

**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
   1. 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-](https://budget.digital.mass.gov/summary/fy23/outside-section/section-144-special-commission-on-state-institutions)

[commission-on-state-institutions](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:

1. 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;
2. Examine the current availability of, and barriers to accessing, records by former residents of such institutions, their descendants and relatives and the general public;
3. Assess and compile records of burial locations for the residents who died while in the care of such institutions;
4. 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
5. 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

**Mary Mahon McCauley**

Massachusetts Office on Disability

**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

**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](https://www.mass.gov/988-commission)

# 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](mailto:SCSI@mass.gov)



**Next Steps**

*Additional meetings to be scheduled in the coming weeks*