

Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention (CBHPP) Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2025

3:00 - 4:30 pm

Date of meeting: Thursday, June 12, 2025

Start time: 3:00 pm

End time: 4:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Commission Members		Present	Vote 1*	Vote 2
1	Gabriel Cohen – Executive Office of Health and Human Services (<i>chair</i>)	X	X	X
2	Nancy Allen Scannell – Mass. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	X	X	X
3	Lena Asmar – New England Center and Home for Veterans	X	X	X
4	Ruth Blodgett – Department of Public Health (<i>designee of Commissioner Goldstein</i>)	X	X	X
5	Jessica Bresler – Office of Mindy Domb (<i>designee of Chair Domb</i>)	X	A	-
6	Diana Cabrera – Office of Senator Pavel Payano (<i>designee of Sen. Payano</i>)	X	X	X
7	Jessica Collins – Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts	X	X	X
8	Georgia Critsley – Trial Court (<i>designee of Chief Justice Briege</i>)	X	X	-
9	Yaminette Diaz-Linhart – National Association of Social Workers – Mass.	X	X	X
10	Brooke Doyle – Department of Mental Health	-	-	-
11	Delaney Fisher-Cassiol – Office of Tram Nguyen (<i>designee of Rep. Nguyen</i>)	X	X	X
12	Lynette Gabrila – Executive Office of Veterans Services	X	X	X
13	Elizabeth Ganz – Association for Behavioral Healthcare	X	X	X
14	Margaret Hannah – Freedman Center at William James College	X	X	X
15	Jacqueline Hubbard – National Alliance on Mental Illness - Mass.	X	X	X
16	Sophie Jean-Felix – Mass. Association of Community Health Workers	X	X	X
17	Jessica Larochelle – Mass. Association for Mental Health	X	X	X
18	Danna Mauch – Mass. Association for Mental Health	X	X	X
19	Emma McNamara – CHIA (<i>designee of Executive Director Peters</i>)	X	X	X
20	Jocelyn Schafer – Office of Senator Velis (<i>designee of Senator Velis</i>)	X	X	X
21	Noel Sierra – Mass. Organization for Addiction Recovery	-	-	-
22	Stephanie Sladen – Justice Resource Institute (JRI)	-	-	-
23	James Vetter – Social Emotional Learning Alliance for Mass.	X	X	X

* (X) Voted in favor; (O) Opposed; (A) Abstained from vote; (-) Absent from meeting or during vote

APPROVED

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Proceedings

Gabriel Cohen with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. He welcomed members and explained that he had been asked to chair the meeting on behalf of Undersecretary Mahaniah, who was unable to attend. He reminded members 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 4/17/2025 minutes: Mr. Cohen called for a vote to approve the minutes from the Commission's previous meeting on 4/17/2025. Jess Collins introduced the motion, which was seconded by Danna Mauch and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Funmi Aguocho, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention (OBHPP), shared updates on the ongoing efforts to establish her office. She introduced Sarah Mughal and Cherline Gene, who were recently hired as the OBHPP Program Director and Project Manager, respectively. In addition, she shared top-level updates on the initial findings from the landscape analysis, request for information (RFI), and listening sessions her office conducted in May.

Mr. Cohen noted that due to lack of time, the review of workgroup discussions included in the agenda would be bumped to the Commission's next meeting in August.

At 4:00 pm, Georgia Critsley left the meeting.

Commission members Margaret Hannah, Jim Vetter, Jess Collins, and Yaminette Diaz-Linhart, along with Ben Thomas, Director of State Government Relations at Boston Children's Hospital, presented a detailed overview of the history and theory behind the formation of the CBHPP Commission. In their presentation, they noted that the creation of a permanent commission focused on upstream prevention initiatives came from the special legislative commission led by then Representative Jim Cantwell and Ben Thomas, known as the [Promotion and Prevention Commission](#). They provided a detailed summary of upstream prevention initiatives to promoting positive mental, emotional, and behavioral health, drawing distinctions between more downstream efforts, such as treatment and maintenance. They concluded their presentation recommending the Commission consider holding a public hearing for comments and expert advice in the fall, creating two additional workgroups, and disseminating evidence-based practices for promotion and prevention.

Margaret Hannah elaborated on the proposal to form two additional workgroups, explaining that one could be focused on funding and policy while another could focus on interagency collaboration and coordination with other commissions.

In summarizing next steps, Mr. Cohen noted that the Commission's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 7, based on the regular bi-monthly cadence. He noted that he would be reaching out to members to gauge their interest and availability to join the two proposed workgroups.

Vote 2 to adjourn: Mr. Cohen requested a motion to adjourn. Liz Ganz introduced the motion, which was seconded by Director Blodgett and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Meeting Materials

1. Draft 4/17/2025 meeting minutes
2. OBHPP presentation