



Health Equity Task Force

October 28, 2020 Meeting

Welcome

This is the eighth meeting of the legislative task force established by Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2020 (referred to as the “Health Equity Task Force”) to study and make recommendations to the General Court that address health disparities for underserved or underrepresented populations based on culture, race, ethnicity, language, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, geographic location, including, but not limited to, gateway cities with hospitals dedicated to caring for patients who test positive for COVID-19, and age in the commonwealth during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health Equity Task Force Members

Senate Appointees

Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz

Senator Julian Cyr

Task Force Co-Chair, Michael Curry, Esq., Deputy CEO and General Counsel at Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

Dr. Milagros Abreu, Executive Director, President and Founder of The Latino Health Insurance Program

Dr. Cassandra Pierre, infectious diseases physician and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Boston University

Dr. Frank Robinson, Vice President, Public Health and Community Relations, Baystate Health

Hirak Shah, Legal Counsel for Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr

House Appointees

Representative Chynah Tyler

Representative José F. Tosado

Task Force Co-Chair, Dr. Assaad Sayah, CEO, Cambridge Health Alliance; Commissioner of Public Health, City of Cambridge; Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Kiame Mahaniah, CEO, Lynn Community Health Center

Dr. Myechia Minter-Jordan, President & CEO, DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement and Catalyst Institute

Jeffrey Sanchez, Lecturer, Center for Public Health Leadership, TH Chan School of Public Health; Senior Advisor, Rasky Partners

Beverly Stables, Health Care Policy Analyst for House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

Chair of the MA Black and Latino Legislative Caucus

Representative Carlos González

Chair of the MA Asian-American Legislative Caucus

Representative Donald H. Wong

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions of Task Force Members & Approval of October 14 Meeting Minutes
2. A. Discussion on Any Updates relative to Filed Interim Report & the State Budget/Policy Process this Fall
B. Announcement re: October 20 Health Policy Commission COVID-19 & Equity Event
3. Discussion of Next Steps

Discussion of Any Updates relative to Interim Report

1. Discussion on Any Updates relative to Interim Report approved on October 14 & the State Budget/Policy Process this Fall
2. Announcement re: October 20 Health Policy Commission Cost Trends Event: COVID-19 and the MA Health Care System - Assessing Impact, Advancing Equity (*Material/Links Circulated to Task Force Members*)
 - Compelling Keynote Address by Dr. David Williams and Panel Discussions
 - Task Force Member Dr. Mahaniah was featured in a spotlight video, [Healing Together: Voices of the Commonwealth During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).
 - Materials are available on the [HPC's website](#). Remarks from [Governor Baker](#), [Attorney General Healey](#), and [Dr. David R. Williams](#), and the [full recording](#) are available on the HPC's YouTube Channel.

Discussion of Next Steps

- Sources of Support for Task Force
- Objectives of Task Force toward Final Report & How to Resource
- 2 Public Hearings (can propose targeted focus areas for hearings)
 - For instance, a focus on mid- and long-term pandemic response needs and structures/steps to advance progress on systemic inequities
- Future Presentations to Task Force (coordinated assistance in identifying & securing presenters)

Already Scheduled Meetings (10:30 - Noon):

- November 11 (input re: rescheduling/postponing due Veteran's Day Holiday)
- November 18 (confirmed national presenter from National Academy for State Health Policy)
- December 2 and 16