

Transitions from Acute Care to Post-Acute Care (TACPAC) Task Force

Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2025
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Date of meeting: Wednesday, January 15, 2025
Start time: 10:30 am
End time: 11:30 am
Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Member Votes		Present	Vote I*
1	Joanne Marqusee – Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) (<i>Chair</i>)	X	X
2	Carmina Andrade – Department of Mental Health (DMH)	X	X
3	Donna Buckley – Barnstable County Sheriff's Office	X	X
4	Leslie Darcy – Office of Long-Term Services and Supports (OLTSS), MassHealth	X	X
5	Adam Delmolino – Mass. Health & Hospital Association (MHA)	X	X
6	Shauna Dube – UMass Memorial Medical Center	X	X
7	Jeff Fisher – Department of Correction (DOC)	X	X
8	Valerie Frias – Elder Justice Unit, Office of the Attorney General	X	X
9	Tara Gregorio – Mass. Senior Care Association (MSCA)	X	X
10	Jake Krilovich – Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts	X	X
11	Liz Leahy – Mass. Association of Health Plans (MAHP)	X	X
12	Tracy Lee – Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	X	X
13	Mary McClintock – South Shore Hospital	X	X
14	Evelyn Patsos – Probate and Family Court Department, Trial Court	X	X
15	Richard Raymond – Armstrong Ambulance	X	X
16	Clarence Richardson – Mass. Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (MassNAELA)	X	X
17	Deborah Vona – Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mass.	X	X

* (X) Voted in favor; (O) Opposed; (A) Abstained from vote; (-) Absent from meeting or during vote

Proceedings

Assistant Secretary Marqusee called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. She welcomed members and explained that Executive Office of Health and Human Services Secretary Walsh had appointed her to chair the Task Force as her designee. She informed members that the Task Force meeting is subject to the Open Meeting Law and that any votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll-call vote.

Gabriel Cohen, Program Manager with EOHHS, administered the oath of office to members.

Lauren Cleary, Associate General Counsel with EOHHS, provided an overview of the Open Meeting Law (OML) as it relates to the work of the Task Force. She emphasized the importance of transparency in how the Task Force conducts its work and explained the specific limitations related to members' communications (via email, text, and otherwise) outside of a formal meeting on matters which might pertain to the work of the Task Force.

David Giannotti, Public Education and Communications Division Chief within the State Ethics Commission, provided the Task Force with a brief overview of the State's conflict of interest and ethics regulations. He explained that members of the Task Force are considered "special state employees" and are required to complete conflict of interest trainings upon joining the Task Force. He detailed the various restrictions placed on members by the nature of their service on the Task Force and stressed that members should view the State Ethics Commission as a resource and not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns related to potential conflicts of interest and any required disclosures.

Assistant Secretary Marqusee delivered remarks on the importance of the Task Force's work and the challenges to improving the flow of patients through acute care hospitals and ensuring timely, effective transitions to post-acute care settings. She noted that the group would be examining discharge planning, administrative and regulatory barriers, post-acute care capacity, reimbursement frameworks, and innovative care models, with the goal of developing meaningful, sustainable recommendations. After members introduced themselves, Assistant Secretary Marqusee reviewed the Task Force's full legislative charge. She noted that the group was given until 7/31/2025 to submit its recommendations to the Legislature, and shared a proposed calendar with potential presentations, sorted by common themes. For additional details, refer to the meeting presentation on the Task Force's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Assistant Secretary Marqusee facilitated an open discussion of members' goals and expectations for the Task Force. In their remarks, members highlighted a number of topics, including the feasibility of forming workgroups; alternatives to guardianship; the importance of health care proxies in communities; the feasibility of standardizing processes across both local and national health care plans; the challenges of placing un- and under-insured patients; and the impact of regulatory oversight on the transition of certain classes of patients to post-acute.

In closing, Assistant Secretary Marqusee highlighted the Task Force's Mass.gov webpage, where copies of the meeting materials will be posted for members of the public (<https://www.mass.gov/transitions-from-acute-care-to-post-acute-care-tacpac-task-force>). She noted that eight additional Task Force meetings have been scheduled over the next six months, leading up to the 7/31/2025 deadline for submission of the Task Force's report and recommendations. She explained that for the group's next meeting on 2/5, her team has invited the Task Force's representatives from MHA and MAHP to provide the group with an overview of the size, trends, and reasons for patients "stuck" in hospitals awaiting discharge to post-acute care, as well as hospital discharge planning and case management processes, including some of the barriers faced.

Vote I to adjourn the meeting: Assistant Secretary Marqusee requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Delmolino introduced the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Vona and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Meeting Materials

1. Task Force meeting presentation
2. Open Meeting Law guide
3. State Ethics Commission handout