

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

Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2025
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Date of meeting: Wednesday, March 19, 2025
Start time: 10:30 am
End time: 12:00 pm
Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

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

Vote 1 to approve the 2/26/2025 meeting minutes: Assistant Secretary Marqusee requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Task Force's previous meeting on 2/26/2025. Mr. Richardson introduced the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Gregorio and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Whitney Moyer from the Executive Office of Aging and Independence (AGE) shared a continuation of her presentation from the previous meeting, summarizing proposed legislation regarding next of kin decision-making and supported decision-making, which could potentially reduce delays in medical care by avoiding lengthy judicial processes and minimize unnecessary hospital stays. In response to the presentation, members shared their experiences on the current guardianship process, highlighting an ongoing pilot program which established a pool of volunteers to serve as temporary guardians for those patients without next-of-kin, and the challenges related to obtaining bank statements for temporary guardians, which could potentially be improved by efforts to increase awareness among banking associations and credit unions of the existing regulations.

Tara Gregorio presented an overview of Massachusetts nursing facilities, including the critical challenges and needs facing nursing facilities across the state. In her remarks, she highlighted the approximately 33,000 Mass. residents that rely on nursing facilities, noting that demand for services continues to grow with more than 1,000 hospital patients each day awaiting discharge to a nursing facility due to exhausted community options, with 348 nursing homes operating at nearly full capacity and experiencing increasing demand, especially as the 75+ population grows. She touched on the financial strains the sector is facing, including a \$305 million annual shortfall due to Medicaid underfunding, which is further complicated by staffing shortages that threaten access to care despite wage increases. She explained that nursing facilities are responding by expanding specialized services and improving admission processes, but systemic issues like discharge barriers and administrative inefficiencies persist.

Jake Krilovich presented on the structure and challenges of the home health and home care system, covering Medicare, Medicaid, state-funded, and private pay programs. He explained that home health spending has outpaced other industries, experiencing nearly 23% growth between 2023-2024, compared to roughly 8% in overall health care goods and services. He noted that this growth in spending was almost entirely due to increases in utilization, as opposed to increases in the cost of care, as home care typically offers significant savings compared to institutional care. He explained that the sector is facing capacity challenges with rising referral rejection rates, over 3,100 individuals awaiting state services, and affordability issues in private pay care. Key drivers of these issues include workforce shortages, low wages, regulatory burdens, competition with facility-based care providers, and delays with pre-authorizations.

Liz Leahy presented an overview of the types of health insurance coverages, highlighting the limitation that statutory or regulatory interventions could only impact commercial insurance in the fully-insured market and Medicaid (MassHealth). She noted that across the board the industry is experiencing significant cost increases, from labor to goods and services.

For additional details on the three presentations, see the Task Force's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

In closing, Assistant Secretary Marqusee noted that the Task Force's next meeting on 4/16 would focus on the constraints and opportunities in placing individuals in post-acute settings and the effectiveness of interagency coordination to resolve complex case discharges.

Vote 2 to adjourn the meeting: Assistant Secretary Marqusee requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Richardson introduced the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Delmolino and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Meeting Materials

1. Draft 2/26/2025 meeting minutes
2. Massachusetts Senior Care (MSC) presentation
3. Home Care Alliance presentation
4. Massachusetts Association of Health Plans (MAHP) presentation