

# Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission

Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2019  
3:00-5:00 pm

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Date of meeting: Monday, September 23, 2019

Start time: 3:05 pm

End time: 5:00 pm

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

Members present:

- Emily Sherwood – Department of Mental Health (*acting chair*)
- George Beilin – Licensed Psychologist
- Lissette Blondet – Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers
- Marilyn DeSantis – National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Yaminette Diaz-Linhart – Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
- Kirsten Doherty – Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery
- Margaret Hannah – Freedman Center at William James College
- Patrick Johnson – Office of Senator Cyr (*designee of Senator Cyr*)
- Jessica LaRoche – Massachusetts Association for Mental Health
- Danna Mauch – Massachusetts Association for Mental Health
- Mary McGeown – Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- Rosemary Minehan – Trial Court (*designee of Chief Justice Carey*)
- Carlene Pavlos – Massachusetts Public Health Association
- James Vetter – Social-Emotional Learning Alliance for Massachusetts

Members absent:

- Ray Campbell – Center for Health Information and Analysis
- Daniel Cullinane – Massachusetts House of Representatives
- Marjorie Decker – Massachusetts House of Representatives
- Cindy Friedman – Massachusetts Senate
- Amanda Gilman – Association for Behavioral Healthcare
- Joan Mikula – Department of Mental Health
- Lindsey Tucker – Department of Public Health

## **Proceedings**

Deputy Commissioner Sherwood called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

**Vote 1 to approve meeting minutes from June 24, 2019:** Deputy Commissioner Sherwood requested a motion to vote on the approval of the meeting minutes from the Commission's meeting on June 24, 2019. Ms. McGeown introduced the motion, which was seconded and approved by all members present; Ms. Pavlos abstained from voting.

Deputy Commissioner Sherwood welcomed the panel of community coalition coordinators, which included: Kat Allen, MPH, Coalition Coordinator with the Communities that Care Coalition of Franklin County and the North Quabbin; Penny Funairole, MA, CPS, Prevention and Outreach Manager for the City of Medford;

Carol Read, M.Ed, CAGS, CPS, Substance Use Prevention and Education Coordinator, Needham Public Health Division; and Liz Parsons, M.Ed., Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition. The presenters provided an overview of their ongoing work with the more than 200 community coalitions in Massachusetts, detailing their previous work with the Promote-Prevent Commission, the fundamentals of the science of prevention, and the group's suggested priorities for the Community Behavioral Health Commission. For additional details, refer to the Community Coalition Coordinators' [presentation](#) and resources posted online to the Community Behavioral Health Commission's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

In response to a question from Dr. Hannah, the community coalition coordinators explained that funding remains an issue in their role, as the majority of their work is grant funded. In addition, they noted that the creation of a prevention liaison position tied to the work of the Community Behavioral Health Commission would help elevate their work and increase coordination among the state's community coalition coordinators.

In response to questions from Mr. Vetter, Deputy Commissioner Sherwood, and Ms. Diaz-Linhart, Ms. Allen provided additional explanations about the coordinators' ongoing resiliency promotion and upstream prevention work with schools and families.

Deputy Commissioner Sherwood thanked the coordinators and invited Dr. Mauch to present on workplace behavioral health initiatives, citing the CEOs Against Stigma campaign that was developed by NAMI-MA as an example.

Dr. Mauch provided an overview of select mental health promotion, prevention, and stigma reduction efforts in workplaces in the United States and other countries. She highlighted emerging evidence regarding the potential effectiveness of such initiatives and some of the tools and resources that have been developed by companies for employees and their families' mental health. For additional details, refer to Dr. Mauch's [presentation](#) posted online to the Commission's Meeting Materials webpage.

Ms. LaRochelle left the room at 4:20 pm.

In response to a question from Ms. McGeown, Dr. Mauch noted that existing research on workplace mental health initiatives has primarily focused on families, as opposed to young children, particularly helping families better understand mental health and build parenting skills.

Ms. Pavlos noted that certain workplace wellness initiatives have focused less on low wage and/or part-time staff and more on improving worker efficiency. She proposed that any initiatives related to workforce wellness that the Commission develops make efforts to target vulnerable populations.

Deputy Commissioner Sherwood proposed the formation of a small work group to help plan the Commission's next meeting in November. Dr. Hannah, Ms. Linhart-Diaz, Ms. McGeown, and Mr. Vetter volunteered.

Ms. Diaz-Linhart suggested that the Commission engaged with DPH to learn from their experience developing public awareness campaigns. Mr. Vetter proposed that the Commission focus on developing a concrete theory of change and Dr. Hannah suggested that it would be worthwhile for the Commission to develop a long-term strategic plan.

Ms. McGeown noted that the FY20 budget included both a \$200,000 allocation for the Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Trust Fund, as well as \$500,000 specifically for a DPH-led public awareness campaign to promote the awareness and use of available behavioral health services.

Deputy Commissioner Sherwood summarized members' comments that additional details on the allocations are needed and reiterated that the tentative agenda for the Commission's November meeting would include a structured discussion of the Commission's priorities and funding for the current fiscal year. She noted that in advance of the meeting, members should review the recommendations that were developed by the Promote-Prevent Commission and come prepared to discuss their top priorities and recommendations for the Commission.

Summary of action items and next steps:

- Commission subgroup to meet and discuss planning for Commission's November meeting

**Vote 2 to adjourn:** Deputy Commissioner Sherwood requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. McGeown introduced the motion, which was seconded and approved unanimously by all members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.