



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
One Ashburton Place, Room 1109
Boston, Massachusetts 02108



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

AMANDA CASSEL KRAFT
Assistant Secretary for
MassHealth

www.mass.gov/eohhs

March 1, 2022

Michael D. Hurley, Clerk
State House, Room 335
Boston, MA 02133

Steven T. James, Clerk
State House, Room 145
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission

Dear Clerks Hurley and James:

On behalf of the Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission (Commission), I am pleased to provide the following letter summarizing the Commission's activities to date, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 6, Section 219. Please accept this letter as the Commission's Annual Report.

In its third year, the Commission convened five virtual meetings, discussing a variety of topics, including legislative proposals for mental and behavioral health prevention and promotion treatment and support services, school-based prevention programming, and alcohol and substance use disorder screening tools. Recommendations have not yet been adopted by the Commission, but will be developed in close coordination with the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

As the Commission continues to develop its specific priorities and recommendations, the Commission will ensure that proposals will complement the Baker-Polito Administration's Behavioral Health Redesign initiatives, which is designed to ensure readily available outpatient care in the community for people of all ages and backgrounds so that every resident can have their behavioral health care needs met.



The Commission acknowledges and appreciates the Baker-Polito Administration's and the Legislature's continued support for behavioral health initiatives and investments in upstream prevention, particularly for communities of color and other at-risk communities. I would be happy to offer additional details on the Commission's ongoing work and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine B. Ginnis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a distinct "B" before the last name.

Kate Ginnis, MSW, MPH
Senior Director of Parent, Child, and Family Policy and Programs, MassHealth
Chair, Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission, serving as the designee
of Secretary Marylou Sudders

Cc: Senate President Karen E. Spilka
House Speaker Ronald Mariano

Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission Charge

Legal Authority: M.G.L. Chapter 6, Section 219

Purpose: Commission on community behavioral health promotion and prevention located within, but not subject to the control of, the executive office of health and human services. The commission shall work to promote positive mental, emotional and behavioral health and early intervention for persons with a mental illness, and to prevent substance use disorders among residents of the commonwealth.

21 Members:

- the secretary of health and human services or a designee, who shall serve as the chair;
- the commissioner of mental health or a designee;
- the commissioner of public health or a designee;
- the chief justice of the trial court or a designee;
- the director of the center for health information and analysis or a designee;
- the house chair of the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery;
- the senate chair of the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery;
- 1 person appointed by the speaker of the house;
- 1 person appointed by the senate president;
- 1 person appointed by the house minority leader;
- 1 person appointed by the senate minority leader; and
- 1 representative from each of the following 10 organizations:
 - Association for Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.;
 - Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers, Inc.;
 - Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Inc.;
 - Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery, Inc.;
 - Massachusetts Public Health Association;
 - Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children;
 - National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts, Inc.;
 - Social-Emotional Learning Alliance for Massachusetts, Inc.;
 - Freedman Center at William James College; and
 - Massachusetts chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, Inc.

The commission shall:

Promote an understanding of: the science of prevention; population health; risk and protective factors; social determinants of health; evidence-based programming and policymaking; health equity; and trauma-informed care; provided that the commission may use, as a guide for its work, the recommendations of the report of the special commission on behavioral health promotion and upstream prevention established pursuant to section 193 of chapter 133 of the acts of 2016;

Consult with the secretary of health and human services on grants from the community behavioral health promotion and prevention trust fund established in section 35EEE of chapter 10;

Collaborate, as appropriate, with other active state commissions, including but not limited to the safe and supportive schools commission, the Ellen Story commission on postpartum depression and the commission on autism;

Make recommendations to the legislature that: promote behavioral health and prevention issues at the universal, selective and indicated levels; strengthen community or state-level promotion and prevention systems; advance the identification, selection and funding of evidence-based programs, practices or systems designed to promote behavioral health and early intervention for persons with a mental illness and to prevent substance use disorders; and reduce healthcare and other public costs through evidence-based promotion and prevention; provided that the commission may use state and local prevalence and cost data to ensure commission recommendations are data-informed and address risks at the universal, selective and indicated levels of prevention;

Hold public hearings and meetings to accept comment from the general public and to seek advice from experts, including, but not limited to, those in the fields of neuroscience, public health, behavioral health, education and prevention science; and

Submit an annual report to the legislature as provided in subsection on the state of preventing substance use disorder and promoting behavioral health in the commonwealth.

Annually, not later than March 1, the commission shall file a report with the joint committee on health care financing and the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery on its activities and any recommendations. The commission shall monitor the implementation of its recommendations and update recommendations to reflect current science and evidence-based practices.

Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission Membership

Commission Chairperson

- Kate Ginnis, Senior Director of Parent, Child, and Family Policy and Programs, MassHealth, Designee of Secretary Sudders (Chair)

Commission Staff

- Gabriel Cohen, Program Planning and Implementation Manager, Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Legislative Members

- Julian Cyr, State Senator, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery
- Cindy Friedman, State Senator, Appointment of Senate President Karen E. Spilka
- Adrian Madaro, State Representative, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery
- Tram Nguyen, State Representative, Appointment of House Speaker Ronald Mariano

Appointed Members

- Lissette Blondet, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers (MACHW)
- Hon. Paula M. Carey, Chief Justice, Massachusetts Trial Court
- Yaminette Diaz-Linhart, Program Director, Brandeis University, Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-MA)
- Marilyn DeSantis, Chief Financial Officer, National Alliance on Mental Illness- Massachusetts Chapter (NAMI-MA)
- Kirsten Doherty, Project Director, Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)
- Kelly English, Deputy Commissioner of Child, Youth and Family Services, Designee of Department of Mental Health Commissioner
- Margaret Hannah, Executive Director, Freedman Center at William James College
- Jessica Laroche, Co-Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, Massachusetts Association for Mental Health (MAMH)
- Danna Mauch, President/CEO, MAMH, Appointment of House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr.
- Mary McGeown, President/CEO, Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC)
- Carlene Pavlos, Executive Director, Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA)
- Emma Schlitzer, External Affairs Manager, Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA), designee of CHIA Executive Director
- Megan Thompson, Senior Director of Payment and Care Delivery, Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH)

- Lindsey Tucker, Associate Commissioner, Department of Public Health, Designee of Department of Public Health Commissioner
- James Vetter, Executive Director, Social-Emotional Learning Alliance for Massachusetts (SEL4MA)
- Wanda Visnick, Justice Resource Institute, Appointment of Senate Minority Leader Bruce E. Tarr

Summary of Activities of the Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission for 2021-2022

April 8, 2021

Summary: *Discussion of Commission subcommittee's work and future priorities for the Commission*

The Commission discussed the proposed recommendations developed by the Commission subcommittee formed at the October 15, 2020 meeting with the goal of exploring promotion and prevention-related recommendations to address the impact of the pandemic on the behavioral health of children and families, with a focus on the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color and low-resource communities.

June 10, 2021

Summary: *Discussion of ongoing behavioral health prevention initiatives being implemented across the Commonwealth*

The Commission discussed various behavioral health prevention initiatives being implemented across the Commonwealth, including a youth tele-behavioral health pilot program for rural school systems, the Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force, school-based intensive intervention programs, gambling prevention programs, and gun violence prevention programs.

October 14, 2021

Summary: *Discussion of legislative and agency initiatives to support prevention and promotion of behavioral health programming*

The Commission discussed legislative and agency updates relevant to the Commission's work, including a detailed review of the legislative initiatives related to mental and behavioral health prevention and promotion treatment and support services that had been proposed in the FY22 Budget. Members also heard updates on DMH-sponsored behavioral health prevention and promotion initiatives.

December 9, 2021

Summary: *Discussion of school-based substance use prevention programming for youth and related screening tools*

The Commission discussed school-based substance use prevention programming for youth sponsored by the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) Office of Youth and Young Adult Services (OYYAS), as well as the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) approach promoted by the Children's Mental Health Campaign (CMHC) for identifying alcohol and substance use among adolescents.

February 10, 2022

Summary: *Discussion of school-based behavioral health programming and the Commission's annual report*

The Commission discussed Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)-sponsored school-based behavioral health programming. Members reviewed the draft annual report and discussed potential priorities for the Commission in the upcoming fiscal year.