

Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission

Meeting Minutes
 October 14, 2021
 3:00-5:00 pm

Date of meeting: Thursday, October 14, 2021

Start time: 3:05 pm

End time: 4:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (WebEx)

Members participating		Vote 1*	Vote 2
1	Katherine Ginnis, MSW, MPH – MassHealth (<i>chair</i>)	X	X
2	Sheila Casey – Trial Court (<i>designee of Chief Justice Carey</i>)	A	X
3	Yaminette Diaz-Linhart – National Association of Social Workers – MA Chapter	X	X
4	Kirsten Doherty – MA Organization for Addiction Recovery	X	X
5	Kelly English – Department of Mental Health	X	-
6	Elizabeth Ganz – Office of Senator Cyr (<i>designee of Senator Cyr</i>)	X	-
7	Amanda Graff – Office of Representative Madaro (<i>designee of Rep. Madaro</i>)	X	X
8	Jessica Larochelle – MA Association for Mental Health	X	-
9	Danna Mauch – MA Association for Mental Health	X	X
10	Mary McGeown – MSPCC	-	X
11	Tram Nguyen – MA House of Representatives	X	X
12	Emma Schlitzer – CHIA (<i>designee of Ray Campbell</i>)	X	X
13	Megan Thompson – ABH	X	X
14	Lindsey Tucker – Department of Public Health	-	X
15	Wanda Visnick – JRI	-	X
Members unable to participate			
16	Lisette Blondet – MA Association of Community Health Workers	-	-
17	Marilyn DeSantis – National Alliance on Mental Illness - MA	-	-
18	Cindy Friedman – MA Senate	-	-
19	Margaret Hannah – Freedman Center at William James College	-	-
20	Carlene Pavlos – MA Public Health Association	-	-
21	James Vetter – Social-Emotional Learning Alliance for MA	-	-

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

Proceedings

Chair Ginnis called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm, noting that all votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll call. Members briefly introduced themselves.

Vote 1 to approve the 6/10/2021 minutes: Chair Ginnis requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Commission's previous meeting on June 10, 2021. Ms. Diaz-Linhart introduced the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Thompson and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Chair Ginnis noted that the afternoon's agenda would be dedicated to discussing legislative and agency updates relevant to the Commission's work.

Representative Nguyen provided a detailed summary of the legislative initiatives that had been proposed in the FY22 Budget, noting that there were more than 130 bills in committee, with more than \$385 million proposed for mental and behavioral health prevention and promotion treatment and support services for children and youth across the Commonwealth. She highlighted the critical need for services to support the social emotional learning of children and learning loss due to the pandemic. For additional details, refer to the Representative's FY22 Budget Summary on the Commission's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Ms. Ganz and Ms. Larochelle provided a brief overview of the 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Hotline, which is the federally-designated number for people in crisis to call, similar to 9-1-1. They noted that the hotline was created through a bill sponsored by Senator Cyr and Representative Decker, and is scheduled to launch in July 2022, presuming funding is secured this year.

Deputy Commissioner English provided updates on DMH initiatives related to prevention and promotion. She highlighted the Hand Hold program, which includes a curated list of resources for parents looking to help their child cope and heal from mental health challenges, promote healthy social and emotional development, de-escalate challenging situations, and connect to others. She highlighted additional resources and initiatives for young children and parents, including Isaac's story, Young Adult Access Centers, the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Program (MCPAP), and online and in-person groups, such as the School of Hard Talks. In response to questions from members, Deputy Commissioner English shared that additional information on the Young Adult Access Centers is available at www.speakingofhope.org and stated that additional translations and multi-cultural adaptations of Isaac's Story could be considered. For additional details, refer to the Deputy Commissioner English's presentation on the Commission's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Chair Ginnis stated that the Commission's next meeting on December 9th could include presentations from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC) on behavioral health prevention and promotion programs in schools, as well as substance use prevention activities under the Office of Youth and Young Adult Services (OYYAS).

Ms. Casey provided a brief update on Project North, which received a \$6 million federal grant from the Department of Justice Comprehensive Opiate, Stimulant and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) to expand court-based connections for individuals at risk of overdose in 12 local courts that serve 62 communities. She noted that the program would fund independent recovery support navigators based in 13 courthouses to help with intake and make referrals on the spot.

In response to a proposal from Chair Ginnis that the Commission explore how best to address workforce shortages, Deputy Commissioner English highlighted the benefit from supporting programs based on the community health worker model.

Ms. Diaz-Linhart provided a number of links to relevant community health initiatives and resources that tie in to the Commission's work:

- Total Worker Health: NIOSH
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/twh/default.html>
- CDC Resources for HC work stress
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/healthcare/workstress.html>
- CDC Workplace MH Resources
<https://www.cdc.gov/workplacehealthpromotion/tools-resources/workplace-health/mental-health/index.html>
- UMass CPH-NEW Center
<https://www.uml.edu/Research/CPH-NEW/>
- Workplace MH, from the American Psychiatric Association
<https://www.workplacementalhealth.org/employer-resources>
- ABCD Behavioral Health Training Series for CHW teams
<https://machw.org/event/virtual-training-behavioral-health-skills-for-chws/>

Vote 2 to adjourn: Chair Ginnis requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Mauch introduced the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Doherty and approved by all members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.