**Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

**Statewide Advisory Council Meeting**

**March 11, 2021**

**6:15 – 8:15 pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Participants:**  
Commissioner Opeoluwa Sotonwa, MCDHH

**SAC Members:**  
Evan Brunell  
Zinma Camelio  
Brock Cordeiro   
Stephanie Hakulin  
Barbara Johnson  
Leah McGaughey  
Ellen Perkins  
Linda Sakin  
Lori Seidman  
Kerry Thompson

**Attendees from Community:**Marlene Blackstone, ViAbility  
Brennan Bulger, Bristol County Sheriff’s Office, Canine Officer  
Carla Del Pizzo, The Learning Center  
Karin Eddy, MCDHH  
Tricia Ford, MCDHH  
Betsy Ireland, Hearing Loss Association of America  
Terry Malcolm, MCDHH  
Ruth Moore, Western MA Association for the Deaf  
Sue Philip, Our Deaf Survivors Center  
Ivy Velez, DDS

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| **Agenda Topic** | **Discussion** | **Follow up/Person Responsible** |
| Welcome | * Communication Procedures * Introductions * Review of Agenda |  |
| Review of Minutes from January 14, 2020 |  | Approved |
| Commissioner’s Introduction | * Introduction vlog available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGHb9rhOlTc> | <https://www.mass.gov/news/dr-opeoluwa-sotonwa-appointed-commissioner-for-the-massachusetts-commission-for-the-deaf-and> |
| SAC Member Introductions | * Barbara Johnson * Brock Cordeiro * Ellen Perkins * Kerry Thompson * Leah McGaughey * Linda Sakin * Lori Seidman * Evan Brunell * Stephanie Hakulin * Zinma Camelio * Michelle Motta Dardeno |  |
| Legislative Task Force Report | * Deadline for filing legislation was February 19. * List will continue to be updated, document is useful as a starting point for SAC priorities and determination for upcoming activity. | Bills of Interest at end of document. |
| Deputy Commissioner’s Report | * Graduation to Certification (GTC) has mentees working with a variety of state agencies: Dept. of Developmental Services, Dept. of Mental Health, MCDHH, Mass. Commission for the Blind and Mass. Rehab Commission. * Veterans’ Service Organizations (VSOs) are working in collaboration with the MCDHH Victim Services Program (VSP) to create and distribute vlogs on sexual assault and sexual misconduct in the military. *Modern Guide for Hearing Loss* will be printed for VSO offices and potentially translated into Spanish. * Personnel: Western MA Case Manager will begin scheduling interviews soon.   GTC Program Manager  Staff interpreter for the Commissioner  Director of Communication Access and Services (CAS.) Position was previously the Director for Interpreter Services and Referral. Position will supervise the Interpreter Department, Referral Department, Screening, and Workforce Development.   * Vaccinations: ASL interpreters and CART providers working onsite for medical, DCF, legal and congregate care settings are eligible to be vaccinated. |  |
| New Business/  Announcements | * Advanced Bionics is upgrading their Cochlear Implants. | MCDHH will connect with Linda and work on a potential strategy for consumers. Strategy may include information sheets for implant users on generalized information on the devices; but not specific to one manufacturer. |
| Introductions: Community Members | * Betsy Ireland * Brennan Bulger * Carla Del Pizzo * Ivy Velez * Marlene Blackstone * Ruth Moore * Sue Philip |  |
| Next SAC Meeting | * April 8, 6:15 – 8:15 pm. * SAC “Bills of Interest” are at the end of these minutes (pg. 4 – 5.) | Any interested community members wanting SAC information can request to join the distribution list. Please email: [ami.hanigan@mass.gov](mailto:ami.hanigan@mass.gov).  SAC members with requests for additions to the future agendas should share these additions with [ami.hanigan@mass.gov](mailto:ami.hanigan@mass.gov). |

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| **Docket Number** | **Presenter** | **Bill Title** |
| [HD.3038](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD3038) | [Higgins, Natalie M.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/N_H1) | [An Act An act to eliminate disproportionality and inequities for at-risk children](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD3038) |
| [HD.1283](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1283) | [Miranda, Liz](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/L_M2) | [An Act effectuating equity in COVID-19 vaccination](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1283) |
| [SD.699](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD699) | [Rausch, Rebecca L.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/RLR0) | [An Act effectuating equity in COVID-19 vaccination](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD699) |
| [HD.3607](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD3607) | [Capano, Peter](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/PLC1) | [An Act Enabling Municipal Pre-foreclosure Mediation](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD3607) |
| [SD.921](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD921) | [O'Connor, Patrick M.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/PMO) | [An Act establishing a tax credit for the purchase of hearing aids](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD921) |
| [HD.391](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD391) | [Livingstone, Jay D.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/J_L1) | [An Act increasing fair housing protections for domestic violence survivors](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD391) |
| [HD.1049](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1049) | [Ayers, Bruce J.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/BJA1) | [An Act increasing the penalties for unfair and deceptive actions perpetrated against persons with disabilities and senior citizens](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1049) |
| [HD.4069](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD4069) | [Vargas, Andres X.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/AXV1) | [An Act Placing a Healthy Bet on Universal Early Education and Care](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD4069) |
| [HD.843](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD843) | [Khan, Kay](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/K_K1) | [An Act prohibiting discrimination against adults with disabilities in family and juvenile court proceedings](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD843) |
| [SD.1770](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1770) | [Lovely, Joan B.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/JBL0) | [An Act prohibiting discrimination against adults with disabilities in family and juvenile court proceedings](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1770) |
| [HD.1990](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1990) | [Barber, Christine P.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/CPB2) | [An Act promoting fair housing by preventing discrimination against affordable housing](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1990) |
| [SD.2200](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD2200) | [Chang-Diaz, Sonia](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/SCD0) | [An Act promoting fair housing by preventing discrimination against affordable housing](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD2200) |
| [HD.1960](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1960) | [Gordon, Kenneth I.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/KIG1) | [An Act providing affordable and accessible high quality early education and care to promote child development and well-being and support the economy ...](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1960) |
| [SD.1307](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1307) | [Lewis, Jason M.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/jml0) | [An Act providing affordable and accessible high quality early education and care to promote child development and well-being and support the economy ...](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1307) |
| [SD.1225](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1225) | [Hinds, Adam G.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/AGH0) | [An Act providing coverage for hearing aids](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1225) |
| [SD.89](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD89) | [DiZoglio, Diana](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/D_D0) | [An Act relative to accessible prescription labeling](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD89) |
| [HD.303](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD303) | [Durant, Peter J.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/PJD2) | [An Act relative to children's auditory health](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD303) |
| [HD.2317](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2317) | [Ramos, Orlando](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/O_R1) | [An Act relative to employment benefits of certain employees of the Department of Developmental Services](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2317) |
| [SD.85](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD85) | [DiZoglio, Diana](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/D_D0) | [An Act relative to juvenile violence](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD85) |
| [HD.3674](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD3674) | [Madaro, Adrian C.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/ACM1) | [An Act Relative to Language Access and Inclusion](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD3674) |
| [SD.2251](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD2251) | [DiDomenico, Sal N.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/SND0) | [An Act relative to language access and inclusion](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD2251) |
| [HD.2583](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2583) | [Khan, Kay](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/K_K1) | [An Act relative to newborn screenings for congenital cytomegalovirus](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2583) |
| [SD.1810](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1810) | [Lovely, Joan B.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/JBL0) | [An Act relative to newborn screenings for congenital cytomegalovirus](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1810) |
| [HD.1085](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1085) | [Ayers, Bruce J.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/BJA1) | [An Act relative to providing improved access to taxicabs for persons with disabilities](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1085) |
| [SD.299](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD299) | [Creem, Cynthia Stone](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/CSC0) | [An Act relative to removing the term hearing impaired from the general laws](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD299) |
| [SD.64](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD64) | [DiZoglio, Diana](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/D_D0) | [An Act relative to tax abatements for deaf residents](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD64) |
| [SD.64](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD64) | [DiZoglio, Diana](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/D_D0) | [An Act relative to tax abatements for deaf residents](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD64) |
| [HD.2533](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2533) | [Golden, Jr., Thomas A.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/TAG1) | [An Act Relative to Telehealth and Digital Equity for Patients](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2533) |
| [SD.2099](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD2099) | [Gomez, Adam](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/A_G0) | [An Act relative to telehealth and digital equity for patients](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD2099) |
| [HD.1883](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1883) | [Cabral, Antonio F. D.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/AFC1) | [An Act relative to the training, assessment, and assignment of qualified school interpreters in educational settings](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1883) |
| [SD.392](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD392) | [Crighton, Brendan P.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/BPC0) | [An Act relative to the training, assessment, and assignment of qualified school interpreters in educational settings](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD392) |
| [HD.2519](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2519) | [Cassidy, Gerard J.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/G_C2) | [An Act requiring reimbursement for the costs of providing competent interpreter services](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2519) |
| [SD.1766](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1766) | [Moran, Susan L.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/SLM0) | [An Act to eliminate disproportionality and inequities for at-risk children](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1766) |
| [HD.155](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD155) | [Linsky, David Paul](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/DPL1) | [An Act to enhance safety and security in courthouses](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD155) |
| [SD.1844](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1844) | [Jehlen, Patricia D.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/PDJ0) | [An Act to ensure quality of care in nursing homes](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1844) |
| [HD.2981](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2981) | [Balser, Ruth B.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/RBB1) | [An Act to ensure the quality of care in nursing homes](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2981) |
| [HD.2938](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2938) | [Kelcourse, James M.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/JMK1) | [An Act to provide increased access to hearing aids](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2938) |
| [HD.535](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD535) | [Fiola, Carole A.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/CAF1) | [An Act to provide increased access to hearing aids](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD535) |
| [SD.13](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD13) | [DiZoglio, Diana](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/D_D0) | [An Act to provide increased access to hearing aids](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD13) |
| [SD.2047](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD2047) | [Hinds, Adam G.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/AGH0) | [An Act to provide increased access to hearing aids](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD2047) |