COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SPECIAL COMMISSION ON ORAL HEALTH MEETING

PREVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Via Microsoft Teams

12:00 PM

General (Open Session) Meeting Minutes

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| Commission Members  Present: 7   1. Chair: Lisa LaSpina 2. Myron Allukian Jr 3. Meredith Bailey 4. Grace Christianson 5. John Fisher 6. Merelyn Hong 7. Man Wai Ng |
| Commission Members  Not Present: 2   1. Jennifer Magee 2. Lisa Wrightington |
|  |
| Staff Present:   1. Matthew Horan |

**I. Welcome**

**II. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum**

Time and call to order (12:07 AM by Lisa LaSpina)

#Present: 7

1. Chair: Lisa LaSpina
2. Myron Allukian Jr
3. Meredith Bailey
4. Grace Christianson
5. John Fisher
6. Merelyn Hong
7. Man Wai Ng

# Absent: 2

1. Jennifer Magee
2. Lisa Wrightington

# Recused: 0

# Abstained:0

**III. Approval of Agenda**

DISCUSSION

Review posted agenda, no changes

ACTION

Motion by Lisa Laspina to approve the agenda, seconded by Meredith Bailey​, and unanimously approved by a roll call vote as follows:

#Approve: 7

1. Chair: Lisa LaSpina
2. Myron Allukian Jr
3. Meredith Bailey
4. Grace Christianson
5. John Fisher
6. Merelyn Hong
7. Man Wai Ng

# Absent: 2

1. Jennifer Magee
2. Lisa Wrightington

#Recused: 0

#Abstained: 0

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

DISCUSSION

* Reviewed minutes from the January 17, 2025, meeting
* Request for name correction to “Myron Allukian Jr.”
* No other comments or edits requested

ACTION

Motion by John Fisher to approve the minutes, seconded by Man Wai Ng​, and unanimously approved by a roll call vote as follows:

#Approve: 6

1. Chair: Lisa LaSpina
2. Myron Allukian Jr
3. Grace Christianson
4. John Fisher
5. Merelyn Hong
6. Man Wai Ng

# Absent: 2

1. Jennifer Magee
2. Lisa Wrightington

#Recused: 0

#Abstained: 1

1. Meredith Bailey

Members who left the meeting early:

*Grace Christianson left at 1:04 PM*

**V**. **Work on the Plan for Developing an Oral Health Needs Assessment**

Documents: Lisa LaSpina shared two documents:

1. “Deliverable 1 Worksheet\_Draft V4.docx”
2. “Deliverable 1 Worksheet\_Draft 11.29.04 (Sealants and Fluoride varnish Ng MW 2-3-2025).docx”

DISCUSSION

* Meredith Bailey – requests to join the Oral Health Literacy section
* Merelyn Hong – requests to be named for the vaccines and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) prevention section
* “Deliverable 1 Worksheet\_Draft V4.docx” is discussed by the group
  + Main topic discussed – Prevention of Oral Diseases
    - Subtopics reviewed
* “Deliverable 1 Worksheet\_Draft 11.29.04 (Sealants and Fluoride varnish Ng MW 2-3-2025).docx” discussed by the group
  + Used dental quality alliance measures as the basis for development
  + Suggests claims data to review
  + Breakouts by community and age suggested
  + Recommend looking at sealant provision by provider type
  + Recommend looking at first and second molars
  + School-based programs desired to be pulled out separately (public health dental hygienist programs and other portable/mobile programs that can be listed separately)
  + Gaps – repeat sealant applications discussed, a recommendation to look at the frequency of paid sealants and by whom they are provided
* Fluoride varnish applications
  + Medical and dental providers can provide varnish along with others
  + Medical and dental plan payer information suggested for requesting data
  + Considering MassHealth and silver diamine fluoride (SDF) as secondary prevention
  + The group decided to add SDF as a subtopic
    - Suggestion to follow up for cases to monitor for potential pulpal necrosis and/or tooth extraction
* MassHealth information in general was discussed for potential data requests:
  + Number of kids participating
  + Number of providers being reimbursed more than $10,000 annually
  + HPV vaccines count
  + Dentists providing vaccinations
  + What are they billing – by codes, the need to outreach to current providers that bill was discussed
* Myron Allukian Jr. requests that an additional copy of the deliverable worksheet template be shared via email
* The Massachusetts' recent election “Question 2” impact was discussed:
  + The percentage mandate was discussed, and the requirement for insurance companies to state if they will participate in plans the following year was reviewed
  + The group discussed asking for specific information from private insurance companies in terms of generic claims data that might not otherwise be available
  + Additional preventive information may be recommended as a commission outcome
* Oral Health Literacy
  + Worksheet in development
  + Languages spoken by dentists
  + University of Maryland – Horowitz Center for Health Literacy
* 1:04 PM – Grace Christianson needed to leave the meeting early
* Athletic Mouthguards
  + Which sports are mandated
  + The value of mouthguards
  + National-level review
  + Ask MassHealth for the number of completed guards by age
  + Reimbursement cost discussed for laboratory-fabricated quality
    - Potential area for group recommendation for policy change
  + Suggestion to look at different sports organizations' requirements for guards
  + Required for football, hockey, and soccer; not required for basketball
* Tobacco control
* Lisa Laspina will compile participants’ worksheets into one document
* Feb 27th 
  + Will share a draft of the document with the larger Commission
  + Lisa will be the primary presenter, and Manwai will be the back-up
* Worksheets due back by 2/11/25 to Angela Verheyen and Lisa Laspina

**VI. Adjourn**

DISCUSSION

None.

ACTION

Motion by Lisa LaSpina to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Man Wai Ng, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows:

#Approve: 6

1. Chair: Lisa LaSpina
2. Myron Allukian Jr
3. Meredith Bailey
4. John Fisher
5. Merelyn Hong
6. Man Wai Ng

# Absent: 3

1. Jennifer Magee
2. Lisa Wrightington
3. Grace Christianson

# Recused: 0

# Abstained: 0

*Let the record show the meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM.*