

Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission



Kate Ginnis, MSW, MPH, MS

**Senior Director of Child, Youth, and Family Policy and Programs
MassHealth**

**April 8, 2021
3:00-5:00 pm**

WebEx



Agenda



- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Approval of 12/17 Meeting Minutes**
- 3. Review of 2020 Annual Report**
- 4. Discussion of Subcommittee Draft Recommendations**
- 5. Review of Commission Priorities and Next Steps**



Review of 2020 Annual Report



Overview

- Submitted March 15, 2021
- Similar to the Commission's 2019 report, structured as a letter from the Commission Chair, summarizing the group's activities to date
- Final version posted to the [Meeting Materials](#) page on the Commission's Mass.gov webpage



COVID-19 Subcommittee Draft Recommendations



The Subcommittee noted that priority access to these interventions should be granted to those communities which have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and disadvantaged – both historically and currently – by systemic inequity and racism.

1. Designate or hire staff to be added to Commonwealth's Pandemic Command Center to coordinate the State's COVID-19 Public Mental Health Response, including working with a broad coalition of stakeholders and communicating to acknowledge mental health impacts of the pandemic, address targeted resources for relief, and support recovery
2. Develop and implement a public health campaign to educate Massachusetts residents about the mental health impact of the pandemic and how to support mental health and well-being for themselves and others, including materials targeted to youth and young adults
3. Equip adults who work with children and youth with skills to support their well-being:
 - MassSupport consultations for teachers, child-care workers, etc.
 - Free online trainings in Mental Health First Aid for Youth
 - Mental Health Education efforts through public awareness, training, and technical assistance



COVID-19 Subcommittee Draft Recommendations (cont.)



4. Support adults who work with children and youth: telephonic support, online groups and in-person group consultations by MassSupport
5. Helping schools access mental health services for students
 - Explore expanding Project Interface to cities hardest hit by COVID
 - State agencies facilitate communication between community-based mental health providers and schools
6. Support for Parents
 - Widely promote HandHoldMA.org
 - Create and publicize parent support groups
 - Widely publicize sources of support for basic needs, including Family Support Centers
 - Offer free online MH First Aid for Youth trainings for parents
 - Fund Family Partners and Community Health Workers to reach out to parents of children not attending online or in-person school in communities hardest hit by COVID
 - Reach out and engage parents as users of Network of Care Massachusetts and its targeted resources for child and family behavioral health and related social services, and its library of health literacy and well being support materials



Commission's Charge



Legal Authority: *Chapter 208 Section 1 of the Acts of 2018*

Purpose: Promote positive mental, emotional and behavioral health and early intervention for persons with a mental illness, and to prevent substance use disorders among residents of the Commonwealth

The Commission shall:

1. Promote an understanding of: the science of prevention; population health; risk and protective factors; social determinants of health; evidence-based programming and policymaking; health equity; and trauma-informed care; provided that the commission may use, as a guide for its work, the recommendations of the report of the special commission on behavioral health promotion and upstream prevention established pursuant to section 193 of chapter 133 of the acts of 2016;
2. Consult with the secretary of health and human services on grants from the community behavioral health promotion and prevention trust fund established in section 35EEE of chapter 10;
3. Collaborate, as appropriate, with other active state commissions, including but not limited to the safe and supportive schools commission, the Ellen Story commission on postpartum depression and the commission on autism;
4. Make recommendations to the legislature that: promote behavioral health and prevention issues at the universal, selective and indicated levels; strengthen community or state-level promotion and prevention systems; advance the identification, selection and funding of evidence-based programs, practices or systems designed to promote behavioral health and early intervention for persons with a mental illness and to prevent substance use disorders; and reduce healthcare and other public costs through evidence-based promotion and prevention; provided that the commission may use state and local prevalence and cost data to ensure commission recommendations are data-informed and address risks at the universal, selective and indicated levels of prevention;
5. Hold public hearings and meetings to accept comment from the general public and to seek advice from experts, including, but not limited to, those in the fields of neuroscience, public health, behavioral health, education and prevention science; and
6. Submit an annual report to the legislature on the state of preventing substance use disorder and promoting behavioral health in the commonwealth.

Annually, not later than March 1, the commission shall file a report with the joint committee on health care financing and the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery on its activities and any recommendations. The commission shall monitor the implementation of its recommendations and update recommendations to reflect current science and evidence-based practices.



Commission's Charge (cont'd)



In brief, the Commission shall:

1. **Promote an understanding of:** the science of prevention; population health; risk and protective factors; social determinants of health; evidence-based programming and policymaking; health equity; and trauma-informed care;
2. **Consult with the Secretary of Health and Human Services on grants** from the community behavioral health promotion and prevention trust fund;
3. **Collaborate with other active state commissions**, including but not limited to the safe and supportive schools commission, the Ellen Story Commission on Postpartum Depression and the Commission on Autism;
4. **Make recommendations to the legislature** that promote behavioral health and prevention issues;



Commission's Charge (cont'd)



5. **Hold public hearings and meetings** to accept comment from the general public and to seek advice from experts; and
6. **Submit an annual report to the legislature** on the state of preventing substance use disorder and promoting behavioral health in the Commonwealth.

The Commission's annual report is due to the legislature on **March 1st** each year and will provide an overview of its activities and any recommendations for the legislature.



Confirmed 2021 Meeting Schedule



Date	Time	Location
June 10, 2021	3:00-5:00 pm	<i>WebEx</i>
August 12, 2021	3:00-5:00 pm	<i>WebEx</i>
October 14, 2021	3:00-5:00 pm	<i>WebEx</i>
December 9, 2021	3:00-5:00 pm	<i>WebEx</i>
February 10, 2022	3:00-5:00 pm	<i>WebEx</i>
<i>March 1, 2022 – Submission of Annual Report to the Legislature</i>		