**Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability**

**December 5, 2024 (Remote)**

The Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability met remotely on December 5, 2024. Those attending were members: Jim Brett (Chair), Becca Gould, Lynn Bishop, George Ford, Joanne Jaxtimer, Jo Ann Simons, David Tynes. DDS: Acting Commissioner Sarah Peterson, Christopher Klaskin, Tim Cahill, Dylan Lattimer, Maria Blanciforte and Victor Hernandez.

Chairman Brett opened the meeting at 3:02pm and thanked everyone for joining.

The September 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

Acting Commissioner Sarah Peterson highlighted her activities since the last meeting. She has eagerly visited many DDS area offices, DDS programs and represented DDS at many public facing events. She announced that in October, DDS has eliminated all sub-minimum wage programs within DDS. Two DDS staff were announced as the Manuel Carballo Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service award winners. This award is presented to employees who reflect a deep commitment in exemplifying the highest standards of public service. This award was established in memory of Manuel Carballo, who once served as a Secretary of Health and Human Services. The DDS Self-Direction program had a successful conference in October with over 350 people in attendance. Also, the regs for Self-Direction were published. DDS was also successful with obtaining a rate increase in our ALTR rates.

Dr. Emily Lauer from The Center for Developmental Disabilities Evaluation and Research (CDDER) from UMass Chan Medical School provided a recap of the status of the Special Commission on State Institutions (SCSI). SCSI must produce a report which is due to the Legislature on June 1, 2025. The main topics of the report will include:

• Historical Timeline: Exploring Massachusetts' history of care for people with disabilities and other groups, showing changes in support over time.

• Records and Records Access: Reviews the creation, storage, and access issues of old institutional records, including privacy rules and ability of record access.

• Burials and Burial Locations: Reviews laws, regulations, and records related to burials, the condition of cemeteries, unmarked graves, and identification of buried individuals.

• Framework for Remembrance: To describe the methods used by Massachusetts and other states to remember and honor those buried, based on lessons learned over the past year.

• Executive Summary: To provide a quick overview of the report's main points, including opportunities for consideration.

GCID member Jo Ann Simons introduced Tracey Green, who reviewed the experiences of her son with autism and his multiple placements. He is currently residing at the Judge Rotenberg Center.

Chairman Brett adjourned the meeting at 4:04pm.