

Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission

Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2024
3:00 - 4:30 pm

Date of meeting: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Start time: 3:05 pm

End time: 4:20 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members participating		Vote 1*	Vote 2
1	Kiame Mahaniah – Executive Office of Health and Human Services (<i>chair</i>)	X	X
2	Nancy Allen Scannell – Mass. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	X	X
3	Thomas Baranowski – Office of Chair Madaro (<i>designee of Chair Madaro</i>)	-	-
4	Ruth Blodgett – Department of Public Health (<i>designee of Commissioner Goldstein</i>)	X	X
5	Lisette Blondet – Mass. Association of Community Health Workers	-	-
6	Erin Bonney – CHIA (<i>designee of Executive Director Peters</i>)	X	X
7	Georgia Critsley – Trial Court (<i>designee of Chief Justice Brieger</i>)	A	X
8	Yaminette Diaz-Linhart – National Association of Social Workers – Mass.	X	X
9	Brooke Doyle – Department of Mental Health	-	-
10	Elizabeth Ganz – Association for Behavioral Healthcare	X	X
11	Margaret Hannah – Freedman Center at William James College	X	X
12	Jacqueline Hubbard – National Alliance on Mental Illness - Mass.	-	-
13	Jessica Larochelle – Mass. Association for Mental Health	A	X
14	Tom Mahoney – Office of Senator Pavel Payano (<i>designee of Sen. Payano</i>)	X	X
15	Danna Mauch – Mass. Association for Mental Health	X	X
16	Tram Nguyen – Mass. House of Representatives / Tobin Abraham during the 2 nd half	X	X
17	Carlene Pavlos – Mass. Public Health Association	-	-
18	Denise Pixley – Mass. Organization for Addiction Recovery	X	X
19	Jocelyn Schafer – Office of Senator Velis (<i>designee of Senator Velis</i>)	X	X
20	Stephanie Sladen – Justice Resource Institute (JRI)	A	X
21	James Vetter – Social Emotional Learning Alliance for Mass.	A	X

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

Proceedings

Undersecretary Mahaniah called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. He welcomed members and reminded participants that the Commission is subject to the Open Meeting Law, noting that all votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll call.

Stephanie Sladen, Executive Director of JRI's Children's Friend and Family Services, introduced herself as the newest member of the Commission, replacing Wanda Visnick as Minority Leader Tarr's appointee.

Vote 1 to approve the 8/8/2024 minutes: Undersecretary Mahaniah called for a vote to approve the minutes from the Commission's previous meeting on 8/8/2024. Dr. Diaz-Linhart introduced the motion, which was seconded by Professor Hannah and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Dr. Funmi Aguocha, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention (OBHPP), shared updates on the establishment of the OBHPP, including the refinement of the Office's mission and health equity statements. Members shared specific feedback on the draft language in the mission and vision statements, emphasizing the importance of focusing on prevention initiatives over treatment. For additional details, refer to the OBHPP presentation available on the Commission's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Asst. Commissioner Aguocha provided members with a detailed overview of a proposed Request for Information (RFI) the OBHPP intends to release on COMMBUYS before the end of October, a draft of which had been shared with members prior to the meeting. She noted that a goal of the RFI is to identify gaps in knowledge and create an opportunity to hear from communities around the existing prevention and promotion programming. Members offered specific feedback on the language in the draft RFI. Asst. Commissioner Aguocha requested that members share the link to the RFI with their networks as soon as it is posted in the coming weeks.

In response to members' comments, Undersecretary Mahaniah clarified the focus of DPH's Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) prevention efforts, which primarily focus on populations already in the treatment realm. He contrasted that with the Commission's focus, which falls more upstream to those populations who are not yet in the treatment realm and are most at risk for substance use.

Undersecretary Mahaniah prompted members to share feedback on their goals and expectations for the Commission. Among their suggestions, members proposed that the Commission consider identifying areas of focus and/or forming workgroups to move initiatives forward; developing concrete recommendations for EOHHS on grants from the CBHPP Trust Fund; identifying the needs of community-based providers and schools to ensure alignment with other promotion and prevention initiatives; focus on social determinants of health; and potentially organizing public hearings to share updates on promotion and prevention work for members of the public.

In summarizing next steps, Undersecretary Mahaniah noted that the Commission's next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 12. He encouraged members to contact Commission staff if they were interested in forming workgroups to advance initiatives in between the Commission's broader meetings.

Vote 2 to adjourn: Undersecretary Mahaniah requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Pixley introduced the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Mauch and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Meeting Materials

1. Draft 8/8/2024 meeting minutes
2. Office of Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Mission and Vision
3. OBHPP Draft Request for Information (RFI)