

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SPECIAL COMMISSION ON ORAL HEALTH MEETING

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Via Microsoft Teams

12:00 PM

General (Open Session) Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Brittany Brown (Chair, Commissioner's Designee), Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed, Alec Eidelman, Alexander Sheff, Ann Lubitz, Anthony Silva, Athanasios Zavras, Brian Swann, Catherine Hayes, Catherine Nwachukwu, Diana Vascones, Emma Lawson, Erin Bonney, Gina Terenzi, Grace Tiffany Hsieh Christianson, Helene Bednarsh, Hugh Silk, Hussam Batal,, Jane Barrow, Jennifer Magee, John Fisher, Katie Jahreis, Lisa LaSpina, Lisa Wrightington, Man Wai Ng, Marcy Foreman, Mary Foley, Meredith Bailey, Merelyn Hong, Michael Scialabba, Michael Monopoli, Michelle Henshaw, Myron Allukian Jr., Nithya Puttige Ramesh, Robert Lewando, Sam Jordan, Siobhian Sprott, Tracye Moore

Board Members Not Present: Amina Khan, Barbara Young, Caitlin Sullivan

Staff Present: Matthew Horan (Dental Director, DPH), Angela Verheyen (Office of Oral Health Program Lead, DPH), Sophia Apostola (Deputy General Counsel, DPH), Rebecca White (Deputy Chief of Staff, DPH), Phillip Duarte (Boards and Commissions Manager, EOHHS)

I. Welcome

At 12:00 PM, Brittany Brown, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Swearing In

Rebecca White, Deputy Chief of Staff, conducted a virtual swearing-in of all Special Commission on Oral Health (SCOH) members. Phillip Duarte served as the witness to the swearing-in.

III. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum

At 12:09 PM, Brittany Brown called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call vote to determine a quorum. Roll call as follows:

37 Present: Alec Eidelman, Alexander Sheff, Ann Lubitz, Anthony Silva, Athanasios Zavras, Brian Swann, Brittany Brown, Catherine Hayes, Catherine Nwachukwu, Diana Vascones, Emma Lawson, Erin Bonney, Gina Terenzi, Grace Tiffany Hsieh Christianson, Helene Bednarsh, Hugh Silk, Hussam Batal, Jane Barrow, Jennifer Magee, John Fisher, Katie Jahreis, Lisa LaSpina, Lisa Wrightington, Man Wai Ng, March Foreman, Mary Foley, Meredith Bailey, Merelyn Hong, Michael Scialabba, Michael Monopoli, Michelle Henshaw, Myron Allukian Jr., Nithya Puttige Ramesh, Robert Lewando, Sam Jordan, Siobhian Sprott, Tracye Moore

4 Absent: Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed, Amina Khan, Barbara Young, Caitlin Sullivan

0 Recused:

1 Abstained: Lisa Wrightington

IV. Approval of Agenda

DISCUSSION

Brittany Brown read the meeting agenda and asked SCPH members if they had any amendments; there were none.

ACTION

Motion by Brittany Brown to approve the agenda, seconded by Myron Allukian Jr., and unanimously approved by a roll call vote as follows:

37 Present: Alec Eidelman, Alexander Sheff, Ann Lubitz, Anthony Silva, Athanasios Zavras, Brian Swann, Brittany Brown, Catherine Hayes, Catherine Nwachukwu, Diana Vascones, Emma Lawson, Erin Bonney, Gina Terenzi, Grace Tiffany Hsieh Christianson, Helene Bednarsh, Hugh Silk, Hussam Batal, Jane Barrow, Jennifer Magee, John Fisher, Katie Jahreis, Lisa LaSpina, Lisa Wrightington, Man Wai Ng, March Foreman, Mary Foley, Meredith Bailey, Merelyn Hong, Michael Scialabba, Michael Monopoli, Michelle Henshaw, Myron Allukian Jr., Nithya Puttige Ramesh, Robert Lewando, Sam Jordan, Siobhian Sprott, Tracye Moore

4 Absent: Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed, Amina Khan, Barbara Young, Caitlin Sullivan

0 Recused:

1 Abstained: Lisa Wrightington

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V. Open Meeting Law Overview

DISCUSSION

Sophia Apostola, Deputy General Counsel, provided an overview of the Open Meeting Law. After the overview was complete, she asked if there were any questions. Myron Allukian Jr. asked if the chat function was disabled. Sophia Apostola confirmed that it was disabled to prevent serial deliberation, as the chat function is unavailable to members who might be joining by phone.

Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed joined the meeting at 12:32 PM

VI. Shared Meeting Agreement

DISCUSSION

Brittany Brown presented the meeting shared agreements and asked if there were any questions: there were none.

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VII. Review Plan for FY25 Meetings

DISCUSSION

Brittany Brown presented the tentative plan for the SCOH for FY25.

Helene Bednarsh asked when the SCOH would see the proposed topics for the needs assessment and whether the SCOH can add or modify them once this information is shared. Brittany Brown responded that the draft topic areas will also be presented at the November meeting, at which time members will have the opportunity to provide feedback and/or modify and ultimately vote on the topic areas.

Myron Allukian Jr. stated that his understanding of the first year of the SCOH will be to identify what needs to be included in an oral health needs assessment and develop a plan for conducting a needs assessment. He asked if DPH would conduct the needs assessment. Brittany Brown said that DPH would pull together the information for the needs assessment and share the results with the SCOH, which would then develop recommendations based on the results.

Myron Allukian Jr. asked how long the SCOH would last. Brittany Brown said the SCOH will last until the two deliverables are complete.

Myron Allukian Jr. recommended sharing the report developed by the previous oral health commission and Brittany Brown agreed to share that report with members.

Helene Bednarsh suggested looking at the previous oral health needs assessment to drive the indicators for this needs assessment.

Michael Monopoli asked for confirmation that approval on the SCOH is a majority vote and if members are required to be part of a subcommittee. Brittany Brown confirmed that approval was a majority vote and that members are not required to participate on a subcommittee as all subcommittee work will be presented back to the full group and ultimately voted on at full group SCOH meetings.

Mary Foley asked how subcommittees would be assigned and if members could participate in more than one. Brittany Brown said that members can self-select which committee they would like to participate in and that there isn't a limit on the number of subcommittees one can participate in.

Myron Allukian Jr. asked if DPH could leave out information that SCOH included in the report or if the SCOH had control of what was included. Brittany Brown said that the SCOH would ultimately vote to finalize the plan.

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VIII. Adjourn

DISCUSSION

None.

ACTION

Motion by Brittany Brown to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Athanasios Zavras, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows:

38 Approved: Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed, Alec Eidelman, Alexander Sheff, Ann Lubitz, Anthony Silva, Athanasios Zavras, Brian Swann, Brittany Brown, Catherine Hayes, Catherine Nwachukwu, Diana Vascones, Emma Lawson, Erin Bonney, Gina Terenzi, Grace Tiffany Hsieh Christianson, Helene Bednarsh, Hugh Silk, Hussam Batal, Jane Barrow, Jennifer Magee, John Fisher, Katie Jahreis, Lisa LaSpina, Lisa Wrightington, Man Wai Ng, March Foreman, Mary Foley, Meredith Bailey, Merelyn Hong, Michael Scialabba, Michael Monopoli, Michelle Henshaw, Myron Allukian Jr., Nithya Puttige Ramesh, Robert Lewando, Sam Jordan, Siobhian Sprott, Tracye Moore

2 Absent: Amina Khan, Barbara Young, Caitlin Sullivan

0 Recused:

1 Abstained: Lisa Wrightington

Let the record show the meeting adjourned at 12:53 PM.