



# Special Commission on State Institutions

**March 21, 2024**

**3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**Virtual / Zoom**

**Evelyn Mateo**

Co-chair

**Matt Millett**

Co-chair



## Agenda



1. Welcome and introductions
2. Recap of Last Meeting
3. Vote to approve minutes from 1/18/24 meeting
4. Presentation of Power Point templates for SCSi; update on YouTube Channel
5. Recent developments regarding Bridgewater; Tewksbury State Hospital and Fernald State School
6. Update from Workgroups
7. Next steps
8. Vote to adjourn



## Welcome and Introductions



### New Commission Member-

- Sister Linda Bessom-a family member of a current resident of the Hogan Developmental Center.



## Welcome and Introductions



### Recap of Last Meeting

Vote to approve minutes from 1/18/24 meeting



Update on YouTube Channel

Presentation of Power Point templates for SCSI

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**SCSI** Special Commission  
on State Institutions  
M A S S A C H U S E T T S



# SCSI Branding & Template Sample #2



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## Recent Developments



- Bridgewater State Hospital
  - Disability Law Center Report
- Conditions at Tewksbury State Hospital
- Updates on the Fernald State School



## Updates From Workgroups



- Workgroup 1: Letter of Inquiry
- Workgroup 2: Records
- Workgroup 3: Burials
- Workgroup 4: Framework for Memorials
- Please contact CDDER at [SCSI\\_Support@umassmed.edu](mailto:SCSI_Support@umassmed.edu) if you would like to join a workgroup.



## Letter of Inquiry-Reggie Clark



5 requests:

- Look for any remaining records at the closed institutions
- Address any record security issues identified
- Develop an easy-to-follow process to make record requests
- Create a clear process for how all confidential records stored and when these records are allowed to be destroyed
- Provide a list of records that may be stored at facilities or government offices still in operation

Requested a preliminary response in 90 days



**Vote** on whether to approve and send the Letter of Inquiry



# Records and Records Access Alex Green



## Discussed:

- Legal views of Public Record Law
- Partnering with law school for research assistance
- Current legislative activity re: Public Records Law

## Next Steps:

- Map out state record retention guidelines
- Seek key informant interviews
  - Supervisor of Records
  - Division of Open Government
  - Individuals who have attempted to access records



## Burials and Burial Locations-Kate Benson



### Discussed

- What is known about the status of existing cemeteries and burial locations

### Next Steps

- Create a Gap Analysis
- Request current burial practices from active institutions
- Interview Key Informants



## Framework for Remembrance- Rania Kelly



Discussed:

- Mission/Vision and Goal of the Remembrance
- Examples from MA and from other states
- Possibility of partnering with architecture/design programs from local university

Next Steps: Presentation from Belchertown State School Friends Association in April.



## Next Steps



Next Steps

Vote to Adjourn