

**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
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](#)