

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

Date of Meeting: Monday, May 18, 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	Ann Lynch – Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office
6	Leo Sarkissian – The Arc of Massachusetts
7	Gyasi Burks-Abbott – LEND Fellowship, Boston Children's Hospital
8	Nancy Garr-Colzie – Your Access Advocates
Members Not Present	
9	Angela Ortiz – MA Health Council
10	Nancy Garr-Colzie – Your Access Advocates
11	Rachel Kaprielian – Triangle, Inc.
12	Representative Lindsay Sabadosa – Massachusetts House of Representatives
13	Oz Mondejar – Mucho Gusto Consulting

Action Items	Person Responsible	
1	Discuss FY27 Goals	All

Agenda

1. Welcome, Roll Call, Approval of Minutes
 - Motion and approved

2. Defending Disabled Life: Community Response to Crisis Standards of Care Presentation by Executive Director Colin Killick from the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)
 - Highlights:
 - The presentation reviewed the history and impact of Crisis Standards of Care (CSC) policies during the COVID-19 pandemic and broader concerns regarding healthcare discrimination impacting people with disabilities.
 - Discussion included how some crisis care frameworks prioritized “life years” and long-term survival rather than short-term survival alone, which could disproportionately disadvantage older adults and individuals with disabilities or chronic health conditions.

- The presentation examined the use of Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALYs) in healthcare decision-making and concerns that disability-based assumptions may influence treatment access, resource allocation, and insurance coverage decisions. One example shared noted that a year of life with severe epilepsy could be weighted at 55% of the value of a nondisabled year under certain QALY models.
- The presentation reviewed how disability rights organizations and legal advocates challenged discriminatory crisis standards across the country, including successful legal actions that resulted in revisions or withdrawal of certain state standards.
- Members heard about community advocacy efforts in Massachusetts during the pandemic, including organizing, public education, and engagement with policymakers regarding disability discrimination concerns in healthcare settings.
- The presentation discussed examples of healthcare bias and concerns regarding pressure placed on some disabled individuals to sign Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders without fully informed consent or understanding.
- Information was shared regarding [S.869](#), An Act relative to preventing discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health care, including provisions related to preventing disability-based discrimination in healthcare decision-making, limiting the use of QALYs, and establishing additional protections related to crisis standards of care and DNR practices.
- The presentation also addressed broader concerns regarding Medicaid funding reductions, home and community-based services (HCBS), and ongoing healthcare access barriers affecting people with disabilities.
- Members discussed the importance of continuing to challenge stigma and assumptions that can contribute to the de-prioritization of disabled lives in healthcare systems and public policy decisions.
- Members discussed healthcare inequities and disparities experienced by different communities across Massachusetts, including discussion of significant differences in life expectancy between communities within the Commonwealth.
- Questions were raised regarding the status of S.869 and barriers impacting advancement of the legislation despite continued advocacy efforts.
- Discussion included the importance of disability representation in healthcare policy development, emergency preparedness planning, and future crisis response discussions.

3. Adjournment

2026 Meeting Dates

- August 31, 2026
- November 16, 2026