

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

Date of Meeting: Monday, January 26, 2026

Time: 11am to 12pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

| Members Participating Remotely | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Carl Richardson (Co-Chair) – Massachusetts State House |
| 2 | Hon. Denise Garlick – Commission Chair |
| 3 | Chris White – Road to Responsibility, Inc |
| 4 | Charlie Carr (Co-Chair) – Disability Policy Consortium |
| 5 | Nancy Garr-Colzie – Worcester Disability Commission; Center for Living and Working |
| 6 | Ann Lynch – Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office |
| Members Not Present | |
| 6 | Angela Ortiz – MA Health Council |
| 7 | Oz Mondejar – Mucho Gusto Consulting |
| 8 | Leo Sarkissian – The Arc of Massachusetts |
| Additional Commissioners Present | |
| 8 | Rachel Kaprielian – Triangle, Inc. |

| Action Items | Person Responsible |
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| 1 Invite Collin Killick and Bill Henning to speak about the consequences of Covid regarding health equity for people with disability and lessons learned | Charlie |

Agenda

1. Welcome, Roll Call, Approval of Minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes
 - Motion approved
2. Federal Impact and Budget Updates presentation by Leslie Darcy, Chief of Staff, MassHealth Office of Long-Term Services and Supports, MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services
 - About the Personal Care Attendant Working Group: [Link](#)
 - Federal Impact:
 - Estimated \$3.5 billion Commonwealth budget gap due to anticipated federal changes.
 - October 2026: Changes to Medicaid eligibility for certain “qualified alien” immigrants, impacting refugees, asylees, and parolees.

- In January 2027:
 - Work requirements for certain non-disabled adults ages 19–54 (80 hours per month of work or volunteer service).
 - Exemptions include pregnant individuals, parents/guardians, individuals who are blind, individuals enrolled in substance use programs, and individuals who are disabled.
 - Limited implementation guidance has been issued by [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#) (CMS).
- Eligibility redetermination:
 - Currently annual.
 - Beginning January 2027, certain individuals will require redetermination every six months.
 - Individuals who are disabled or enrolled in Medicare remain subject to annual redetermination only.
- Retroactive coverage authority reduced from three months to one month beginning in 2027.
- Provider tax concerns:
 - Potential federal restrictions on the Commonwealth's ability to tax nursing facilities and hospitals and reinvest those revenues into provider rates.
 - Concern regarding impact on funding stability and federal matching funds.
- Health Safety Net (HSN) and uncompensated care:
 - Hospitals required under Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) to provide care regardless of insurance status.
 - Estimated \$300 million shortfall this year.
 - Anticipated increased strain if more individuals lose coverage.
- Personal Care Assistant (PCA) hours:
 - Discussion of potential reduction from 66 to 60 hours.
 - No change effective before July 2026.
- APTC enhanced credits:
 - Massachusetts invested an additional \$250 million to support middle-income families not eligible for MassHealth.
 - State-level credit program totals approximately \$600 million to mitigate federal coverage gaps.
- FY27 and beyond:
 - Measured initial cost-management steps in FY27.
 - Greater fiscal impact anticipated in FY28.
 - Targeted strategies expected; no abrupt restructuring approach indicated.
- Optional vs. entitlement services:
 - Some services federally required; others become entitlements when included in the state plan.
 - In other states, some services are delivered solely through waiver programs.

3. Adjournment

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- February 23, 2026 Hosting Care Coordination Training & Technical Assistance Specialist [CCATER Center Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs](#), Bureau of Family Health & Nutrition Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- April 27, 2026
- May 18, 2026
- August 31, 2026
- November 16, 2026

Meeting Materials:

- [November 2025 minutes](#)
- [Federal Impact and Budget Updates presentation](#)