

**Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities  
Workforce Supports Subcommittee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, January 16, 2025

**Time:** 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Virtual:** [Registration Form for Zoom Link](#)

This is a meeting of the **Workforce Supports Subcommittee** of the permanent Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities. This subcommittee will collect data and analyze initiatives that address the workforce crisis for people who provide services to individuals with disabilities.

Members Participating Remotely	
1	Angela Ortiz (Chair) – Executive Director, MA Health Council
2	Andrew Levrault – Deputy General Counsel, Disabled Persons Protection Commission
3	Representative Kay Khan – Retired Massachusetts House of Representatives
Members Not Present	
4	Chris White – CEO & President, Road to Responsibility, Inc

Action items		Person responsible
1	Invite the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) to discuss their workforce survey (Follow up in 2025)	Imene
2	Set a meeting cadence with Dr. Patricia Yu/EOHHS for quarterly updates on workforce solutions	Angela and Imene
3	Reengage with Undersecretary of Labor Josh Cutler	Imene
4	Invite Attorney General Campbell’s Office: Meeting with a representative to discuss disability-related issues	Andrew
5	Reengage with Human Services Research Institute Valerie Bradley	Imene

## Agenda

### 1. Welcome and Roll Call

- Approval of Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve previous meeting minutes.

### 2. Election of a New Chair

- Chair Ortiz Remarks: Nominated Andrew Levrault for Chair.
  - Motion to vote for Andrew Levrault as Chair.
  - Voted in favor unanimously.

### **3. Discussion on Subcommittee Membership:**

- Rep. Khan suggested Angela bring her organization, [MA Health Council](#), to speak at the subcommittee.
- Noted that many individuals involved in the Commission are not currently engaged in subcommittees.
- Angela recommended a process for Commission members to rank their subcommittee preferences and review expectations to improve outreach and participation.
- Rep. Khan inquired about appointing authorities and member terms.
- Plan to send Rep. Khan's Governor's Office contact information for new appointments.

### **4. FY25 Goals Discussion and Action Plan**

#### Goal 1: Enhance Stakeholder Collaboration to Address Workforce Shortages

- Facilitate data-driven discussions with key stakeholders across agencies and organizations.
- Promote cross-sector collaboration to address workforce challenges and enhance service continuity for individuals with disabilities.

#### Goal 2: Leverage Existing Workforce Data to Identify Priority Action Areas

- Review and consolidate workforce analyses from partner agencies.
- Identify critical gaps and high-impact areas, such as regions with high vacancy rates or high turnover roles.
- Use this data to strategically guide workforce improvement initiatives.

#### Guest Speakers & Data Collection Initiatives

- Planned Engagements:
  - [Center for Health Information and Analysis](#) (CHIA) Speakers
  - [Executive Office of Health and Human Services](#) Dr. Patricia Yu, Senior Director of Healthcare Workforce Policy
  - Undersecretary of Labor Cutler
  - Attorney General Campbell's Office: Meeting with a representative to discuss disability-related issues
  - [Human Services Research Institute](#)

### **5. Additional Discussion Points:**

- Medicaid Cuts & Workforce Impact:
  - Potential effects of Medicaid reductions on an already fragile workforce.
  - Need to monitor coalitions advocating for disability workforce protections (direct employment, unions, disability organizations).

- Recognizing the impact of immigration policies on workforce sustainability, human service workers face barriers due to immigration-related concerns.
- Disability Employment & Youth Workforce Development
  - Angela and Rep. Khan's proposal:
    - Bring this discussion to the Disability Employment Subcommittee.
    - Possible panel discussion for young people seeking employment and personal care attendants (PCAs) supporting them.
    - Consider including legislators in the panel to elevate the conversation.
    - Engaging with the Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities.
- Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement
  - The Commission as a Convening Entity:
    - Serve as a bridge between stakeholders, legislators, and experts.
    - Facilitate discussions that include subject matter experts and individuals with lived experiences.
    - Discussion to establish the Commission as a pillar for disability advocacy:
      - Ensure disability organizations serving as safety nets are recognized and supported.
      - Advocate for stronger communication between disability organizations and the Governor's Office to address emerging issues effectively.

## 6. Upcoming Events

- [MDDC Bi-Annual Bill Sharing Event: Scheduled for February 13](#)

## 7. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn.
- Motion approved.

Next meeting dates:

- February 13
- April 17
- May 15
- August 28
- November 13