

Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2024

10:00 - 11:30 am

Date of meeting: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Start time: 10:00 am

End time: 11:15 am

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	Tobin Abraham – Office of Representative Tram Nguyen (<i>designee of Rep. Nguyen</i>)	A	X
3	Nancy Allen Scannell – Mass. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	-	-
4	Ruth Blodgett – Department of Public Health (<i>designee of Commissioner Goldstein</i>)	A	X
5	Lisette Blondet – Mass. Association of Community Health Workers	-	-
6	Georgia Critsley – Trial Court (<i>designee of Chief Justice Brieger</i>)	X	X
7	Yaminette Diaz-Linhart – National Association of Social Workers – Mass.	X	X
8	Elizabeth Ganz – Association for Behavioral Healthcare	X	X
9	Margaret Hannah – Freedman Center at William James College	X	X
10	Jessica Larochelle – Mass. Association for Mental Health	-	X
11	Adrian Madaro – Mass. House of Representatives	X	-
12	Danna Mauch – Mass. Association for Mental Health	X	-
13	Carlene Pavlos – Mass. Public Health Association	A	X
14	Tom Mahoney – Office of Senator Pavel Payano (<i>designee of Sen. Payano</i>)	-	X
15	Denise Pixley – Mass. Organization for Addiction Recovery	A	X
16	Myisha Rodrigues – National Alliance on Mental Illness - Mass.	-	-
17	Jocelyn Schafer – Office of Senator John Velis (<i>designee of Chair Velis</i>)	X	X
18	Emma Schlitzer – CHIA (<i>designee of Executive Director Peters</i>)	X	X
19	James Vetter – Social Emotional Learning Alliance for Mass.	X	X
20	Wanda Visnick – Justice Resource Institute	-	-
21	Charlene Zuffante – Department of Mental Health (<i>designee of Commissioner Doyle</i>)	X	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 10:00 am. 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. He reminded members that any questions or comments from the general public could be submitted to Commission staff or the Commission's dedicated email address.

Vote 1 to approve the 2/8/2024 minutes: Undersecretary Mahaniah called for a vote to approve the minutes from the Commission's previous meeting on 2/8/2024. Mr. Vetter introduced the motion, which was seconded by Professor Hannah and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

At 10:10 am, Ms. Larochelle joined the meeting.

After the vote concluded, Department of Mental Health (DMH) Commissioner Brooke Doyle informed the group that Myisha Rodrigues was not in attendance as she is no longer with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Mass.

Commissioner Doyle shared an update on the hiring of the Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Behavioral Health Promotion (OBHP), which her office had been overseeing since late 2023. She explained that the hiring committee had selected Dr. Funmi Aguocha, who will be starting on June 3. Commissioner Doyle noted that Dr. Aguocha is currently an Adjunct Professor at William James College and the Chief Operating Officer of Brookline Clinic. She highlighted Dr. Aguocha's strong background in behavioral health, particularly among underserved communities and youth.

Undersecretary Mahaniah welcomed Dr. Nadja Lopez, Executive Director of the William James College Center for Behavioral Health, Equity, and Leadership in Schools, who he invited to present to the Commission on promotion and prevention concepts and the continuum of behavioral healthcare. Dr. Lopez's presentation covered a broad range of topics, but focused on areas where the Commission could incorporate promotion and prevention frameworks into its work. For additional details, refer to her presentation available on the Commission's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

In response to Dr. Lopez's presentation, Director Blodgett highlighted two resources related to the Commission's work:

- The DPH Bureau of Community Health and Prevention's Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences (PCEs & ACEs) Dashboard: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/positive-and-adverse-childhood-experiences-pces-aces-data?_gl=1*lsjdv82*_ga*OTQ0MTU4MDg5LjE2ODMzMDEzODU.*_ga_MCLPEGW7WM*MTcxNDU3NDU0MS4xMy4wLjE3MTQlNzQlNDEuMC4wLjA
- Community Health Equity Initiative (CHEI), which focuses on the social and structural causes of health in Massachusetts. She highlighted the CHEI survey, the results of which her office will be releasing soon and includes interesting findings on mental health outcomes among at-risk and priority populations.

In praising Dr. Lopez's presentation, numerous members echoed her focus on the significance of upstream prevention initiatives and praised the accuracy and simplicity of a diagram she included in her presentation outlining the building blocks of mental health promotion: <https://preventionunited.org.au/how-prevention-works/what-is-mental-health-promotion/>

In wrapping up, Undersecretary Mahaniah noted that members interested in forming workgroups to continue advancing initiatives in-between the Commission's formal meetings should contact Commission staff.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Meeting Materials

1. Draft 2/8/2024 meeting minutes
2. Presentation from Dr. Lopez
3. Three reference articles provided by Dr. Lopez