

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

Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2025  
3:30-5:00 pm

Date of meeting: Thursday, January 9, 2025

Start time: 3:30 pm

End time: 5:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members participating remotely		Present	Vote 1*	Vote 2
1	<b>Robin Lipson</b> – Executive Office of Aging & Independence (AGE) ( <i>chair</i> )	X	X	X
2	<b>Susan Antkowiak</b> – Alzheimer's Association - MA/NH Chapter	X	X	X
3	<b>Hugo Aparicio</b> – Boston University School of Medicine	X	X	X
4	<b>Randi Berkowitz</b> – MassHealth	X	X	X
5	<b>Andrew Budson</b> – VA Boston Healthcare System	-	-	-
6	<b>Brent Forester</b> – McLean Hospital, Mass General Brigham	X	X	X
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	X
10	<b>Hector Montesino</b> – Alzheimer's Advocate	X	X	X
11	<b>Linda Pellegrini</b> – UMass Memorial Medical Center	X	X	X
12	<b>Christine Ritchie</b> – Department of Public Health (DPH)	X	X	X
13	<b>Heather Sawitsky</b> – Fox Hill Village Homeowners Corp.	X	X	X
14	<b>Thomas Stanley</b> – Mass. House of Representatives	-	-	-
15	<b>James Wessler</b> – Alzheimer's Association	X	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 Aging and Independence (AGE) Secretary Robin Lipson called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. She welcomed members and introduced herself as the Council Chair and 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.

Secretary Lipson introduced Whitney Moyer, Chief Operating Officer with AGE, noting that she would be serving on the Council in the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) seat and would be officially designated as the Council's Chair beginning in May. Secretary Lipson also welcomed Dr. Randi Berkowitz, Associate Medical Director for MassHealth, who would be replacing Dr. Jatin Dave on the Council in the MassHealth seat.

**Vote 1 to approve the 9/10/2024 minutes:** Members voted to approve the minutes from the Council's previous meeting on September 10, 2024. Ms. Meehan introduced the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Pellegrini and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Members of the Council's Dementia Care Planning Team, Susan Antkowiak and Linda Pellegrini, presented updates on the group's work, which focuses on recommending, distributing, and promoting person-centered and person-directed care planning resources, and advising Ariadne Labs in their development of a tool for person-centered assessment and care planning for people living with dementia and their caregivers. In their presentation, they explained that the group has continued to collect and review person-centered care planning resources and tools, stressing the benefits of person-centered dementia care planning, its unique characteristics, and key elements. They noted that the dementia care planning toolkit is nearly complete and will be made available in the coming months. For additional details, refer to the meeting presentation on the Council's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Chris Wight, a clinical social worker from Massachusetts General Hospital's Department of Neurology Memory Disorders Unit, presented on the work of the Council's Interdisciplinary Dementia Care (IDC) Team, which focuses on ensuring that primary care staff across the state receive the training and support needed to build and retain interprofessional dementia care teams. In his presentation, he noted that the group had reviewed gaps within the current dementia care system; and conducted an analysis of effective dementia care models and practices within primary care. He proposed a revised goal for the Council's consideration, which includes developing a plan that ensures that individuals with dementia and their care partners have access to an evidence-based dementia care navigation program; as well as piloting a "Care Ecosystem" program in Massachusetts, originally developed by University of California, San Francisco, which could be linked to the state's existing Aging Services Access Point (ASAP) network. For additional details, refer to the meeting presentation on the Council's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Council member, Hugo Aparicio, presented on the recent work of the Council's Equity and Inclusion Team, which focuses on approaches to eliminate, weaken, or mitigate the impact of barriers that may prevent certain groups from benefiting from the Council's work. In his presentation, Dr. Aparicio summarized the group's work, noting that they had developed a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) tool, which was shared with the Council's Dementia Care Planning team for inclusion in their toolkit and piloted with Harvard School of Public Health's Ariadne Lab to refine its care planning tool currently undergoing testing. In addition, he highlighted key findings from a September 2024 listening session convened in a health center within a predominantly African American/Black community in Springfield. He noted that the listening session was organized through financial support from Point32Health Foundation. He explained that having achieved their goal, the Team would be convening its final meeting in January 2025. For additional details, refer to the meeting presentation on the Council's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

In summarizing next steps, Council staff shared a proposed calendar for the group's remaining meetings for the coming year.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

**Meeting Materials**

1. Draft 9/10/2024 meeting minutes
2. Council meeting presentation
3. CMS resources