

Community Violence Prevention Task Force

Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2024
10:00-11:30 am

Date of meeting: Friday, November 1, 2024
Start time: 10:00 am
End time: 11:00 am
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	X	X
3	Paul Brennan – Lawrence General Hospital	-	X
4	Clementina Chéry – Louis D. Brown Peace Institute	-	-
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	X	X
10	Asharia Supreme – 18 Degrees	-	-
11	Laxmi Tierney – MassHealth	X	X
12	Danayjah Yassen – Old Colony YMCA, Safe Corners	-	-

* (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 10:00 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 10/25/2024 meeting minutes: Commissioner Goldstein requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Task Force's previous meeting on 10/25/2024. Deputy Director LaTulippe introduced the motion, which was seconded by Dr. James and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Commissioner Goldstein introduced two guest presenters – Monica Sawhney from MassHealth and Mike Berolini from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Office of Federal Finance and Revenue – who joined Task Force member Laxmi Tierney in providing an overview of Medicaid eligibility

requirements and what impact utilizing Medicaid funding to pay for violence prevention services might have on programming in Massachusetts. Among the topics covered in their presentation, they elaborated on the process for the state to obtain legal authority for adding community violence prevention as a new Medicaid service, drawing the distinction between State Plan Amendments (SPA) and 1115 Demonstration “Waivers.” They detailed the process for organizations to enroll as MassHealth providers and the requirements that must be met for enrollment. The presenters also touched on some of the risks associated with pursuing this Medicaid funding opportunity based on the experiences of other states, most notably, the possibility that only modest revenue or federal financial participation (FFP) might be generated despite significant investments and effort on behalf of the state and implementing partners. Finally, they noted that at present, there are no state dollars dedicated to funding these programs, a requirement in order to then receive federal reimbursements (approximately 50 cents on the dollar). For additional details, refer to the Medicaid presentation on the Task Force’s [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

In response to members’ questions, the panelists elaborated on a few additional topics in particular, including the process for including doula services under MassHealth, which Ms. Sawhney noted required significant stakeholder and public engagement over multiple years to determine various aspects of the program, including rate-setting, services offered, and minimum qualifications; the documentation requirements and timeframe between submission of organizations’ information into the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) and receipt of payment; and the costs associated with acquiring and utilizing organizations’ case management systems, such as Quickbase and Salesforce.

In closing, Commissioner Goldstein noted that the Task Force’s next meeting is scheduled for 11/8/2024 at 11:00 am.

Vote 2 to adjourn the meeting: Commissioner Goldstein requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. James introduced the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Barton and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Meeting Materials

1. Draft 10/25/2024 meeting minutes
2. MassHealth presentation