

**Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities
Disability Employment Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes**

Date of meeting: Monday, January 27, 2025

Start time: 12:00pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members Participating Remotely	
1	Kathy Petkauskos (Chair) – Director, Work Without Limits at UMass Chan Medical School
2	Rachel Stanton – Investor Relations and Communications Graphic Designer, Clean Water Trust
3	Gyasi Burks-Abbott – Self Advocate Faculty, LEND Fellowship, Boston Children's Hospital
4	Chris White – CEO, Road to Responsibility, Inc.
5	Oz Mondejar – President, Mucho Gusto Consulting
6	Carl Richardson – ADA Coordinator, Massachusetts State House
Members Not Present	
7	Lexi Semanchik – HR Marking and Communications Specialist Walks of Life: Intergenerational Employee Resource Group Chair

Action Items		Person Responsible
1	Subcommittee Chairs to meet with Imene	Rachel, Gyasi, Imene
2	Video outreach: collaborate on outreach to MA Human Resources (HRD), MA Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity (ODEO), and TRE	Imene, Carl, Rachel
3	Organize a discussion forum with the three organizations featured in the video, targeting small to mid-sized businesses.	Ongoing, tentative April 28 on hold due to other project with WS subcommittee.
4	Confirm representatives from MassAbility, EOLWD, and CommCorp to participate in the February or April meeting to serve as a convener and educator in ongoing discussions around the benefits cliff.	Imene
5	Develop mini internal newsletter to summarize subcommittee work, with potential for future public distribution	Rachel and Imene

Agenda

1. Welcome, Roll Call, Minutes Approval
2. Inspirational Quote provided by Chris White:

“Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.” Theodore Roosevelt

3. Election of New Chairs
 - Rachel Stanton and Gyasi Burks-Abbott were nominated as co-chairs of the subcommittee.
 - Members unanimously approved the nominations.
4. FY25 Goals Discussion:
 - A. Business Engagement & Virtual Forum
 - Plan to leverage the three businesses from the video project to host a virtual forum for small/mid-sized businesses to share best practices.
 - Key Actions:
 - Carl sent outreach emails to HRD and ODEO.
 - Imene met with Disability:IN
 - Members encouraged to connect with other Chambers of Commerce.
 - Follow up with the three businesses for the forum (tentative date: April 28); invite associations, competitors, YMCA, Federal Home Loan Banks, MicroTek.
 - B. Benefits Cliff Discussion
 - Take a leadership role in ongoing discussions with MassAbility, EOLWD, and CommCorp.
 - Invite subject matter experts at February meeting (Imene to confirm).
 - C. Government & Policy Coordination
 - Oz’s update on meeting with Secretary Jones & Undersecretary Cutler:
 - Imene is drafting a memo on state agencies and disability employment collaboration.
 - D. Expanding Outreach & Resources
 - Rachel: Inviting guest speakers was beneficial; plans to discuss further with Gyasi and Imene.
 - Gyasi: Focus on coalition-building and breaking down silos through increased engagement.
 - Oz: Engage more Commission members; Lexi remains interested in participating.
 - Proposed Full Commission Agenda Item: Require new Commission members to join at least one subcommittee.

- Rachel: Mini internal newsletter to summarize subcommittee work, with potential for future public distribution.
 - Imene mentioned the quarterly subcommittee reports subcommittee chairs share with Chair Garlick that can be used for that purpose.
- Kathy shared a benefits calculator: [Atlanta Fed Policy Rules Database](#).

5. 2025 Meeting Dates

- February 24
- April 28
- May 19
- August 25