

Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities

Legislative and Budget Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Date of meeting: Monday, August 26, 2024

Start time: 11:00am

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members Participating Remotely	
1	Carl Richardson – ADA Coordinator, Massachusetts State House
3	Chris White – CEO & President, Road to Responsibility, Inc.
Members Absent	
3	Meghan Todd – Grants Manager, City of Framingham
4	Charlie Carr – Legislative Liaison, Disability Policy Consortium

1. Welcome, Roll Call, Approval of July Minutes:

- Postponed to November meeting. No Quorum.

2. Guest Speakers: Colin Killick of the Disability Policy Consortium on Health Equity for Individuals with Disabilities:

Points Discussed:

- **Health Inequities and Social Determinants:** Massachusetts faces a severe housing crisis with a lack of affordable, accessible housing, and limited transportation and food access, which drive health inequities. People with disabilities are particularly affected by these social determinants of health.
- **Challenges for People with disabilities:**
 - **Maintaining Access:** People with disabilities often need to fight to retain essential services, such as Personal Care Attendants (PCAs).
 - **Advocating for Change:** It's challenging to push for transformative policies when broader decisions are made without inclusive input.
- **Policy Barriers:**
 - Although some protections were passed, many important bills stalled, such as the [Health Equity Compact bill](#) and the [S.753](#) anti-discrimination bill, which aims to ensure equal treatment for People with disabilities in healthcare. Colin noted ongoing discrimination, such as denial of organ transplants or surgeries for those with certain disabilities.
- **Data Collection and Education:** There is a lack of health equity data specific to People with disabilities, though efforts are underway to address this gap. The Disability Policy Consortium has collaborated with the Department of Public Health (DPH) and others to

improve data collection on People with disabilities health outcomes, aiming to use this information for legislative education.

- [S.753/H.80](#) - **Act Against Discrimination**: This bill seeks to establish the equal value of lives of People with disabilities within healthcare policy, prohibiting healthcare providers from deprioritizing treatment based on disability and providing safeguards against discriminatory practices. Similar legislation has been enacted in other states, such as Minnesota.

Questions and Discussions:

- **On Health Equity Metrics**: Members inquired about metrics to better educate legislators.
- **Data Sharing and Advocacy**: Colin offered to share the latest health equity data, available through various studies and publications, to help support the Commission's advocacy work.

Next Steps: Colin emphasized the potential impact of forming a coalition among minority groups to strengthen policy advocacy and push for institutional changes benefiting People with disabilities and other marginalized communities.

Next Meeting Dates

- 11/18/24 at 11am