

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

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.