**Massachusetts Commission on Falls Prevention**

**MA Department of Public Health (DPH)**

**Virtual Open Meeting via Microsoft Teams**

**Tuesday, August 9, 2022, 2–3 p.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Attending Remotely:** Bekah Thomas, Annette Peele, Joanne Moore, Helen Magliozzi, Colleen Pierro, Brian Doherty, Jennifer Kaldenberg, Ish Gupta, Melissa Jones, Almas Dossa, and Emily Shea

**Members not in attendance:** Annette Peele

**Others Attending Remotely:** Timothy Hudd, Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Massachusetts Pharmacist Association Foundation; Alexandria Papadimoulis Training and Coalitions Coordinator, Department of Public Health (DPH)-Division of Violence and Injury Prevention/Injury Prevention and Control Program (DVIP/IPCP); Max Rasbold-Gabbard, Injury Prevention and Control Policy Coordinator, DPH-DVIP/IPCP; Mike Foshey, Graduate Student, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mishary Alessa, Graduate Student, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

1. **Welcome (Bekah Thomas, Division of Violence and Injury Prevention, Injury Prevention and Control Program Director, DPH, Chair)**

* Commission Chair Bekah Thomas opened the meeting at 2:03 p.m. by welcoming members in attendance. Members agreed to waive introductions. Max reviewed the agenda and reminded members of the statutory guidance for the Commission’s next biennial legislative report. The May 25, 2022 Commission minutes were disseminated to members for review prior to the meeting and were unanimously approved.

1. **Overview of the timeline, process and work conducted (Max Rasbold-Gabbard/All)**

* Max reviewed the timeline for the 2022 legislative report.

1. **Review and discussion of revisions to the second draft report (Max Rasbold-Gabbard/All)**

* Max explained that the report was submitted for approval through the Department of Public Health on July 1, 2022. Based on feedback from internal stakeholders, Max made minor amendments to the report. Joanne and Emily noted that the changes were minor and that the report still reflected the views of the Commission.
* A Commission member asked Max to explain what is meant by the term “catalog” in the recommendation that “the Commonwealth catalog local, regional, and statewide planning processes that affect older adult falls hazards.” Max explained that the recommendation meant to describe a process of identifying and tracking which government-run planning processes affect risk factors related to older adults falls.
* Commission members accepted the revised report. Max stated he would send an updated version for review and approval from their agencies.
* Max told members he would keep them up to date on the approval process of the Phase 4 Report and thanked everyone for their input.

1. **Discussion of ideas for themes and topics to address in the 2024 legislative report (Max Rasbold-Gabbard/All**)

* To start the discussion around the 2024 legislative report, Max asked members what themes or topics the Commission should explore. Joanne expressed hesitancy around identifying topics for the next report as members are still waiting on the approval of the 2022 report. Other members agreed, noting that the 2022 report expanded on multiple topics, making it difficult to identify a theme for the next report at this point. Max suggested that the Commission could review its previous recommendations and identify what has or has not been done to implement those recommendations. Deborah agreed with this idea and suggested that this process could help identify gaps to address in the next report.
* Colleen mentioned that without funding or policy changes, it is difficult to understand the effect and purpose of the recommendations put forward by the Commission. Bekah noted that the Child Fatality Review program faces similar challenges with its recommendations and emphasized that the Commission is only responsible for issuing recommendations and disseminating them to partners, not implementing them. Joanne suggested that for the next report, the Commission could explore success stories of recommendations that had been implemented. Bekah agreed that this is worth exploring as there are several small status reports and minutes that could have this information. She also noted that, to effectively understand changes in practice that have occurred since the Commission issued its report on primary care, the Commission would have to identify funds to support a research project similar to that completed by contractors for the initial report. Max explained that the next steps would be for DPH to review past reports, pull recommendations, and create a research plan.
* After the discussion, Max thanked the members for their contributions to the 2022 report. Bekah stated that following the report’s revision, members of the commission will receive a copy to share with their organizations for additional feedback. Once DPH and the EOHHS have approved the report, the Commission will reconvene to approve the report.

1. **Closing Remarks (Bekah Thomas)**

* Bekah and Max thanked the members for their participation in reviewing the report and brainstorming ideas for 2024. Max informed members they would receive a clean copy of the report by August 10, 2022. After the report is approved by EOHHS, Alexandria will contact members to reconvene and vote to approve the report. All members were reminded of the Open Meeting Law requirements and that if there are any questions or concerns to please directly respond via e-mail to Max Rasbold-Gabbard at [max.rasbold-gabbard@mass.gov](mailto:max.rasbold-gabbard@mass.gov) or Alexandria Papadimoulis at [alexandria.papdimoulis@mass.gov](mailto:alexandria.papdimoulis@mass.gov).

*Meeting concluded at 2:37 p.m.*