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# Statewide Advisory Council (SAC)

# Meeting minutes

**Location**: Microsoft Teams  
**Date**: 2/1/2023  
**Attendees**: Alexandria N. Dunn, Ashley Dillon, Bonnie Bryce, Casey Seaman, Chris Klaskin, Chris Thompson, Christine Cob, Christine Shane, Commissioner Jane Ryder, Diane Glennon, Dianne Huggon, Ed Jalowiec, Ed Underwood, Elizabeth Morse, Elizabeth Sandblom, Jeanne Clapper, Jill Scibelli, Jose Costa, Joyce LaBelle, Kathleen Gallagher, Katie Casarant, Lotte Diomede, Lucie Chanskey, Lydia Sheehey, Maital Adam, Maren Jacobs, Mary Petricone, Michelle Harris, Nick Dantzer, Patti MacPhee, Susan Barber, Susan Griffin, Susan Loring, Tim Cahill, Victor Hernandez

**Time**: 3p-4:30p

# Agenda items

1. Welcome and Approval of Dec 2022 Meeting Minutes- Alexandria N. Dunn, Chair
2. Waiver Updates – Melissa Alvarez
3. Introduction of Communications and Outreach Manager – Mickey O’Neill
4. Recruitment Efforts Update– Michelle Harris/Mickey O’Neill
5. Commissioner’s Update – Jane Ryder
6. Residential Alternative Committee – Rick O’Meara/Liz Sandblom
7. ARC legislative Priorities – Leo Sarkissian
8. Adjourn

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**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

* Motion to Approve

**Waiver Updates- Melissa Alvarez**

* MassHealth Renewing and Amending Waivers for ABI/MFP, Adult Support Waiver, Community Living Waiver, Intensive Support Waiver
* 5-year reviews
* MFP in effect April 1st, 2023
* ABI in effect May 1st, 2023
* Day Hab Waiver removed January 1st, 2023
* 2 Projects for ID Waivers
* Review public comments

*Question: What is the approval and amendment process?*

*Answer: Day Hab Supplement Service is now incorporated into the state plan. MassHealth removed Day Hab from the DDS service. Same services at the same rate now that it has transitioned into the state plan. There are 600 updates. Services will stay in place for 2 years.*

**Introduce Communication/ Outreach Manager- Mickey O’Neil**

* Mariclaire O’Neil (Mickey)
* Mickey joined DDS 3 months ago
* She will be handling Communication resources and programs
* Email subscription sign-ups and QR codes
* Pages for family access/ family engagement
* Needs consistent policy contact information
* Questionnaires for ISP
* Different languages

**Recruitment Effort Updates- Michelle Harris**

* Data into the new operating system
* 9-11 languages for materials
* Meditech information
* Area, SAC, and Regional Boards to create and generate materials
* Campaigns/ Social media/ Brochures

**Commissioner Update- Jane Ryder**

* Transition of New Administration
* New Secretary Kate Walsh starting March 1st, 2023
* DDS’s current and future work aligns with new administration priorities
* ID/DD fit nicely
* Work closely with how we support Autism
* Background/Ethnicity Health Equality
* Working with MassHealth to help families’ coverage stay in place
* New administration excited about Technology / remote monitoring
* New Governor aware of workforce issues
* Initiatives to address work crisis
* Starting LPN program for Direct Care Staff
* Raise Direct Care salary for state staff
* Service models that are not staff dependent
* Residential/ Day services more options to support new methods
* Respite Options – Drop-in, Hotel, Overnight, Vacation Programs
* Financial Incentives to stabilize the provider system

**Budget Update – Nick Danzter**

* Finance- Budget update FY24
* Governor will file for a new budget on March 1st, 2023
* A lot of State Revenue
* Tax revenue for the commonwealth will have a 40-Billion-dollar budget

**ARC Legislative Priorities – Leo Sarkissian**

* Nursing Bill- Nursing Crisis
* Housing/ ABA supportive decision making
* Staff recording 180 hours in a 2-week period
* From hourly to percentile benchmark salary
* Program contract is staffing
* 1.1 Billion across Human Services
* Community College Bill
* Last 3 years of FY salary for residential increased 23%

*Add to Agenda for next meeting*

* *Update ARPA/ Respite development*
* *Assistive Technology update*
* *Turning 22 Update*
* *Residential Alternative Committee*

**Meeting Adjourned**

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