

# Community Violence Prevention Task Force

Meeting Minutes  
November 8, 2024  
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Date of meeting: Friday, November 8, 2024  
Start time: 11:00 am  
End time: 12:20 pm  
Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

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

\* (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 11:00 am. He welcomed members and explained that the Task Force's meetings are subject to the Open Meeting Law and that any votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll-call vote.

**Vote 1 to approve the 11/1/2024 meeting minutes:** Commissioner Goldstein requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Task Force's previous meeting on 11/1/2024. Chaplain Chéry introduced the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Robson and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Glenn Daly, Director of the EOHHS Office of Children, Youth and Families, provided an overview of the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI), a youth violence intervention program serving nearly 2,000 youth annually, operating in 14 Massachusetts cities with the highest crime and homicide numbers/rates. In his

presentation, he touched on the SSYI program partners, structure, and funding, noting that the U.S. Department of Justice has cited the program as a promising practice. For additional details, refer to the SSYI presentation on the Task Force's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

In response to Director Daly's presentation, members discussed the logistics of pursuing the Medicaid funding opportunity and the potential impacts on existing community violence prevention (CVP) programs such as the SSYI. Among other topics, members discussed the mechanism for receiving Medicaid reimbursements and some of the challenges the Commonwealth may face pursuing a funding approach utilizing certified public expenditures, which would require Medicaid approvals.

Commissioner Goldstein summarized members' comments over the previous meetings, which emphasized the novelty of the funding opportunity, which could allow the state to tap into federal dollars and potentially increase the existing funding for CVP work. He added that members highlighted some challenges to operationalizing this funding approach and, based on the experiences of the eight states that have pursued this opportunity, the revenue received to date appears to be relatively limited in comparison with the up-front investments required.

Various members expressed support for a centralized, coordinated approach to community violence prevention efforts across the state, whereby community-based organizations could contact a central office which could then connect them with hospital-based intervention programs.

In closing, Commissioner Goldstein noted that the Task Force's final meeting would be moved one week later from 11/15 to 11/22 to allow some additional time to finalize the Task Force's report. He explained that he would work with his staff to distill members' comments into a draft report, to be reviewed and finalized during the Task Force's final meeting on 11/22.

**Vote 2 to adjourn the meeting:** Commissioner Goldstein requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. James 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 12:20 pm.

### **Meeting Materials**

1. Draft 11/1/2024 meeting minutes
2. Safe and Successful Youth Initiative presentation