

Special Commission on State Institutions



First Commission Meeting

June 1, 2023
3:00 - 5:00 pm

Zoom



Agenda



1. Welcome and Oath of Office
2. Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest Overview
3. Commission's Charge
4. Member Introductions
5. Discussion of Commission Members' Goals
 - I. Vote: Rename the Commission
6. Staffing and Administrative Support
7. Commission Webpage and Mailbox
8. Next Steps



Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest



Lauren Cleary

Associate General Counsel

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

David Giannotti

Chief of the Public Education and Communications Division

State Ethics Commission



Commission's Charge



Legal Authority: Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022 (**Full text:** <https://budget.digital.mass.gov/summary/fy23/outside-section/section-144-special-commission-on-state-institutions>)

Summary:

There shall be a special commission to study and report on the history of state institutions for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities or mental health conditions in the commonwealth including, but not limited to, the Walter E. Fernald state school and the Metropolitan state hospital.

The commission shall:

- A. Review existing records in the possession of the commonwealth related to the network of current and former state institutions for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities or mental health conditions;
- B. Examine the current availability of, and barriers to accessing, records by former residents of such institutions, their descendants and relatives and the general public;
- C. Assess and compile records of burial locations for the residents who died while in the care of such institutions;
- D. Determine the likelihood and possible locations of unmarked graves at sites of former state institutions for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities or mental health conditions; and
- E. Design a framework for public recognition of the commonwealth's guardianship of residents with disabilities throughout history, which may include, but shall not be limited to, recommendations for memorialization and public education on the history and current state of the independent living movement, deinstitutionalization and the inclusion of people with disabilities.



Commission Members



Evelyn Mateo, co-chair
Department of Mental Health

Matthew Millet, co-chair
Department of Developmental Services

Anne Fracht
Department of Developmental Services,
Commissioner's Seat

Kate Benson
Department of Mental Health,
Commissioner's Seat

J. Michael Comeau
Archives Division in the Department of the State
Secretary

Mary Mahon McCauley
Massachusetts Office on Disability

Alex Green
The Arc of Massachusetts

Reggie Clark
Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong (MASS)

Richard Krant
Wrentham Development Center

Rania Kelly
MassFamilies

June Sauvageau
Northeast Independent Living Program

Elisa Aronne
Wrentham Developmental Center

Brenda Rankin
Wrentham Developmental Center

Mary-Louise White
Department of Mental Health

Vesper Moore
Kiva Centers

To be named
Hogan Regional Center



Commission Webpage and Mailbox



Webpage

Approved minutes and presentations from Commission meetings will be posted on the Commission's Mass.gov webpage:

<https://www.mass.gov/special-commission-on-state-institutions>

Mailbox

General comments and questions may be submitted to the Commission's mailbox (below) or by clicking on the *Contact Us* link on the Mass.gov webpage.

SCSI@mass.gov



Next Steps



Additional meetings to be scheduled in the coming weeks