

Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission

Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2024

3:00 - 4:30 pm

Date of meeting: Thursday, August 8, 2024

Start time: 3:05 pm

End time: 4:30 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
3	Ruth Blodgett – Department of Public Health (<i>designee of Commissioner Goldstein</i>)	X	X
4	Lisette Blondet – Mass. Association of Community Health Workers	-	-
5	Erin Bonney – CHIA (<i>designee of Executive Director Peters</i>)	X	X
6	Georgia Critsley – Trial Court (<i>designee of Chief Justice Brieger</i>)	-	-
7	Yaminette Diaz-Linhart – National Association of Social Workers – Mass.	X	X
8	Brooke Doyle – Department of Mental Health	X	X
9	Elizabeth Ganz – Association for Behavioral Healthcare	X	X
10	Margaret Hannah – Freedman Center at William James College	X	X
11	Jacqueline Hubbard – National Alliance on Mental Illness - Mass.	X	X
12	Jessica Larochelle – Mass. Association for Mental Health	-	-
13	Adrian Madaro – Mass. House of Representatives	-	-
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	Carlene Pavlos – Mass. Public Health Association	-	-
17	Denise Pixley – Mass. Organization for Addiction Recovery	X	X
18	John Velis – Mass. Senate	-	-
19	James Vetter – Social Emotional Learning Alliance for Mass.	-	-
20	Wanda Visnick – Justice Resource Institute	-	-
21	Bella Yee – Mass. House of Representatives	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 3:00 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.

Vote 1 to approve the 6/12/2024 minutes: Undersecretary Mahaniah called for a vote to approve the minutes from the Commission's previous meeting on 6/12/2024. Professor Hannah introduced the motion, which was seconded by Director Blodgett and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Asst. Commissioner Funmi Aguocha provided a detailed overview of the newly-established Office of Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention (OBHPP). In her presentation, she touched upon the legislative mandate of the Office, its key responsibilities, the theoretical frameworks that support its work, and a proposed roadmap for the establishment of the OBHPP. During the presentation, members shared detailed feedback, highlighting the importance of focusing on prevention initiatives over treatment, as well as existing resources the OBHPP to utilize, such as the landscape analysis conducted by the Mass. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. For additional details, refer to Asst. Commissioner Aguocha's presentation available on the Commission's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

In response to members' questions, Commissioner Doyle and Asst. Commissioner Aguocha elaborated on the proposed Request For Information (RFI) referenced in the presentation. The RFI, which the OBHPP intends to release in the coming months, would gather information from communities about their specific behavioral health needs and innovative approaches they would seek to implement. Commissioner Doyle explained that it would also serve the purpose of creating awareness of the newly-established Office.

In summarizing next steps, Undersecretary Mahaniah 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. Director Blodgett introduced the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Pixley and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Meeting Materials

1. Draft 8/8/2024 meeting minutes
2. Office of Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention overview presentation