



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF MEDICAID, 11TH FLOOR
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR MASSHEALTH

March 1, 2023

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

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

RE: 988 Commission

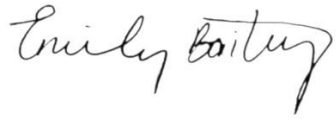
Dear Clerks Hurley and James:

On behalf of the 988 Commission (Commission), I am pleased to provide the following letter summarizing the Commission's activities to date, pursuant to Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022. Please accept this letter as the Commission's Annual Report.

In its first year, the Commission met once, organizing discussions regarding its own priorities, which 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 Healey-Driscoll Administration's behavioral health initiatives, national guidelines, and best practices for implementation of a statewide 988 suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis system. The Commission may develop interim recommendations prior to the Commission's annual report due in March 2024.

The Commission appreciates the Healey-Driscoll Administration's and the Legislature's continued support for behavioral health initiatives, particularly with at-risk communities. I, and members of the Commission, would be happy to offer additional details on the Commission's priorities and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Bailey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Emily Bailey

Chief, Office of Behavioral Health, MassHealth, Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Chair, 988 Commission, serving as the designee of Secretary Kathleen E. Walsh

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

988 Commission Charge

Legal Authority: Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022

Statute:

(1) There shall be a state 988 commission within the executive office of health and human services to provide ongoing strategic oversight and guidance in all matters regarding 988 service in the commonwealth.

(2) The commission shall review national guidelines and best practices and make recommendations for implementation of a statewide 988 suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis system, including any legislative or regulatory changes that may be necessary for 988 implementation and recommendations for funding that may include the establishment of user fees. The commission shall also advise on promoting the 988 number including, but not limited to, recommendations for including information about calling 988 on student identification cards and on signage in locations where there have been known suicide attempts.

(3) The commission shall consist of:

- the secretary of health and human services or the secretary's designee, who shall serve as chair;
- the secretary of public safety and security or the secretary's designee;
- the commissioner of mental health or the commissioner's designee;
- the commissioner of public health or the commissioner's designee;
- the executive director of the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership or the executive director's designee;
- the executive director of the state 911 department or the executive director's designee;
- the executive director of Mass 2-1-1 or the executive director's designee;
- a representative designated by the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, Inc.;
- a 911 dispatcher designated by the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association Incorporated;
- an emergency medical technician or first responder nominated by the Massachusetts Ambulance Association, Incorporated;
- And the following members to be appointed by the chair:
 - 1 representative from an emergency service provider, nominated by the Association for Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.;
 - 1 representative from the Association for Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.;
 - 1 representative from a suicide prevention hotline in the commonwealth, nominated by the Samaritans, Inc.;
 - 1 representative from the Riverside Community Care, Inc. MassSupport program;
 - 1 representative from the Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention;
 - 1 representative from the Children's Mental Health Campaign;
 - 1 representative from the INTERFACE Referral Service at William James College, Inc.;
 - 1 representative from the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts, Inc.;
 - 1 representative from the Parent/Professional Advocacy League, Inc.;
 - 1 representative from the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Inc.;
 - 1 representative from the Boston branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People;
 - 1 representative from the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, Inc.;
 - 1 representative from the mental health legal advisors committee; and

- 3 persons who are or have been consumers of mental health or substance use disorder supports or services.

Every reasonable effort shall be made to ensure representation from all geographic areas of the commonwealth.

(4) Annually, not later than March 1, the commission shall submit its findings and recommendations to the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery and the joint committee on health care financing.

988 Commission Membership

Commission Chairperson

- Emily Bailey, Chief, Office of Behavioral Health, MassHealth, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, designee of Secretary Kathleen E. Walsh

Commission Staff

- Rebecca Stoltz, Deputy Director of Policy & Special Projects, Office of Behavioral Health, MassHealth, Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Members

- Rebecca Ames, Senior Clinical Manager, Riverside Trauma Center, Riverside Community Care
- Booker Bush, MD, Physician, Baystate Medical Center
- Chris Carleton, Communications Supervisor, Northborough Police Department
- Kelly Casey, PhD, Managing Director, Department of Forensic & Clinical Services at William James College, Executive Director, Brenner Assessment and Consultation Center
- Courtney Chelo, Assistant Director of Government Relations, MA Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- Kerry Collins, Undersecretary for Forensic Sciences, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- Kelley Cunningham, Director of Division of Violence and Injury Prevention, Department of Public Health
- Brooke Doyle, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health
- Eriq Gasse, EMT, Cataldo Ambulance Service
- Rebecca Gewirtz, Executive Director, MA & RI Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
- Gloria Gonzalez, Samaritans Merrimack Valley
- Sharon Hanson, CEO and Vice President of Client Partnerships of MA Behavioral Health Partnership
- Debbie Helms, Director, Samaritans Merrimack Valley
- Jennifer Honig, Co-director for Public Policy and Government Relations, MA Association for Mental Health
- Pamela Hooks Sager, Executive Director, Parent/Professional Advocacy League
- Charmain Jackman, PhD, Founder, InnoPsych, Inc.
- Abby Kim, Senior Director of Public Policy, Association for Behavioral Healthcare
- Tamara Lundi, President, Community Healthlink
- Kathy Marchi, CEO and President, Samaritans, Inc.
- Paul Mina, President and CEO of United Way of Tri County & United Way of Pioneer Valley, Executive Director of Mass 211
- Ivy Moody, Staff Attorney, Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee
- Myisha Rodrigues, Executive Director, NAMI-MA
- Kevin Skinner, Samaritans Merrimack Valley
- Ashley Sproul, Peer Specialist, Kiva Centers
- Monna Wallace, Program Director, State 911 Department

Summary of Activities of the 988 Commission for 2022-2023

February 27, 2023

Summary: *Review of the Commission's charges, enabling legislation, and the Commonwealth's conflict of interest laws, ethics regulations, and open meeting law.*

In addition to a review of the Commission's enabling legislation and charges, Commission members discussed their goals and expectations for the work of the Commission. Commission members voted to meet monthly until recommendations have been drafted.

March 1, 2023

Submission of letter from Chair Bailey to the Legislature stating that the Commission's first annual report of its activities would be submitted in March 2024.