

# **Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities**

## **Commission Meeting**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Date of meeting: Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Start Time: 10:00 am

End Time: 11:25 am

Location: B2 Hearing Room and Zoom

Members Present	
1	Gyasi Burks-Abbott – LEND Faculty, Boston Children’s Hospital/UMass Boston Institute for Community Inclusion
2	Representative Denise Garlick – House of Representatives
3	Craig Hall – Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council
4	Representative Kay Khan – House of Representatives
5	Andrew Levrault – Disabled Persons Protection Commission
6	Ann Lynch – Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office
7	Reginal Marshall – Advocates
8	Oswald Mondejar – Mucho Gusto Consulting
9	Representative Mathew Muratore – House of Representatives
10	Bridget Murphy – Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin
11	Angela Ortiz – Partners for Youth with Disabilities
12	Carl Richardson – State House ADA Coordinator
13	Rachel Stanton – State Treasurer’s Office
14	Meghan Todd – City of Framingham
Members Not Present	
15	Charles Carr – Disability Policy Consortium

16	Representative Gerard Cassidy – House of Representatives
17	Nancy Garr-Colzie – Member, Worcester Disability Commission; Board Chair, Center for Living and Working
18	Felix Martinez
19	Senator Patrick O’Connor – Senate
20	Kathy Petkauskos – University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School
21	Christopher White – Road to Responsibility, Inc (RTR)

## **Proceedings**

- I. Welcome, Roll Call, Approval of 9.13.23 meeting minutes
- II. [Health Equity Compact Presentation](#) by Oz Mondejar, Dr. Guy Fish- CEO and President at Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, and Jeff Sánchez- Principal of Sánchez Strategies
  - Discussion post presentation:
    - Chair Garlick shared the following:
      - The Executive Committee believes health equity is an important discussion the commission should be having.
      - Reminded commission members that although we do not endorse legislation, we want to ensure that members as leaders have all the information available to inform their work.
      - As the subcommittees’ work progress, we believe that the ongoing discussion about health inequities and the information shared will not only inform our members but also strengthen our networks. By considering how the commission can incorporate health equity issues into our existing goals and infuse the principles of the health equity compact, we aim to enhance our focus on health equity.

- Opens the conversation about how health equity has an intersection with every one of the goals we have in the upcoming new year.
- Oz emphasized two key aspects from the presentation:
  - Dr. Guy Fish's emphasis on data collection and a call to encourage individuals to disclose their disabilities.
  - The importance of training and cultural competence in ensuring that individuals with disabilities receive appropriate care.
- Gyasi asked what the status of the bill is?
  - It's in the health care financing committee.
- Rep. Khan shared that transportation should be part of the health equity discussion as it continues to be inaccessible in some communities.
- Angela Ortiz, Chair of the Workforce Supports Subcommittee, reported that the subcommittee is consistently applying a racial equity perspective to their work, which encompasses health equity. The subcommittee will maintain its focus on incorporating an intentional health equity lens in its efforts.
- The following commissioners support the integration of health equity issues and principles into the objectives of our subcommittees:
  - Gyasi Burks-Abbott
  - Chair Garlick
  - Craig Hall
  - Rep. Khan
  - Andrew Levrault
  - Ann Lynch
  - Regina Marshall
  - Oz Mondejar
  - Bridget Murphy
  - Rep. Muratore
  - Angela Ortiz

- Carl Richardson
- Rachel Stanton

III. [Harvard Graduate School of Education Students Presentation: Transition and Post-School outcomes for students with disabilities: closing the gap to post-secondary education and employment.](#)

- This researched, studied and analyzed the following key question: How can school-to-work activities for transition aged youth with disabilities be improved to address gaps in short-term and long-term outcomes?
  - This project aligns with one of the Commission's mandated goals: to study, review, advise and report on school-to-work activities for transition aged youth with disabilities that establish a bridge to self-sufficiency and engage school supports, family members and employers.
- Discussion post presentation:
  - Oz noted that the report is comprehensive and significant, and inquired whether it could be shared with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and Commonwealth Corporation.
    - Chair Garlick mentioned that the final report will be distributed to commissioners, feedback will be incorporated, and then it will be sent to various entities.
    - Chair Garlick shared personal experiences regarding her daughter with a disability, who faced challenges navigating state programs that lacked clear outcomes for individuals with disabilities upon turning 22. She emphasized the importance of the work presented in improving this process, as it is crucial for enabling individuals with disabilities to lead positive and productive lives. Specifically, a smoother transition will assist individuals with disabilities in finding employment

and provide essential information to workforce providers about the personal goals of individuals turning 22, along with the specific supports needed to achieve those goals.

- Rep. Khan echoed Chair Garlick's sentiment and thanked the students for their work.
  - She also agreed on the recommendation of having a state coordinator comparable to what Utah and Maryland have.
  - She would like to bring some of these recommendations to the Workforce Supports subcommittee.
  - Angela agreed with the feedback. She shared her own experiences regarding her daughter with a disability, highlighting the impact of insufficient services on the community.
    1. She also expressed an interest in exploring the approaches taken by other states in addressing these issues.

#### IV. Commissioner Announcements

- Chair Garlick wished everyone a great holiday season.
- Craig Hall shared that the Arc of MA and the MA Developmental Disabilities Council will host their [46<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Reception](#) [themed "Reaffirming our Commitment to Those in Need"](#) on Wednesday, March 6 at 10am at the MA State House Great Hall.

#### V. Adjournment