

Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission

Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2024
3:00 - 4:00 pm

Date of meeting: Thursday, December 12, 2024

Start time: 3:00 pm

End time: 4:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Commission Members		Present	Vote 1*	Vote 2
1	Kiame Mahaniah – 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	-	-	-
3	Ruth Blodgett – Department of Public Health (<i>designee of Commissioner Goldstein</i>)	X	X	X
4	Lisette Blondet – Mass. Association of Community Health Workers	-	-	-
5	Jessica Collins – Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts	A	X	X
6	Georgia Critsley – Trial Court (<i>designee of Chief Justice Brieger</i>)	X	A	X
7	Yaminette Diaz-Linhart – National Association of Social Workers – Mass.	X	X	X
8	Brooke Doyle – Department of Mental Health	X	A	X
9	Elizabeth Ganz – Association for Behavioral Healthcare	X	X	X
10	Margaret Hannah – Freedman Center at William James College	X	X	X
11	Jacqueline Hubbard – National Alliance on Mental Illness - Mass.	X	A	X
12	Jessica Larochelle – Mass. Association for Mental Health	X	A	X
13	Tom Mahoney – Office of Senator Pavel Payano (<i>designee of Sen. Payano</i>)	X	X	X
14	Danna Mauch – Mass. Association for Mental Health	X	X	X
15	Carlene Pavlos – Mass. Public Health Association	-	-	-
16	Denise Pixley – Mass. Organization for Addiction Recovery	X	X	X
17	Jocelyn Schafer – Office of Senator Velis (<i>designee of Senator Velis</i>)	X	X	-
18	Emma Schlitzer – CHIA (<i>designee of Executive Director Peters</i>)	X	A	X
19	Stephanie Sladen – Justice Resource Institute (JRI)	X	A	X
20	James Vetter – Social Emotional Learning Alliance for Mass.	X	A	X
21	Bella Yee – Office of Tram Nguyen (<i>designee of Rep. Nguyen</i>)	X	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.

Jessica Collins, Executive Director of the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts, introduced herself as the newest member of the Commission, replacing long-time Commission member, Carlene Pavlos, as the representative of the Massachusetts Public Health Alliance (MPHA).

Undersecretary Mahaniah solicited feedback from members on potential workgroups or workstreams that had been proposed by Professor Hannah for discussion, which included: the evidence base of Social Emotional Learning; community coalitions and their work; grant guidelines that align with the Commission's mission; and educational topics for Commissioners. She noted that these workgroups might provide opportunities for members to meet informally in between the broader, bi-monthly Commission meetings to discuss potential agenda items, progress of promising research in the field of promotion and prevention, and advance and various initiatives. Members agreed to table the discussion for a later date, potentially until the findings from the OBHPP Request for Information (RFI) had been compiled, giving members a better sense of the various priorities identified by community-based promotion and prevention organizations across the Commonwealth. Assistant Commissioner Aguocha proposed that the workgroups could focus on some of the OBHPP focus areas identified in the statute, including early interventions related to mental health wellness, substance use prevention, suicide prevention, and violence prevention, school-based programs, and behavioral health campaigns.

Vote 1 to approve the 10/10/2024 minutes: Undersecretary Mahaniah called for a vote to approve the minutes from the Commission's previous meeting on 10/10/2024. Dr. Blodgett introduced the motion, which was seconded by Professor Hannah and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Dr. Funmi Aguocha, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention (OBHPP), shared updates on the Request for Information (RFI), which OBHPP released on COMMBUYS in October. She noted that the submission period had closed in early December and that a total of 50 responses were received, across sectors. She also noted that her office had posted for two staff openings to support the OBHPP.

Ta-wei Lin, Jessica del Rosario, and Jennica Allen from DPH presented on findings from the Community Health Equity Initiative (CHEI) survey, which collected data on the social and structural causes of health experienced by Massachusetts residents, specifically among communities impacted by structural racism and other drivers of inequity. In their presentation, they highlighted some overlaps between the Commission's work and the focus of the CHEI, particularly its findings on mental health. For additional details, refer to the CHEI presentation available on the Commission's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

In summarizing next steps, Undersecretary Mahaniah noted that the Commission's next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2025, which include the presentation from DPH's Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) about its prevention efforts, which was scrubbed for lack of time.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Meeting Materials

1. Draft 10/10/2024 meeting minutes
2. CHEI presentation