

Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention (CBHPP) Commission

Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2026
3:30 - 4:30 pm

Date of meeting: Thursday, February 5, 2026

Start time: 3:30 pm

End time: 4:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Commission Members		Present	Vote 1*	Vote 2
1	Amy Rosenthal – Executive Office of Health and Human Services (<i>chair</i>)	X	X	X
2	Nancy Allen Scannell – Mass. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	X	A	X
3	Gabriel Adams-Keene - Office of Senator John Velis (<i>designee of Sen. Velis</i>)	X	X	X
4	Haley Allbee-Trask - Office of Senator Pavel Payano (<i>designee of Sen. Payano</i>)	X	X	X
5	Lena Asmar – New England Center and Home for Veterans	X	X	X
6	Ruth Blodgett – Department of Public Health (<i>designee of Commissioner Goldstein</i>)	-	-	-
7	Jessica Collins – Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts	-	-	-
8	Georgia Critsley – Trial Court (<i>designee of Chief Justice Brieger</i>)	X	X	X
9	Yaminette Diaz-Linhart – National Association of Social Workers – Mass.	X	X	X
10	Gwen Bankmann (<i>designee</i>) – Mass. House of Representatives	X	A	A
11	Delaney Fisher-Cassiol (<i>designee for Rep. Nguyen</i>)	X	X	X
12	Lynette Gabrila – Executive Office of Veterans Services	X	X	X
13	Elizabeth Ganz – Association for Behavioral Healthcare	X	X	X
14	Margaret Hannah – Freedman Center at William James College	X	X	X
15	Jacqueline Hubbard - National Alliance on Mental Illness - Mass.	-	-	-
16	Sophie Jean-Felix – Mass. Association of Community Health Workers	-	-	-
17	Jessica Larochelle – Mass. Association for Mental Health	X	X	X
18	Danna Mauch – Mass. Association for Mental Health	-	-	-
19	Emma McNamara – CHIA (<i>designee of Executive Director Peters</i>)	X	X	X
20	Noel Sierra – Mass. Organization for Addiction Recovery	X	X	X
21	Stephanie Sladen – Justice Resource Institute (JRI)	-	-	-
22	Sara Whitcomb – Social Emotional Learning Alliance for Mass.	X	A	X
23	Charlene Zuffante – Department of Mental Health	-	-	-

* (X) Voted in favor; (O) Opposed; (A) Abstained from vote; (-) Absent from meeting or during vote

Proceedings

Amy Rosenthal, Undersecretary of Health at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm. She welcomed members, introduced herself and explained that Secretary Mahanah had designated her as Chair of the Commission. She reminded members that the Commission is subject to the Open Meeting Law, noting that all votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll call.

Vote 1 to approve the 12/11/2025 minutes: After a round of introductions, Undersecretary Rosenthal called for a vote to approve the minutes from the Commission's previous meeting on 12/11/2025. Margaret Hannah introduced the motion, which was seconded by Lynette Gabrila and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

After the 12/11/2025 minutes were approved, Undersecretary Rosenthal moved to the next agenda item which was the draft 2025 annual review letter. Commission members were provided a copy of the draft letter in advance of the meeting, and it was also shared on the webinar. Members were offered the opportunity provide feedback live or send feedback via email until close of business Monday, February 9th, 2026.

Margaret Hannah asked a question about the duration of the funding for emergency services assistance. Dr. Aguocha said it was capped and the cap will not change annually. Margaret suggested including funding amount and duration in the annual review letter.

Yaminette Diaz-Linhart suggested adding additional stats around the grant bidding process, or at least a little bit more detail. She also suggested included additional data on the WhatsOnYourMind campaign.

After feedback from Margaret and Yaminette, Undersecretary Rosenthal reminded members to submit feedback to OBHPP if they have anything else to add.

Next, Dr. Funmi Aguocha, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention (OBHPP) and Sarah Mughal Program Director for OBHPP, shared updates from the OBHPP's ongoing initiatives. Dr. Aguocha began by highlighting the positive reception to the campaign imagery and messaging.

OBHPP Program Director Sarah Mughal provided an update on the statewide "What's On Your Mind" behavioral health awareness campaign that launched in October and contuse through March 26th. She noted that it is aimed at promoting the importance of behavioral and mental health wellness; reducing the stigma surrounding mental health; and increasing health equity by focusing campaigns within prioritized communities as identified by the Advancing Health Equity in Massachusetts (AHEM) Initiative. Sarah shared examples of the locations and placements of the campaign assets across the Commonwealth and media markets (TV, transit, radio, billboards, community events, etc.). She also provided some stats on the campaign's geographic reach and engagement as well as some direct feedback from individuals who experienced elements of the campaign in person, online, or on TV/radio.

Assistant Commissioner Aguocha opened the door for feedback/comments on the campaign. Yaminette Diaz-Linhart weighed in about the collective excitement among the Commission regarding the campaign becoming a reality. Margaret Hannah agreed with Yaminette and added that she felt the use of colors was particularly effective.

Dr. Aguocha continued to provide an update on the OBHPP Community Behavioral Health Grants. The RFA was posted on October 3rd, with a bidders conference held on October 17th. Dr. Aguocha discussed the necessity of adjusting the review process due to the overwhelming response to the RFA. The review is ongoing at the time of the meeting with an estimate of March or April for awards. Dr. Aguocha highlighted that the Office received 246 applications, with 216 meeting the minimum requirements. After the initial review, the number has been reduced to 87 with an effort to make a final recommendation (15-20 applications). The review committee consisted of 36 volunteer members, including multiple Commission members, across several agencies. The presentation then highlighted the geographic distribution of applications across the Commonwealth. Dr. Aguocha indicated that the next step is formal announcements of the grant recipients and contract negotiations expected in March/April. She also welcomed feedback on grant monitoring from members of the Commission.

Finally, Dr. Aguocha mentioned that OBHPP is in the early stages of developing a workforce campaign which will hopefully launch in June.

For additional details, refer to the OBHPP presentation available on the Commission's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Undersecretary Rosenthal asked the Commission members for feedback on the OBHPP presentation and Nancy Allen Scannell, Jessica Larochelle, offered congratulations on both the grant and campaign efforts and also suggested allowing a letter of intent (LOI) and will touch base with Funmi to discuss further.

After a brief discussion among Commission members about the grant process, Undersecretary Rosenthal indicated that the next meeting is scheduled for April – date to be confirmed later.

Vote 2 to adjourn: Undersecretary Rosenthal requested a motion to adjourn. Nancy Allen Scannell introduced the motion, which was seconded by Yaminette Diaz-Linhart and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 pm.

Links shared in the Chat during the discussions:

Meeting materials:

1. Draft 12/11/2025 meeting minutes
2. Draft CBHPP Annual Review Letter
3. OBHPP presentation