

# Massachusetts Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Disease and All Other Dementias

Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2024  
3:00-5:00 pm

Date of meeting: Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Start time: 3:00 pm

End time: 4:50 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members participating remotely		Vote 1*	Vote 2
1	<b>Acting Secretary Robin Lipson</b> – Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) ( <i>chair</i> )	A	X
2	<b>Susan Antkowiak</b> – Alzheimer's Association - MA/NH Chapter	X	X
3	<b>Hugo Aparicio</b> – Boston University School of Medicine	-	-
4	<b>Andrew Budson</b> – VA Boston Healthcare System	-	-
5	<b>Jatin Dave</b> – Chief Medical Officer, MassHealth	X	-
6	<b>Brent Forester</b> – McLean Hospital, Mass General Brigham	-	-
7	<b>Patricia Jehlen</b> – Mass. Senate	-	-
8	<b>Rhiana Kohl</b> – Caregiver	-	-
9	<b>Barbara Meehan</b> – Alzheimer's Advocate/Former Caregiver	X	X
10	<b>Hector Montesino</b> – Alzheimer's Advocate	X	X
11	<b>Linda Pellegrini</b> – UMass Memorial Medical Center	X	X
12	<b>Christine Ritchie</b> – Department of Public Health (DPH)	-	-
13	<b>Heather Sawitsky</b> – Fox Hill Village Homeowners Corp.	-	-
14	<b>Thomas Stanley</b> – Mass. House of Representatives	X	-
15	<b>James Wessler</b> – Alzheimer's Association	X	X
16	<b>Vacant</b> – Caregiver	-	-

\* (X) Voted in favor; (O) Opposed; (A) Abstained from vote; (-) Absent from meeting or during vote

## Proceedings

Executive Office of Elder Affairs Acting Secretary Robin Lipson called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. She welcomed members and introduced herself as the Council Chair, replacing former Secretary Chen. Acting Secretary Lipson noted that along with statewide listening sessions with older adults, the Council's work will help inform the next iteration of the EOEA's age- and dementia friendly state plan.

Acting Secretary Robin Lipson reminded members that the Council is subject to the Open Meeting Law, noting that all votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll call.

**Vote 1 to approve the 5/7/2024 minutes:** Members voted to approve the minutes from the Council's previous meeting on May 7, 2024. Ms. Meehan introduced the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Montesino and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Acting Secretary Lipson welcomed a panel of insurers to discuss dementia care and support: Michelle Powderly, Senior Clinical Director of Government Programs at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA); Jonathan Harding, Chief Medical Officer at Point32Health; Megan Stolze, Senior Behavioral Health Care Manager at Point32Health; Chuck Pu, Senior Medical Director for the Office of Long-term Services and Supports at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services; and Tanya Raggio-Ashley, Acting Regional Chief Medical Officer for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) New York Region 2 and CMS Boston Region 1. For additional details, refer to the meeting presentation on the Council's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

In their presentations, panelists addressed a number of topics, including:

- BCBSMA care coordination, caregiver teams, and navigation resources
- Details regarding Point32Health's Dementia Care Consultation Program, including services offered
- MassHealth's efforts to expand access and care coordination, home and community-based services, and ongoing research on home-based rehabilitation care
- Services and supports for dementia caregivers

Acting Secretary Lipson welcomed a panel of dementia caregivers to discuss the specific challenges associated with LGBTQIA+ communities: Jacqueline Buckley, Deb Allen, Mark McKay, and Dan Stewart. In their presentations, panelists addressed a number of topics, including the bias they and their partners with dementia have experienced in receiving routine care; the importance of support groups for LGBTQIA+ caregivers; and the lack of information readily available for caregivers and families on their eligibility for services under their insurance plans.

In summarizing next steps for the Council, Acting Secretary Lipson noted that the group's November 5 meeting had been pushed back to January 14 to give workgroups more time to prepare their presentations.

**Vote 2 to adjourn the meeting:** Acting Secretary Lipson requested motions to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Pelligrini introduced the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Meehan and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

### **Meeting Materials**

1. Draft 5/7/2024 meeting minutes
2. Council meeting presentation
3. CMS resources