

Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities

Commission Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date of meeting: Wednesday, November 16th. 2022

Start Time: 10:00 am

End Time: 11:02 am

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members Participating Remotely		Vote 1	Vote 2
1	Gyasi Burks-Abbott– LEND Faculty, Boston Children’s Hospital/UMass Boston Institute for Community Inclusion	Y	Y
2	Charles Carr – Disability Policy Consortium	Y	Y
3	Representative Denise Garlick – House of Representatives	Y	Y
4	Nancy Gar-Colzie – Member, Worcester Disability Commission; Board Chair, Center for Living and Working	Y	Y
5	Craig Hall – Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council	Y	Y
6	Representative Kay Khan – House of Representatives	Y	Y
7	Andrew Levrault – Disabled Persons Protection Commission	Y	Y
8	Ann Lynch – Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office	Y	Y
9	Oswald Mondejar – Spaulding Network (MGB)	Y	Y
10	Representative Mathew Muratore – House of Representatives	Y	Y
11	Bridget Murphy – Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin	Y	Y
12	Angela Ortiz – Massachusetts Pediatric Home Nursing Campaign	Y	Y
13	Kathy Petkauskos – University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School	Y	Y
14	Carl Richardson – State House ADA Coordinator	Y	Y
15	Nancy Rumbolt-Trzcinski – Massachusetts Independent Living Council	Y	Y
16	Kerry Thompspon – Silent Rhythms Inc/ Disability Rights Fund	Y	Y
17	Christopher White – Road to Responsibility, Inc (RTR)	Y	Y
		Y: 17 N: 0	Y: 17 N: 0
Members Not Present			
18	Representative Gerard Cassidy- House of Representatives		
19	Felix Martinez		
20	Senator Patrick O’Connor – Massachusetts Senate		

Key to Votes

Vote 1: Vote to approve Carl Richardson as treasurer for the Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

Vote 2: Vote to endorse the Commonwealth Corporation (CommCorp) conference at Spaulding Rehab put forth by Commissioner Oz Mondejar.

Proceedings

I. Welcome, Roll Call, and Approval of 9/21/22 Meeting Minutes

- a. Chair Garlick welcomed the Commission members to this meeting of the Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities. Chair Garlick explained the accessibility features of the meeting: CART services are available and linked in the Zoom Chat. All documents have been shared in advance of this meeting and live streamed on www.malegislature.gov.
- b. Roll call was called with 17 members present (see table on page 1).
- c. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. The Commission approved minutes among those present.

II. Honor of the Life of Paul Spooner

- a. Chair Garlick announced the death of fellow Commissioner Paul Spooner on October 8th, 2022. Paul was a part of the executive board and was the treasurer of the Commission. Chair Garlick read his obituary ([link](#)) to the Commission and invited Charlie Carr to say a few words about his and Paul's friendship. Commissioners were invited to say a few words about Paul, and Carl Richardson shared about his relationship.

III. Election for Commission Treasurer

- a. Chair Garlick opened the floor for Commission members to nominate a treasurer. Oz Mondejar nominated Carl Richardson and the motion is seconded by Chris White. Commission members voted to approve Carl Richardson as treasurer (see Vote 1).

IV. Reports of Subcommittees

- a. Chair Garlick asked for the chairs of the three subcommittees to give a report on their first meetings on November 9th.
- b. Disability Employment Workforce Subcommittee – Chair Kathy Petkauskos
 - i. The Disability Employment Workforce Subcommittee has four members (Gyasi Burks-Abbott, Representative Muratore, Carl Richardson, and Kathy Petkauskos) as of the day of the meeting. They conducted their first meeting on November 9th with Kathy and Gyasi in attendance.
 - ii. In their meeting, members reviewed the charge of their subcommittee, discussed initiatives to employment in the disability community, barriers to employment people with disabilities are facing, different models, employer-based initiatives, and connecting with other councils and commissions to further their aim and not repeat any work.
 - iii. The subcommittee will try to meet regularly in the off months from when the entire Commission is meeting, with about seven hour long meetings taking place before the issue of the annual report next October.
 - iv. Oz Mondejar and Chris White expressed their interest in joining the Disability Employment Workforce Subcommittee.
- c. Legislative and Budget Subcommittee – Chair Charlie Carr
 - i. Chair Carr reported that the Legislative and Budget Subcommittee had their first meeting on November 9th.

- ii. Chair Carr stated that the subcommittee will prioritize gathering information and tracking legislation related to the charge of the Commission and present it to the Commission. He also stated the importance of the role the Program Director will have in gathering information about legislation for the subcommittee.
 - iii. Chair Carr shared that the subcommittee would like to host an event for legislators to meet the subcommittee. Chair Carr invited other Commission members to join.
- d. Workforce Supports for Persons with Disabilities Subcommittee – Chair Kerry Thompson
 - i. Kerry Thompson reported that the Workforce Supports for Persons with Disabilities Subcommittee met on November 9th.
 - ii. In their first meeting, the subcommittee voted to nominate Kerry Thompson as Chair.
 - iii. The goal of this subcommittee is to collect and analyze data about the workforce of individuals who work with persons with disabilities. The subcommittee wants to discuss the challenges facing this workforce with its members as well as the disabled community it serves.
 - iv. The subcommittee will also investigate how the pandemic affected the workforce, how a switch to a hybrid format affected personal care attendants, close captioners, and ASL translators, who have put themselves on the front line during the pandemic, and how this led to burnout.
- e. Chair Garlick assured the subcommittee members that through her and the executive board, everyone will have access to anything they need to further their charges.

V. Commissioner Announcements

- a. Report on the hiring process of the Program Director – Chris White
 - i. Chris White provided an update on the hiring committee, which consists of himself, Oz Mondejar, Nancy Rumbolt-Trzcinski, Craig Hall, and Charlie Carr. They have reviewed all program director applications and are confident that they will be send excellent candidates to Chair Garlick to interview.
- b. Gyasi Burks-Abbott mentions a comment in the Chat from Angela Ortiz that Massachusetts is an employment first state, and that employment should be considered first before other alternatives. He also mentioned that a conference held by the Association for University Services on Disability on health equity, that employment is a social determinant of health.
- c. Oz Mondejar announced that Spaulding Rehab will be hosting a conference for Commonwealth Corporation (CommCorp) that focuses on diverse businesses and how to hire more diverse workers, with a focus on disabilities. Oz asked for the Commission to vote to endorse the conference. Commissioners unanimously voted to endorse the conference (see Vote 2).
- d. Chair Garlick reminds the Commission that the executive board is the appropriate body to receive requests for Commission endorsements.

VI. Adjournment