Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention (CBHPP) Commission

Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2026
3:00 - 4:30 pm

Date of meeting: Thursday, July 9, 2026
Start time: 3:00 pm
End time: 4:30 pm
Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Commission Members		Present	Vote 1*	Vote 2
1	**Amy Rosenthal** – Executive Office of Health and Human Services *(chair)*	x	x	x
2	**Tobin Abraham –** Office of Representative Tram Nguyen *(designee of Rep. Nguyen)*	x	x	x
3	**Nancy Allen Scannell** – Mass. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	-	-	-
4	**Gabriel Adams-Keene -** Office of Senator John Velis *(designee of Sen. Velis)*	-	-	-
5	**Lena Asmar** – New England Center and Home for Veterans	x	x	x
6	**Gwen Bankmann** *(designe of Chair Mindy Domb)* – Mass. House of Representatives	x	a	-
7	**Ruth Blodgett** – Department of Public Health *(designee of Commissioner Goldstein)*	x	x	x
8	**Jessica Collins** – Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts	x	x	x
9	**Georgia Critsley** – Trial Court *(designee of Chief Justice Brieger)*	x	x	-
10	**Yaminette Diaz-Linhart** – National Association of Social Workers – Mass.	x	a	x
12	**Delaney Fisher-Cassiol** (designee for Rep. Nguyen)	-	-	-
13	**Lynette Gabrila** – Executive Office of Veterans Services	x	x	x
14	**Elizabeth Ganz** – Association for Behavioral Healthcare	x	x	x
15	**Margaret Hannah** – Freedman Center at William James College	x	x	x
16	**Jacqueline Hubbard -** National Alliance on Mental Illness - Mass.	x	-	x
17	**Sophie Jean-Felix** – Mass. Association of Community Health Workers	-	-	-
18	**Jessica Larochelle** – Mass. Association for Mental Health	x	-	x
19	**Thomas Mahoney** – Office of Senator Pavel Payano *(designee of Sen. Payano)*	x	x	x
20	**Danna Mauch** – Mass. Association for Mental Health	-	-	-
21	**Emma McNamara** – CHIA *(designee of Executive Director Peters)*	-	-	-
22	**Noel Sierra** – Mass. Organization for Addiction Recovery	-	-	-
23	**Stephanie Sladen** – Justice Resource Institute (JRI)	-	-	-
24	**Sara Whitcomb** – Social Emotional Learning Alliance for Mass.	x	x	x
25	**Charlene Zuffante** – Department of Mental Health	-	-	-

* (x) Voted in favor; (o) Opposed; (a) Abstained from vote; (-) Absent from meeting or during vote

Proceedings

Amy Rosenthal, Undersecretary of Health at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), called the meeting to order at 3:03 and reminded everyone that this meeting is subject to Open Meeting Law and all votes will be conducted by roll call.

Vote 1 to approve the 4/2/2026 minutes:
After attendance was taken by roll call, Undersecretary Rosenthal called for a vote to approve the minutes from the Commission's precious meeting on April 2nd, 2026. Jessica Collins introduced the motion and Margaret Hannah seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by roll call vote (see detailed record above).

Next, Undersecretary Rosenthal welcomed Department of Mental Health (DMH) Commissioner Emily Bailey who joined the meeting today and turned to Dr. Funmi Aguocha, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention (OBHPP) to provide updates on the Office's work.

Dr. Aguocha began by announcing that OBHPP had selected 23 organizations who will receive grants from the office's inaugural behavioral health promotion and prevention community grants program. She expressed gratitude to the Commission and the legislature for their work to make these grants a possibility. The presentation continued with a list of the grantees and graphics and statistics illustrating their representation across promotion and prevention focus areas as well as their geographical representation across the Commonwealth. The section of the presentation focusing on the grants concluded with details about how OBHPP plans to collect data and evaluate program impact and a brief overview of the next steps. Dr. Aguocha then opened the floor for questions and feedback. Several commission members express gratitude and excitement about the grant announcement and suggested ways for showcasing the work that the programs are doing and asked questions about technical assistance, implementation, etc. Dr. Aguocha indicated that OBHPP is considering ways to create learning opportunities and provide technical assistance.

OBHPP Program Director, Dr. Sarah Mughal, provided an update on the OBHPP's Workforce campaign which launched in June. The campaign is focused on career pathways and expanding the behavioral health workforce. Sarah shared several slides highlighting the campaign art, target audiences, and focus areas. The presentation included the various assets, a demonstration of the www.mass.gov/yourBHcareer website, and ad copy used across all channels. The campaign launched in June and will run through September across channels which include social media, streaming tv, radio, transit ads, billboards, and community engagement. Commission members were invited to ask questions and provide feedback on the campaign. OBHHP was asked if they had worked with other state agencies and partners who are doing similar work. Dr. Aguocha confirmed that the campaign was developed in collaboration with numerous partners.

Dr. Aguocha concluded the presentation by discussing what's on the horizon for OBHPP including the finalization of the grant awards and distribution of the draft legislative report. She announced that Dr. Sarah Mughal would be leaving her role with OBHPP in August and members expressed gratitude for her work and commitment to Promotion and Prevention in Massachusetts.

For additional details, refer to the OBHPP presentation available on the Commission's Meeting Materials webpage.

Undersecretary Rosenthal then transitioned to a discussion about advancing prometon & prevention across the commonwealth. She provided definitions of promotion and prevention in the context of behavioral

health and reminded Commission members to refer to these as needed throughout the discussion. She then asked Commissioner Bailey to co facilitate a discussion on the following topics:

1. What are some strategies that the CBHPP Commission, DMH, and EOHHS could pursue together to advance and expand promotion and prevention across the Commonwealth?
2. How can we explore and identify emerging practices in behavioral health promotion and prevention from other states?

DMH Commissioner Bailey introduced herself and discussed the importance of alignment on ideas around Promotion and Prevention and shared her ideas on both topics. Commission members discussed the evolution of the Commission (i.e. a shift in focus from youth to all populations), the scope of the Commission's work (i.e. deeper dive in specific areas, or focus on a broad reach), evaluation benchmarks, emerging issues (i.e. social connectedness, technology, and social media), areas of inequity in mental health (racial, age, urban vs. rural, etc.), and Commission member roles in this discussion. It was suggested to include outside groups (i.e. DESE for children/young adult populations) and leverage their data and work to assist with promotion and prevention work. Several members discussed the differences between OBHPP and CBHPP and how the CBHPP is uniquely poised to make recommendations to the legislature. Undersecretary Rosenthal suggested members could begin working on research into other states promotion and prevention efforts.

Vote 2 to adjourn: Undersecretary Rosenthal called for a vote to adjourn. Jessica Collins introduced the motion and Lynette Gabrilla seconded the motion. She thanked everyone in attendance, the vote was taken, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Meeting materials:
1. Draft 4/2/2026 meeting minutes
2. OBHPP presentation