

Community Violence Prevention Task Force

Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2024
9:00-10:30 am

Date of meeting: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Start time: 9:00 am

End time: 10:20 am

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Member Votes		Vote I*
1	Robbie Goldstein – Department of Public Health (DPH) (<i>chair</i>)	X
2	Kevan Barton – YouthConnect, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston	X
3	Paul Brennan – Lawrence General Hospital	X
4	Clementina Chéry – Louis D. Brown Peace Institute	X
5	Gregg Croteau – United Teen Equality Center (UTEC)	X
6	Thea James – Violence Intervention Advocacy Program, Boston Medical Center	-
7	Keesha LaTulippe – Bureau of Community Health and Prevention, DPH	X
8	Dwight Robson – Roca	X
9	Monalisa Smith – Mother's for Justice and Equality	-
10	Asharia Supreme – 18 Degrees	-
11	Laxmi Tierney – MassHealth	X
12	Danayjah Yassen – Old Colony YMCA	X

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

Proceedings

Commissioner Goldstein called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. He welcomed members and explained that Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Secretary Walsh had appointed him to the Task Force as Chair. He informed members that the Task Force meeting is subject to the Open Meeting Law and that any votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll-call vote.

Gabriel Cohen, Program Manager with EOHHS, administered the oath of office to members.

Lauren Cleary, Associate General Counsel with EOHHS, provided an overview of the Open Meeting Law (OML) as it relates to the work of the Task Force. She emphasized the importance of transparency in how the Task Force conducts its work and explained the specific limitations related to members' communications (via email, text, and otherwise) outside of a formal meeting on matters which might pertain to the work of the Task Force.

David Giannotti, Public Education and Communications Division Chief within the State Ethics Commission, provided the Task Force with a brief overview of the State's conflict of interest and ethics regulations. He explained that members of the Task Force are considered "special state employees" and are required to complete conflict of interest trainings upon joining the Task Force. He detailed the various restrictions placed on members by the nature of their service on the Task Force and stressed that members should view the State Ethics Commission as a resource and not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns related to potential conflicts of interest and any required disclosures.

Commissioner Goldstein delivered remarks on the importance of the Task Force's work and the significance of viewing gun violence as a public health crisis, which disproportionately impacts children in racial and ethnic minority communities in Massachusetts. He then invited members to briefly introduce themselves and their respective affiliations, before providing an overview of the legislative charge and responsibilities of the Task Force. He noted that the Task Force's primary goal is to review the availability of federal funding to support community violence prevention programs and to make recommendations to maximize federal funding in an equitable manner that supports community violence prevention service delivery across the Commonwealth. Commissioner Goldstein highlighted the three specific considerations in the charge, which included (i) whether federal funds may be applied equitably to community violence prevention programs, in clinical and nonclinical settings, across geographic regions; (ii) the ability of existing community violence prevention and intervention programs to implement any federal requirements to be eligible for funding; and (iii) any impact federal funding may have on the service delivery model of violence prevention services in the Commonwealth. He noted that the Task Force was given until 12/2/2024 to submit its recommendations to the Governor and Legislature. For additional details, refer to the meeting presentation on the Task Force's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Ms. Supreme left the meeting at approximately 9:40 am.

Commissioner Goldstein facilitated a discussion of members' goals and expectations for the Task Force. In their remarks, members highlighted various topics, including the desire for the Task Force to take an equitable approach, both racial and geographic; focus on accountability; and ensure that any community violence prevention initiatives have a sustained, transformative impact.

In closing, Commissioner Goldstein highlighted the Task Force's Mass.gov webpage, where copies of the meeting materials will be posted for members of the public (<https://www.mass.gov/community-violence-prevention-task-force>). He noted that four additional Task Force meetings have been scheduled over the next two months, leading up to the 12/2/2024 deadline for submission of the Task Force's report and recommendations. He explained that for the group's next meeting on 10/25, he has invited the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) to present on the experiences of other states that have implemented the Medicaid reimbursement program.

In response to a member's question, Commissioner Goldstein encouraged Task Force members to reach out to their particular networks about the charge of the Task Force with the goal of ensuring a broad representation of ideas.

Vote 1 to adjourn the meeting: Commissioner Goldstein requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Croteau introduced the motion, which was seconded by Chaplain Chéry and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Meeting Materials

1. Task Force meeting presentation
2. OML resources