Massachusetts 988 Commission

Meeting Minutes
April 13th, 2026
1:30pm – 3:00pm

Date of meeting: Monday, April 13th, 2026
Start time: 1:35 PM
End time: 2:07 PM
Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Count	Members participating remotely	Vote 1	Vote 2
1	Danielle Bolduc – Director of the Suicide Prevention Program	A	X
2	Patrick Bowlin - Current or former consumer of mental health or substance use disorder supports or services	_	_
3	Kelly Casey, PhD – Department of Forensic & Clinical Services at William James College	A	X
4	Rebekah Caylor – Raynham Police Department (MCPA), 911 Dispatcher	X	X
5	Courtney Chelo – Mass. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC)	X	X
6	Undersecretary Kerry Collins – Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)	_	_
7	Rebekah Gewirtz – National Association of Social Workers - MA & RI Chapter	X	X
8	Jill Lack – CEO of Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP)	A	X
9	Debbie Helms – Samaritans Merrimack Valley	X	X
10	Jessica Larochelle – Mass. Association for Mental Health (MAMH)	A	X
11	Jacqueline Hubbard – National Alliance on Mental Illness Massachusetts (NAMI-MA)	X	X
12	Charmain Jackman, PhD – InnoPsych, Inc.	X	X
13	Karin Jeffers – Clinical & Support Options (CSO)	_	_
14	Kathy Marchi – Samaritans, Inc.	_	_
15	Kimberly Martin – Riverside Trauma Center – Riverside Community Care	A	X
16	Paul Mina – United Way of Tri County & United Way of Pioneer Valley, Mass 211	X	X
17	Ivy Moody/Jennifer Honig designee – Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee (MHLAC)	A	A
18	Pam Sager – Parent/Professional Advocacy League (PPAL)	_	_
19	Pata Suyemoto - National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association	_	_
20	Joan Taglieri - Cambridge Health Alliance	_	_
21	Mio Tamanaha – Department of Mental Health	_	_
22	Stacy Vail – Cataldo Ambulance Service, Paramedic	_	_
23	Monna Wallace – State 911 Department	_	_
24	Sam Langstein - Current or former consumer of mental health or substance use disorder supports or services	X	X
25	Chair Kelley Cunningham – Division of Violence and Injury Prevention, DPH	X	X

* **(X)** Voted in favor; **(O)** Opposed; **(A)** Abstained from vote; **(-)** Absent from meeting or during vote
** **Vote 1**: Roll Call and Minutes Approval; **Vote 2:** Approval of the 25/26 Annual Report

Call to Order and Opening Remarks:

Chair Kelley Cunningham, Director of the Division of Violence and Injury Prevention at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, introduced herself and mentioned her designee as the Commission Chair. Kelley stated to the Commission members and meeting attendees that the 988 Commission meeting will be recorded. Kelley reminded the group that the meeting is subject to Open Meeting Law and that any votes taken during the meeting will be conducted via a roll-call vote. Commission members should remain muted unless they are speaking and are asked to please not use the chat feature as it is not available to the public. Members are encouraged to use the raise hand feature for comments or questions and to state their names before speaking to record the minutes accurately and encourage accessible communications.

Kelley introduced new member Jill Lack, CEO Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership, who is replacing Sharon Hanson who left the Commission at the end of 2025. Kelley asked the Commission members to introduce themselves to Jill during the roll call vote for the meeting minutes.

Kelley asked if everyone had received the draft copy of the March minutes and if there were any suggested edits. No changes or edits to the minutes were voiced.

March Meeting Minutes:
Kelley called for a roll call vote and approval of the draft minutes from the March 16th, 2026, 988 Commission meeting. Paul Mina made a motion to approve the minutes, and Jessica Larochelle seconded the motion.

Vote 1 on approval of the March meeting minutes: The March 16th minutes were approved by roll-call vote.

Kelley set expectations for the meeting, stating that we would first cover the remaining open discussion points in the draft Annual Report on slide 8 and slide 61. Following resolution of those items the Commission will vote on the Annual Report. With the remaining time the Commission will discuss the recommendations that were tabled for discussion in 2026 and the 2026 meeting calendar.

Draft Annual Report Discussion:
Casey Pratt shared her screen and kicked off the discussion on the remaining open items in the draft Annual Report. Noting that no technical edits were suggested by the Commission members we started the review with slide #8.

Slide 8: The previous discussion on whether to include the word budgetary in the top section that states the 988 Commission objectives. Because that is statute language that we wouldn't necessarily want to edit, it was suggested that budget could instead be included under the Opportunities section. The Commission discussed and settled on the bullet point: "Emphasize areas of concern or interest in terms of the state budget."

Slide 61: The previous discussion centered on the sentence "988 Lifeline is a 24/7, free, and low barrier service that forms the foundation of right-sized mental health care and support approaches while successfully diverting interactions away from unnecessary and costly higher levels of care and harmful or deadly interactions with emergency services." It was previously debated that the wording "and harmful or deadly interactions with emergency services" should be removed as it misrepresents emergency services and countered that it is a reality and therefore should not be removed. As a compromise it was suggested that we include the word rare and the word potentially, as in, "rare, but harmful or potentially deadly interactions with emergency services." The Commission agreed on this approach.

Vote 2 for approval of the 25/26 Annual Report:

Kelley called for a motion to approve the Annual Report. Deborah Helms made a motion to approve the Annual Report, and Rebekah Caylor seconded the motion. The 25/26 Annual Report was approved with 14 votes in favor of, and 1 abstained, with 10 members absent. Kelley reminded the group the next part of the formal approval process will take some time as it moves up to the state legislature and until that is finalized, we are unable to share out the 25/26 Annual Report.

Kelley then noted the time which was 2 PM. The Commission was previously aware that Kelly Casey had to drop at 2:05 PM. It was mentioned in the practice session – where Commission members gather for quorum before the meeting officially begins – that Kelly Casey must drop at 2:05 PM and that this will impact quorum given attendance was low for this meeting. Ivy Moody's designee, Jennifer Honig, as a non-voting member did not count for quorum.

2026 Meeting Calendar and Agenda Planning for Tabled Recommendations:

Kelley raised the previous discussion the Commission started with regards to the 2026 meeting calendar and the group's desire for more time whether that be from making the existing meetings 30 minutes longer, scheduling more meetings, and/or developing subcommittees to work through ideas for recommendations. The primary issue with subcommittees is that there isn't any funding for subcommittee resources in the 988 Commission budget.

Kelley prompted the group to think about how they want to use the time for the next scheduled Commission meeting in June. Casey Pratt shared her screen, slide #64 in the 25/26 Annual Report that shows the list of tabled recommendations the Commission wanted to explore as part of the 2026 agendas. Kelley read out the tabled recommendations and reminded the group that pursuing these topics needed to be in manner that is specific to 988.

Jessica Larochelle raised that while she understands the purpose of the tabled recommendations, she is more supportive of the 988 Commission first finding ways to continue the discussion on the approved recommendations that went into to 25/26 Annual Report and what this group might do to support action on them. Knowing that the 988 Commission is tasked to make recommendations for 988, but that implementation and funding of those recommendations is with DPH and EHS, is the difficulty. Rebecca Ashby, Deputy General Counsel, stated that if the Commission wanted to revisit recommendations in the Annual Report, conduct a deeper dive, and propose more specific criteria to achieve them, that would be appropriate, however she reiterated that the implementation is with DPH and EHS.

Kelly Casey spoke up and let the Commission know that she had to leave the meeting. No other members joined by this time, and quorum was lost.

Conclusion of the Meeting

The Commission lost quorum and had to adjourn at 2:07 PM.

The next 988 Commission meeting will be held on June 15th, 2026, from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM ET.