

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

Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2025
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Date of meeting: Wednesday, February 5, 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	Donna Buckley – Barnstable County Sheriff's Office	X	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	X
6	Shauna Dube – UMass Memorial Medical Center	X	X	X
7	Jeff Fisher – Department of Correction (DOC)	-	-	-
8	Valerie Frias – Elder Justice Unit, Office of the Attorney General	X	X	-
9	Tara Gregorio – Mass. Senior Care Association (MSCA)	X	X	X
10	Jake Krilovich – Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts	X	X	X
11	Liz Leahy – Mass. Association of Health Plans (MAHP)	X	X	X
12	Tracy Lee – Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	X	X	X
13	Mary McClintock – South Shore Hospital	X	X	X
14	Evelyn Patsos – Probate and Family Court Department, Trial Court	X	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	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 1/15/2025 meeting minutes: Assistant Secretary Marqusee requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Task Force's previous meeting on 1/15/2025. Mr. Delmolino introduced the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Richardson and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

At 10:45 am, Rich Raymond joined the meeting.

Assistant Secretary Marqusee provided a summary of the group's first meeting, which included a discussion of members' expectations for the TACPAC's work and the specific topics members would like covered at future meetings, which included guardianship and health care proxies; 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.

At 11:00 am, Leslie Darcy joined the meeting.

Task Force members, Adam Delmolino and Liz Leahy, presented jointly on the complexities of hospital discharge planning and the barriers hospitals face. In MHA's presentation, Mr. Delmolino provided a sense of the scale of the problem across the state, with roughly 2,000 patients on any given day "stuck" waiting in hospitals and unable to be discharged to lower levels of care. He touched on case management processes and the impact of persistent delays in discharging patients from acute to post-acute care settings. In response to the presentation, TACPAC members Shauna Dube, Tracey Lee, and Mary McClintock shared some of the challenges their hospitals' care coordination teams have faced finding placements once patients have been medically cleared. Some of the specific topics covered included the challenges of finding placements within the post-acute care managed care networks and the positive impact of the Ombudsperson Program on addressing some of the more complex cases.

Ms. Leahy presented on the types of health insurance coverage available in Massachusetts, focusing on the challenges and proposed solutions to improve hospital discharge processes. She outlined various types of insurance coverages, including employer-sponsored plans, Medicaid, and Medicare, and explained the regulatory oversight of these programs. Key issues identified include bed and staffing shortages, administrative barriers to discharge, and the impact of prior authorization waivers, with ongoing efforts to streamline approval processes and improve care coordination. For additional details on either presentation, refer to the MHA and MAHP presentations on the Task Force's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

As part of her presentation, Ms. Leahy referenced the following enrollment report from the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA): <https://www.chiamass.gov/enrollment-in-health-insurance>

In closing, Assistant Secretary Marqusee highlighted the Task Force's Mass.gov webpage, where copies of the meeting materials and approved meeting minutes are posted for members of the public (<https://www.mass.gov/transitions-from-acute-care-to-post-acute-care-tacpac-task-force>). She noted that the Task Force's next meeting on 2/26 would be focusing on health care proxies and guardianship, as well as payment structures related to discharge and case management, specifically on hospitals' rates and reimbursement, and the financial barriers hospitals face.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Meeting Materials

1. MHA presentation
2. MAHP presentation
3. Draft 1/15/2025 meeting minutes