

**Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities
Long-Term Services & Supports and Health Equity Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes**

Date of Meeting: Monday, April 27, 2026

Time: 11am to 12pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members Participating Remotely	
1	Carl Richardson (Co-Chair) –Massachusetts State House
2	Hon. Denise Garlick – Commission Chair
3	Chris White – Road to Responsibility, Inc
4	Charlie Carr (Co-Chair) – Disability Policy Consortium
5	Oz Mondejar – Mucho Gusto Consulting
6	Leo Sarkissian – The Arc of Massachusetts
7	Representative Lindsay Sabadosa – Massachusetts House of Representatives
8	Rachel Kaprielian – Triangle, Inc.
Members Not Present	
9	Angela Ortiz – MA Health Council
10	Nancy Garr-Colzie – Your Access Advocates
11	Ann Lynch – Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office

Action Items	Person Responsible
1 Invite Collin Killick and Bill Henning to speak about the consequences of Covid regarding health equity for people with disability and lessons learned	Charlie

Agenda

1. Welcome, Roll Call, Approval of Minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes
 - Motion approved

2. Department of Public Health Care Coordination Assistance, Training, Education & Resource (CCATER) Center Training & Technical Assistance for MassHealth CARES for Kids Presentation by Patty Loza and Touria Hafsi
 - Presentation highlights:
 - Presenters provided an overview of the Department of Public Health Care Coordination Assistance, Training, Education & Resource (CCATER) Center and its role in supporting MassHealth CARES for Kids providers through training and technical assistance.

- The CCATER Center was described as a program within the Department of Public Health Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs, supported by MassHealth.
- Presenters shared that the CCATER Center supports providers serving children with medical complexity and their families through enhanced care coordination training, technical assistance, and a community of practice model.
- The training program includes topics such as enhanced care coordination principles, racial and cultural/linguistic equity, implicit bias, community-based resources, state agency systems, educational systems, shared plans of care, family partnerships, health transition, and life course planning.
- Presenters discussed required trainings for care coordinators and family support staff related to IEPs, 504 plans, community resources, and shared plan of care development.
- Required staff competencies discussed included motivational interviewing, trauma-informed care, transition and referral processes, and health and medical complexity literacy.
- The presentation emphasized a family-centered approach and noted the longstanding work of the DPH Care Coordination Program in supporting underserved and marginalized families through culturally and linguistically responsive care coordination.
- Presenters highlighted the involvement of family partners from the Federation for Children with Special Needs as part of the CCATER Center's approach to family engagement.
- Technical assistance was described as individualized and flexible, including one-on-one meetings, group meetings, phone and email support, case-based consultation, and live virtual learning opportunities.
- Presenters shared that technical assistance is tailored to each CARES team's needs and may include case reviews, support connecting families to social services, and assistance developing and maintaining shared plans of care.
- The presentation also highlighted the CCATER Center's Community of Practice model as a space for ongoing collaboration, learning, and resource sharing among CARES providers.
- Discussion:
 - Members asked which provider systems are currently participating in the program. Presenters shared that they are currently working with five providers, including Boston Children's Hospital, NeighborhoodHealth, Tufts, Baystate, and Boston Medical Center.
 - Members asked about the number of families served over the past year. Presenters explained that family-level data is maintained by the MassHealth CARES providers themselves, while the CCATER Center tracks technical assistance activities and trainings.
 - Presenters shared that the CCATER Center has been operating for approximately two years and has focused specifically on supporting CARES for Kids providers in meeting program requirements through

training and technical assistance. Presenters clarified that the CCATER Center is not a regulatory authority.

- Discussion included ongoing efforts to strengthen provider engagement and expand mental health-related supports within the model.
- Members discussed opportunities to further disseminate information about the program and referenced the Health Equity Compact as a potential area for broader outreach and collaboration.
- Discussion also included opportunities for additional collaboration with hospital associations and local healthcare leaders around care coordination and health equity efforts.
- Members asked about the sustainability of funding and concerns related to reliance on federal funding streams. Presenters acknowledged that funding uncertainty is a concern across many programs at this time and emphasized that the work remains critically needed and could continue to expand. Presenters also noted that the program has developed a standardized curriculum that could be shared more broadly.
- Presenters discussed the interdisciplinary nature of the enhanced care coordination model, which includes nurse practitioners, social workers, care coordinators, and family engagement staff. Discussion highlighted workforce shortages in family engagement roles, particularly individuals with lived experience, including parents of children with healthcare needs and individuals who can provide culturally and linguistically responsive support within communities.

3. Adjournment

2026 Meeting Dates

- May 18, 2026
- August 31, 2026
- November 16, 2026

Meeting Materials:

- [January 2026 minutes](#)
- [DPH Care Coordination Assistance, Training, Education & Resource \(CCATER\) Center Training & Technical Assistance for MassHealth CARES for Kids Presentation](#)