

Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2019

3:00-5:00 pm

Date of meeting: Monday, January 14, 2019

Start time: 3:05 pm

End time: 4:50 pm

Location: McCormack Building, One Ashburton Place, 21st floor, Boston, MA 02108

Members present:

- Marylou Sudders – Executive Office of Health and Human Services (Chair)
- Joan Mikula – Department of Mental Health
- Lindsey Tucker – Department of Public Health
- Paula M. Carey – Trial Court
- Ray Campbell – Center for Health Information and Analysis
- Danna Mauch – Massachusetts Association for Mental Health
- Denise Garlick – State Representative
- Cindy Friedman – State Senator
- Daniel Cullinane – State Representative
- Jonah Beckley – Office of Senate President Spilka
- George Beilin – Licensed Psychologist
- Lissette Blondet – Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers
- Jessica LaRoche – Massachusetts Association for Mental Health
- Kirsten Doherty – Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery
- Carlene Pavlos – Massachusetts Public Health Association
- Mary McGeown – Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- Marilyn DeSantis – National Alliance on Mental Illness
- James Vetter – Social-Emotional Learning Alliance for Massachusetts
- Margaret Hannah – Freedman Center at William James College

Members absent:

- Amanda Gilman – Association for Behavioral Health
- Yaminette Diaz-Linhart – Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Proceedings

Secretary Sudders called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. Ed Palleschi, Deputy Chief Secretary for Boards and Commissions from the Governor's office administered the oath of office.

Lauren Cleary, Associate General Counsel for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, provided an overview of the Open Meeting Law. She emphasized the importance of transparency and reminded members of the Commission that documents and minutes from the Commission's meetings are part of the public record.

David Giannotti, Public Education and Communications Division Chief of the State Ethics Commission, provided the Commission with a brief overview of the state's conflict of interest and ethics regulations. He

explained that members of the Commission are considered special state employees and should consult the State Ethics Commission with any questions or concerns related to potential conflicts of interest. He highlighted members' education requirements, which include recertifying each year their receipt of the Open Meeting Law guide, as well as the completion of the state's online ethics training program every two years.

Secretary Sudders thanked Ms. Cleary and Mr. Giannotti and invited Commission members to introduce themselves. During their introductions, members outlined their expectations for the work of the Commission, which included investments in prevention services to bend the cost curve of the state's growing health care expenses and potentially reduce the burden on the court system; and increased focus on peer-led workforces, strategies for addressing trauma at early ages, and efforts to destigmatize mental health and increase cultural sensitivity. Members also stressed the importance of utilizing data for decision-making and being mindful of social determinants of health in the planning work of the Commission.

Secretary Sudders read through the Commission's charges and summarized the proposed schedule for the Commission's meetings through March 2020 (see PowerPoint presentation posted online to the [Commission's Meeting Materials webpage](#) for additional details).

Returning to the topic of expectations for the Commission, Senator Friedman proposed that the Commission include a review of the state of the science and evidence-based approaches and interventions in behavioral health. Mr. Campbell added that baseline information would be helpful for the Commission's work, citing disease prevalence, number of prescriptions, and hospitalization data as examples. Dr. Mauch added that data on risk and protective factors would be useful as well, including intervention levers for mitigating risk.

Mr. Vetter suggested as a first step that the Commission review the final report and recommendations of the Behavioral Health Promotion and Upstream Prevention ("Promote Prevent") Commission and discuss the recommendations that would be most practical and impactful.

Commissioner Mikula suggested that the Commission explore whether an analysis of existing data on the behavioral health workforce would be helpful to address existing workforce shortages.

Rep. Garlick agreed with an earlier suggestion that the Commission build off the work of the Promote Prevent Commission and suggested surveying community and groups to identify and address relevant issues they are facing.

Ms. McGeown suggested that the Commission undertake a workforce analysis to assess the training, skillsets, and competencies of the existing behavioral health workforce. She added that it would be helpful for the Commission's work to include community needs as well as prevention and promotion efforts in school settings.

Mr. Vetter suggested that in addition to outcome indicators, it would be helpful for the Commission to conduct an assessment of the existing behavioral health systems and prevention efforts in the Commonwealth.

Chief Justice Carey suggested that sequential intercept mapping could potentially be useful for the Commission to create an inventory of community structures and resources.

Ms. Blondet noted that health equity should be a priority for the Commission's work and suggested reviewing the ongoing work that MassHealth is conducting on aspects of behavioral health. She added that a review of national best practices would be helpful for guiding the Commission's work as well. Senator

Friedman added that a comprehensive review of the behavioral health system in the Commonwealth would be helpful for the Commission.

Ms. Tucker suggested that at the Commission's next meeting, it would be worthwhile for members to review the Promote Prevent Commission's work and come prepared to discuss the Commission's final recommendations. Commissioner Mikula added that a potentially useful exercise might be to compile members' expectations and attempt to align them with the recommendations from the previous Commission to help identify priorities for the new Commission.

Rep. Garlick stated that in writing the legislation establishing the new Commission, the Legislature's intent was for the Community Behavioral Health Commission to build off the Promote Prevent Commission's work, but not be limited by it. She added that the previous Commission's work and focus on evidence-based approaches and interventions may be a helpful guide for the new Commission, but the voices of communities should be central to planning the new Commission's work. Rep. Garlick mentioned that she would be showing the Promote Prevent Commission's recommendations to members of her community for their feedback during an upcoming community forum and would report back to the Commission.

Professor Hannah suggested the Commission schedule an additional meeting date for either March or April 2019.

Vote to adjourn the meeting: Commissioner Mikula called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Senator Friedman moved for the meeting to adjourn, which was seconded by Chief Justice Carey and approved unanimously by the members. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.