; and

Working Group 4 Readout

Fourth Charge of the Commission:

(iv) develop a comprehensive strategic plan to improve health outcomes for individuals with a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder including, but not limited to, recommendations to:

- *(A) advance research on post-traumatic stress disorder;*
- *(B) improve the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder;*
- *(C) improve public awareness and recognition of post-traumatic stress disorder;*
- *(D) improve mental health care delivery for individuals with a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder;*
- *(E) improve the early and accurate diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder; and*
- *(F) systematically advance the full spectrum of biomedical research on post-traumatic stress disorder.*

Upcoming Meeting and Next Steps

Date	Time	Location
Friday, May 16 th	10:00 am – 11:30 am	Virtual/Zoom
Friday, June 9 th	10:00 am – 11:30 am	Virtual/Zoom
Tuesday, July 1 st - <i>Submission of Report to the clerk of the House of Representatives and the Senate</i>		

Webpage

Meeting notifications and copies of meeting materials, such as approved minutes, will be posted on the Commission's Mass.gov webpage:

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/special-commission-on-post-traumatic-stress-disorder>