

## **Section 35 Commission**

### Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2018

3:00-5:00 pm

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Date of meeting: Monday, November 5, 2018

Start time: 3:05 pm

End time: 5:00 pm

Location: McCormack Building, 21st Floor, Conf. Rooms 1 & 2, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108

Members present:

- Marylou Sudders – Executive Office of Health and Human Services (Chair)
- Michael J. Finn – State Representative
- Cindy Friedman – State Senator
- William Brownsberger – State Senator
- Ruth Balser – State Representative
- John E. Rosenthal – Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative
- David Podell, PhD – MassBay Community College
- Paula Carey – Chief Justice, Trial Court
- Neal S. Hovey – Topsfield Police Department
- Monica Bharel, MD, MPH – Department of Public Health
- Nancy Connolly, PsyD – Department of Mental Health
- Sabrina Selk – Office of Health Equity
- Maryanne Frangules – Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery
- David Munson, MD – Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program
- Carol Mallia, RN, MSN – Massachusetts Nurses Association
- Carrie Jochelson, PMHCNS-BC – Massachusetts Association of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses
- Kristin Beville – National Association of Social Work
- Jessie Rossman – American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts
- Mark Larsen – Committee for Public Counsel Services
- Leigh Youmans – Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association
- Alain Chaoui, MD – Massachusetts Medical Society
- Mark Green, MD – Massachusetts Psychiatric Society
- Scott Weiner, MD – Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians
- Todd Kerensky, MD – Massachusetts Society of Addiction Medicine
- Vicker V. DiGravio III – Association for Behavioral Healthcare
- Marcia Fowler – Massachusetts Association of Behavioral Health Systems
- Leo Beletsky, JD, MPH – Northeastern University

Members absent:

- Richard G. Frank, PhD – Harvard Medical School
- David Stewart, MD – Massachusetts Psychological Association

### **Proceedings**

Secretary Sudders called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. She announced that her staff is working with DPH to compile the data the members requested at the previous meeting, ie, descriptive data (age, sex, race) about Section 35 recipients and the number of self-sections. She noted that for future meetings, DPH will be able to provide the commission with additional data related to outcomes and rates of relapse.

Secretary Sudders reviewed the updated meeting schedule and agenda for the commission's next meetings, noting that for the December 6, 2018 meeting, her staff is working with the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery to convene a panel of individuals with lived experience with substance use disorder and the Section 35 process; for the February 28, 2019 meeting, her staff is organizing a panel discussion with providers and insurers; and for the April 25, 2019 meeting, a subgroup is being formed to review a proposed standardized form, develop guidance, and consider the legal implications of holding a non-court involved individual who is diagnosed with substance use disorder.

Judge Minehan gave a detailed overview of the Section 35 process and the court system (see PowerPoint presentation posted online to the commission's meeting materials webpage). In response to a question from the commission, Judge Minehan explained that courts have limited discretion related to the type of facility a patient is assigned during the Section 35 process. She noted that the decision to send a patient to Department of Public Health or Department of Corrections facilities is largely based on facilities' capacities and bed availability.

Dr. Walley presented a detailed overview of opioid use disorder and detoxification and induction on medication-assisted treatment (MAT), focusing principally on methadone (see PowerPoint presentation posted online to the commission's meeting materials webpage).

Ms. LaBelle delivered a detailed presentation on opioid use disorder, focusing principally on administration of buprenorphine and Boston Medical Center's Office Based Addiction Treatment (OBAT) program (see PowerPoint presentation posted online to the commission's meeting materials webpage).

Dr. Sullivan gave a detailed presentation on opioid use disorder and induction on naltrexone. During her presentation, she noted that randomized trials have demonstrated equally positive outcomes between antagonist and agonist treatments (see PowerPoint presentation posted online to the commission's meeting materials webpage).

Secretary Sudders noted that Governor Baker has requested that state authorities have oversight of methadone. She noted that discussions among the congressional delegation related to this topic are ongoing.

In response to a question from Ms. Frangules regarding the role of recovery coaches, Dr. Wally noted that recovery coaches could potentially expand their traditional role of keeping people in recovery to providing peer support and outreach services. In response to a question about the cost-effectiveness of MAT, Dr. Walley highlighted a report released by the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) that concluded that use of MAT for reducing opioid dependence was demonstrated to be cost-effective.

Senator Friedman noted that the recently passed opioid bill included a requirement that facilities that receives Section 35 patients offer MAT.

**Vote:** The Secretary introduced a motion for the meeting to adjourn, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.