

# Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities

## Workforce Supports Subcommittee Meeting

### Meeting Agenda

Date of meeting: Thursday, November 9, 2023

Start time: 10am to 11am

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members Participating Remotely	
1	Angela Ortiz (Chair) – Director of Business Development and Strategy, Partners for Youth with Disabilities.
2	Andrew Levrault – Deputy General Counsel, Disabled Persons Protection Commission
3	Chris White – CEO & President, Road to Responsibility, Inc
Members Not Present	
4	Representative Kay Khan – Massachusetts House of Representatives

Goal	Action Items	Person Responsible
1 Gaining access to state and provider agency data and compiling a comprehensive list of solutions and strategies (i.e., day programs).	Reach out to EOHHS, including MassHealth (ARPA)	Angela/Imene
	Reach out to Trade Associations, Providers' Council	Chris
	Reach out to unions	Angela
2 Connecting with neighboring progressive states who are implementing /piloting creative and innovative ideas to address the workforce crisis.	Reach out to HSRI (Update: HSRI will present on 2/8/24)	Imene
	Reach out to Trade Associations, Providers' Council	Chris

		Reach out to the Administration For Community Living and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)	Chris
3	Assisting with the HSRI survey on aging adults with disabilities data.	Reach out to HSRI (Update: HSRI will present on 2/8/24)	Imene
4	Identifying the subcommittee's role in support of professionalizing Direct Service Professionals.	Will share this goal with the L&B subcommittee	Chris/Angela/Imene

## Welcome, Roll Call, Agenda

- Reflection discussion on previous panelists and presenters' information
  - Continue to gain access to data from the state and provider agencies.
    - Assist Human Services Research Institute in FY24 goals
    - Trade Associations data
    - Access to data ARPA funding that agencies were provided
    - Unions data
  - Educate and raise awareness, possibly write a letter on behalf of the Commission on the workforce crisis facts.
    - Connect with the legislative subcommittee and what they have targeted.
  - Status update from Executive Offices of Health and Human Services
    - Request frequent check-ins, at least twice a year
    - Hear the goals and objectives of this administration, i.e., rate restructure, what the administration is doing to help migrant families find employment:

- possible solution to create and health and human services career pipeline: work permits, background checks.
- Identify 2024 Measurable Goals
  - Continue to gain access to data from the state and provider agencies.
    - Assist Human Services Research Institute in FY24 goals
    - Trade Associations data
    - Access to data ARPA funding that agencies were provided
    - Unions data
  - Connecting with neighboring progressive states who are implementing/piloting creative and innovative ideas to address the workforce crisis.
    - Research:
      - Ask Trade Associations and Providers
      - Ask HSRI
      - Administration For Community Living (ACL) and CMS
  - Assisting with the HSRI survey on aging adults with disabilities data.
    - Working with Valerie Bradley from HSRI: what supports does she need from this subcommittee to move forward?
  - Identifying the subcommittee's role in support of professionalizing Direct Service Professionals (DSP).
    - [Bill H.171: An Act relative to rates for workers providing supports and services for individuals with disabilities](#)
    - In MA, professionalizing equates with degrees, which cuts the workforce by 80%
    - Create a certification program through employer may be a more helpful solution
    - Chris- difficult in MA. Degree requirement would cut the workforce by 80%. Looking at some sort of certification through their employer.
    - Department of Labor recognizes DSP as a professional class, worthy of its own designation
      - ANCOR and the Associations of DSP are leading the charge.
    - Administration worked on certain requirements and training through MassHealth
      - May be a model to look at

- Providers Council has started certificate for DSPs: it is tailored for disability, mental health, substance issues.
- Identify 2024 Meeting dates
  - January 11
  - February 8
  - April 11
  - May 9
  - July 11
  - October 10 (tentative)
  - November 14
- Adjournment