Meeting Minutes

Human Rights Advisory Committee

April 22, 2025

Virtually via Zoom (all attendees)

1. Welcome
2. In Attendance
3. Becky Christie, Co-Chair
4. Tommy Stoddard, Committee Member
5. Anne Fracht, Committee Member
6. Joseph Weru, Director of Human Rights
7. Alan Milsted, Committee Member
8. Alexandra Selman, Human Rights Specialist
9. Dotty Foley, Committee Member
10. Jaclyn Grant, Committee Member
11. Nate Hoover, Human Rights Specialist
12. Kelli Hyland, Committee Member Emerita
13. Katie Driscoll, Committee Member
14. Ann Dorr, Committee Member
15. Leonardo Luczynski-Badia, Human Rights Specialist
16. Karen Carpenter, Committee Member Emerita
17. Michael Gaffey, Committee Member
18. Asela Jayasinghe, Committee Member
19. Keith Miller, Committee Member
20. Amy Boone, Human Rights Specialist
21. Mary Kae Marinac, Committee Member
22. Adriana Brooks-Baymon, Committee Member
23. Anne Phelan, Committee Member
24. Robert Smith, Secretary

Absent: Steven Saunders, Tuan Le

1. Updates
2. Remote hybrid option for Open Meeting Law compliance has been extended to June 2027.
3. Commendations to Nate for presentation with documentary.
4. Congratulations extended to Sarah Peterson upon appointment as Commissioner. Becky to invite Commissioner Peterson to HRAC’s annual meeting and/or June meeting.
5. March Meeting Minutes
6. Ensure meeting minutes reflect Open Meeting Law requirements such as roll call votes for virtual participation.
7. Amy provided copy of DDS memoranda re: use of cameras in group homes to Committee.
8. Jaclyn will post meeting agendas on OHR website going forward in light of Victor Hernandez’ retirement.
9. Question: How do people propose agenda topics?
10. Develop standardized template of topics, then add specific items as needed by notifying Becky.
11. Becky and Jaclyn to discuss a basic template.
12. Take time at the end of each meeting to discuss forthcoming topics.
13. Michael moved to approve March meeting minutes. Tommy seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
14. Subcommittee Reporting
15. Restraints
16. Meeting scheduled for May 9 to start subcommittee—will it be able to report back in May or June?
17. Question: Where to look for updated PBS guidelines?
18. Nate shared MassPBS.com—interpretations on regulations.
19. Question: Does DDS still have a webpage listing all of its policies?
20. Yes. Look at some of the policies surrounding restraints and make suggestions to amend language.
21. Tommy to look for webpage listing DDS regulations—will send to Nate.
22. Question: Is subcommittee considering seclusion too?
23. Yes, consider looking at all restraints, including those that are not reported (transportation devices, etc.). How can we reform language surrounding those restraints?
24. Nate to share all information that he feels would be beneficial to the subcommittee. Email Nate for any specific information subcommittee members are looking for.
25. Question: Does Open Meeting Law compliance require subcommittees to post notice of meetings and take minutes?
26. Becky to send Open Meeting Law training packet to all Committee members as well as sign-off form acknowledging receipt.
27. Sign offs to be submitted to Robert.
28. Bylaws
29. Not sure whether amendments have been sent to Legal—Joseph to check.
30. Have standing agenda item to check in on status of amendments at each Committee meeting.
31. Guardianship
32. First step: submit 2017 recommendations to Legal to see if they still make sense or are legally feasible. Convene subcommittee once we have direction from Legal.
33. Becky to submit recommendations directly to Carol Coyne.
34. Becky will resend list of people who volunteered for Guardianship subcommittee.
35. Office of Human Rights Updates
36. Nate Hoover
37. Gave presentation re: documentary on eugenics. Bringing recent biography of Walter E. Fernald to people’s attention.
38. Nate joined Steven on Humanity First podcast.
39. Alexandra Selman
40. Ongoing themes in her work: communication, misunderstandings re: guardianship, frustration with DPPC process.
41. Was invited to speak at the Laurie Center.
42. Will speak at the graduation ceremony for Project Search.
43. Amy Boone
44. Attended book event—A Perfect Turmoil.
45. Participated in Q&A session at day program.
46. Conducting lots of Human Rights Officer trainings
47. Leonardo Luczynski-Badia
48. Meeting with Service Coordinators on 1:1 basis.
49. Meeting with individuals served and their families.
50. Doing Human Rights Officer Trainings.
51. Joseph Weru
52. Commissioner has asked that any information re: people affected by Temporary Protected Status recission by Federal government be reported to Central Office.
53. Working on guidance re: devices that restrict movement. Will probably submit to the next Committee meeting for feedback.
54. Scheduling
55. Two meetings left in this fiscal year. Do we want to hold one of those meetings in person as Committee’s annual meeting?
56. According to bylaws, annual meeting is held in May.
57. Becky moved to schedule annual meeting remotely for May and hold an in-person meeting in June.
58. Motion tabled pending Commissioner’s availability.
59. Where to hold in-person meeting?
60. Central Office or Worcester Area Office.
61. Jaclyn to check on availability of Department of Fish and Wildlife space in Westborough in June.
62. Requirements of Annual Meeting?
63. Submit nominations for office to Becky along with any other meeting items by May 9.

Michael moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 12:07PM.