

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

Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2025
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Date of meeting: Wednesday, May 21, 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 (<i>chair</i>)	X	X	X
2	Carmina Andrade – Department of Mental Health (DMH)	X	X	X
3	Donna Buckley – Barnstable County Sheriff's Office	X	X	X
4	Samantha Canica – Probate and Family Court Department, Trial Court	X	A	X
5	Leslie Darcy – Office of Long-Term Services and Supports (OLTSS), MassHealth	X	X	X
6	Adam Delmolino – Mass. Health & Hospital Association (MHA)	X	X	X
7	Shauna Dube – UMass Memorial Medical Center	X	X	X
8	Jeff Fisher – Department of Correction (DOC)	X	X	X
9	Valerie Frias – Office of the Attorney General	-	-	-
10	Tara Gregorio – Mass. Senior Care Association (MSCA)	X	X	X
11	Jake Krilovich – Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts	X	X	X
12	Liz Leahy – Mass. Association of Health Plans (MAHP)	X	X	X
13	Tracy Lee – Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	X	X	X
14	Mary McClintock – South Shore Hospital	X	X	X
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) 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.

Samantha Canica, Senior Program Manager with the Office of Probate and Family Court, introduced herself as the new representative for the Probate and Family Court Department of the Trial Court, replacing Evelyn Patsos.

Vote 1 to approve the 4/30/2025 meeting minutes: Assistant Secretary Marqusee requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Task Force's previous meeting on 4/30/2025. Mr. Richardson introduced the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Delmolino and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Assistant Secretary Marqusee presented an overview of throughput and access for justice-involved patients needing inpatient services, developed in collaboration with TACPAC members Sheriff Buckley from the Barnstable County Sheriff's Office and Jeff Fisher, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Clinical Services with the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC), as well as their respective colleagues. In her presentation, Assistant Secretary Marqusee explained that hospitals and houses of correction (HOC) have raised concerns regarding limited access to the state's secured, inpatient unit at the Shattuck Hospital, a public, long term acute care hospital in Jamaica Plain. The secured inpatient unit at the Shattuck, known as "8 North," is operated jointly by DPH and DOC, providing a total of 29 beds for justice-involved patients, only two of which are secured, single occupancy rooms. She noted that a new facility currently under construction will be replacing Shattuck once completed at the end of 2026 and will have private and semi-private secured rooms, allowing greater operational flexibility in meeting the safety and security needs of patients and personnel while being treated on the secured correctional floors. Until that facility is completed, all stakeholders had agreed to create a clear process flow or set of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for admission requests to Shattuck, continue regular (at least quarterly) sharing of data between DPH/Shattuck and DOC regarding census and the reasoning behind any denials, allow escalation in real time of denials to review if there are opportunities to admit, ensure hospitals and jails are aware of the outpatient services available at Shattuck. Finally, Assistant Secretary Marqusee noted that EOHHS has identified a Project Manager/Process Improvement Specialist to work with all stakeholders to deliver on the above actions and identify other opportunities for improved process and communication. For additional details on the presentation, see the Task Force's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Eliza Lake, Director of Health Policy and Strategic Initiatives with EOHHS; Tomaso Calicchio, Director of Specialty Provider Networks with EOHHS; and Adam Delmolino from MHA presented an overview of non-emergency transportation and its impact on transitions from acute care settings to post-acute settings, developed in collaboration with members of the Task Force, as well as representatives from the Office of Human Service Transportation (HST). In their presentation, they explained the key players involved, the purchaser and payer relationships for transportation services, and some of the challenges and financial pressures within the existing system. In addition, a number of potential proposals were discussed, including improved policies for reimbursement; specific operational improvements; and system design innovations, such as expanding co-location models for high-frequency services within housing or skilled nursing facilities. For additional details on the presentation, see the Task Force's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

In closing, Assistant Secretary Marqusee reminded members that the Task Force's report is due to the Legislature on July 31. She explained that prior to the Task Force's next meeting on 6/18, her staff would be developing an initial batch of draft recommendations that the group would be reviewing during the entirety of the 6/18 meeting.

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 4/30/2025 meeting minutes
2. Throughput/Access for Justice-Involved Patients Needing Inpatient Services presentation
3. Non-Emergency Medical Transportation presentation