

**Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities
Long-Term Services & Supports and Health Equity Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes**

Date of Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2025

Time: 11am to 12pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members Participating Remotely	
1	Representative Retiree Denise C. Garlick – MA House of Representatives
2	Charlie Carr (Co-Chair) – Legislative Liaison, Disability Policy Consortium
3	Carl Richardson (Co-Chair) – ADA Coordinator, Massachusetts State House
4	Oz Mondejar – President, Mucho Gusto Consulting
5	Chris White – CEO & President, Road to Responsibility, Inc
Members Not Present	
6	Angela Ortiz – Executive Director, MA Health Council

Action Items		Person Responsible
1	Reach out to the Health Equity Compact for round table discussion	Oz, Imene
2	Brainstorm names and organizations to invite to roundtable for late spring: - Topic: Disparities in health care for people with disabilities, particularly crisis standards of care.	All members
3	Invite external stakeholders to participate in subcommittee discussions and initiatives, including but not limited to: MassHealth, MA Health Council, Health Care for All, BCBS Foundation, Health Equity Compact, and national disability advocacy groups.	Ongoing
4	Compile a comprehensive list of LTSS programs, including funding sources (state, federal, nonprofit).	Imene and all members
5	Invite Collin Killick and Bill Henning to speak about the consequences of Covid regarding health equity for people with disability and lessons learned	Charlie, Oz
6	Invite representatives from MassHealth (Leslie Darcy) to discuss their ongoing working group on savings for LTSS.	Charlie

Agenda

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions
 - a. Minutes approved Oz and Chris
2. FY25 Draft Goals Discussion

Subcommittee Tasks

- Proposed Subcommittee Task:
 - The Long-Term Services & Supports and Health Equity Subcommittee will collect data and analyze initiatives that impact the accessibility, quality, and sustainability of LTSS for individuals with disabilities in Massachusetts. This subcommittee will assess how policy changes, funding decisions, and health equity efforts influence service availability, with a particular focus on addressing disparities in healthcare access and ensuring individuals with disabilities receive equitable and person-centered care. Through collaboration with key stakeholders, the subcommittee will work to identify gaps, highlight best practices, and promote informed policy discussions that protect and expand LTSS resources.
 - Feedback:
 - Incorporate research into the subcommittee's mission.
 - The subcommittee will encourage research groups to involve people with disabilities in their studies.
 - Add this objective to the subcommittee's webpage.

Subcommittee Goals Discussion:

Goal 1: Expand Awareness and Education on Long-Term Services & Supports (LTSS) and Health Equity

- Address gaps in services, particularly transportation deserts, and explore potential solutions.
- Connect with Health Equity Compact (HEC); Imene will send an email to Lindsey Tucker.

Goal 2: Develop a Comprehensive and Accessible Resource Guide for LTSS and Health Equity Services

- Imene is leading efforts on this objective.

Goal 3: Strengthen Disability-Inclusive Policy and Service Delivery in Healthcare

- Foster engagement, learning, and advocacy, encouraging participants to become ambassadors for disability rights.

MassHealth and LTSS Discussion

- Charlie proposed inviting representatives from MassHealth to discuss their ongoing working group on savings for LTSS.
 - A report is due to legislators on March 7, and the discussion could provide insight into savings initiatives and their impact on people with disabilities living in the community versus institutional settings.
 - Invite Leslie Darcy to provide an overview of the current landscape and anticipated policy shifts.
- Consider how much local public health departments understand and address the needs of people with disabilities in their communities.
- Charlie will follow up with Leslie Darcy via email.

Potential Event Discussion

- Topic: Disparities in health care for people with disabilities, particularly crisis standards of care.
- Discussion will explore:
 - How crisis standards of care have historically deprioritized people with disabilities.
 - The “quality-adjusted life year” metric and how it has been used to justify inequitable treatment.
 - The advocacy efforts, including DPC’s work to remove discriminatory language during COVID, ensuring people with disabilities receive equal access to healthcare.
 - The ongoing national challenges related to this issue and future advocacy strategies.
- Additional considerations:
 - Address other healthcare policies that have disproportionately impacted people with disabilities, such as mask mandates that isolated individuals.
 - Expand participation by engaging healthcare, research, and biotech communities.
 - Format: informational hearing style.
 - Moderator: Imene.

Crisis Standards of Care Advocacy and Historical Review

- Many perspectives on crisis standards of care came from emergency room nurses who experienced moral distress in decision-making.
- Review the historical development of crisis standards at both state and federal levels and how advocacy efforts penetrated these processes.
- Imene, Carl, and Charlie will discuss this topic further offline.
- Potential speaker: Collin Killick, who played a key role in advocacy efforts during COVID, to discuss what happened, key players, and how policy changes were successfully implemented.
- Invite Collin back to share insights.

- Oz suggested also inviting Bill Henning and Collin to discuss lessons learned from past crises, what has changed, and recommendations for future emergency preparedness.

3. Adjournment

2025 Meeting Schedule (11:00am to 12:00pm)

- April 28
- May 19 – potential event date
- August 25
- November 17