

MEETING MINUTES
PRIMARY CARE ACCESS, DELIVERY, AND PAYMENT TASK FORCE

April 16, 2025

**CO-CHAIRLED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Date of Meeting: April 16, 2025
Start Time: 10:00 AM
End Time: 12:00 PM

Primary Care Task Force Member	Present?
Dr. Kiame Mahaniah, Co-Chair	X
David Seltz, Co-Chair	X
Senator Cindy Friedman	X
Representative John Lawn	X
Dr. Wayne Altman	X
Dr. Laura Black	X
Dr. Jennifer Blewett	X
Alyson Bracken	X
Michael Caljouw	X
Dr. Renee Crichlow	X
Suzanne Curry	X
Dr. Eric Dickson	X
Dr. Mark Friedberg	X
Dr. David Gilchrist (Designee: Dr. Matthew Libby)	X
Jon Hurst	X
Dr. Stephen Martin	X
Dr. Judith Melin	X
Sarah Mills	X
Lora Pellegrini	X
Lauren Peters	X
Dr. Brenda Pring	X
Dr. Ryan Schwarz	X
Christina Severin	X
Dr. Barbara Spivak	X
Barbra Rabson	X
Summary	24 Members Attended

(A): Absent from Meeting

Proceedings

An in-person meeting of the Primary Care Access, Delivery, and Payment Task Force (Primary Care Task Force) was held at the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC) at 50 Milk Street on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, beginning at 10:00 AM. A recording of the meeting and the meeting materials are available on the [HPC Website](#).

Participating task force members who attended in person were Undersecretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EHS), Dr. Kiame Mahaniah (Co-Chair); Executive Director of HPC, Mr. David Seltz (Co-Chair); Senator Cindy Friedman; Representative John Lawn; Dr. Wayne Altman; Dr. Laura Black; Dr. Jennifer Blewett; Ms. Alyson Bracken; Mr. Michael Caljouw; Dr. Renee Crichlow; Ms. Suzanne Curry; Dr. Eric Dickson; Dr. Mark Friedberg; Mr. Jon Hurst; Dr. Stephen Martin; Dr. Judith Melin; Ms. Sarah Mills; Ms. Lora Pellegrini; Ms. Lauren Peters; Dr. Brenda Pring; Dr. Ryan Schwarz; Ms. Christina Severin; Dr. Barbara Spivak; and Ms. Barbra Rabson. Dr. David Gilchrist was absent from the meeting. Dr. Matthew Libby attended as a non-voting participant on Dr. Gilchrist's behalf.

Dr. Kiame Mahaniah began the meeting at 10:00 AM and welcomed task force members, staff, and members of the public viewing the meeting on the livestream.

ITEM 1: Swearing in of Members

Task Force Co-Chair Dr. Mahaniah swore in the members of the Primary Care Task Force.

ITEM 2: Open Meeting Law Overview

Ms. Lauren Cleary from EHS provided task force members with a review of Open Meeting Law (OML) compliance, which supports public access to task force decision-making. Ms. Cleary asked task force members to review the OML guide provided to them and to sign confirmation of receipt of OML guidance for public record.

ITEM 3: Introduction of Members

Task Force Co-Chairs, Dr. Mahaniah and Mr. Seltz provided opening remarks, thanking task force members for their time and commitment, expressing excitement for this opportunity, and acknowledging the challenges related to strengthening and stabilizing primary care in the Commonwealth that the task force has been convened to address. Senator Friedman and Representative Lawn, Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, also thanked task force members and provided opening remarks. Mr. Seltz thanked Senator Friedman and Representative Lawn for their leadership, acknowledged that each task force member's designated seats were legislatively directed. Each task force member introduced themselves and the organizations that they represent. Ms. Millie Bhatia, Health Policy Manager, EHS and Kelsey Berdeguez, Project Manager, HPC, who will be supporting the work of the task force, also introduced themselves.

ITEM 4: Presentation on Recent Primary Care Research, Purpose of the Task Force, and Legislative Mandate

Mr. Seltz provided context for the task force's directives with a presentation on findings and policy recommendations from the HPC's report, [A Dire Diagnosis: The Declining Health of Primary Care in Massachusetts and the Urgent Need for Action](#), published in [January 2025](#). The presentation also highlighted data from CHIA's report, [Massachusetts Primary Care and Behavioral Health Care Spending: 2022 and 2023](#), which builds on many of the HPC's primary care findings. The [presentation materials](#) can be found on [HPC's website](#).

ITEM 5: Workplan and Timeline

Dr. Mahaniah provided an overview of the task force's enabling legislation and the task force's legislatively mandated deliverables, including seven reports due between September 2025 and May 2026. Mr. Seltz reviewed the proposed workplan for the task force to complete these reports, including a proposal to create two task force working groups, the **Data and Research Work Group** and the **Workforce Work Group**, which will both focus on specific deliverables and drive forward the work outlined in the task force's legislative mandates.

ITEM 6: Discussion

Mr. Seltz opened the floor for task force members to offer feedback on the proposed timeline, potential working groups, and task force priorities. Member discussion was centered around the critical importance and challenges of defining primary care as a baseline for the task force's work, particularly given that these definitions are one of the task force's mandated deliverables. Members offered their perspectives on the wide range of services that are often provided by primary care, and the challenges that this creates. They also suggested incorporating a final definition into payment models that incentivize high-value primary care.

Members discussed the inadequacy of the Commonwealth's current investment in primary care, including lack of equitable reimbursements for all provider types and payment models for team-based care, the declining rate of spending growth, and the increasing burden of health care costs on taxpayers, employers, and employees. Members discussed the task force governance structure; some suggested developing work groups with specific objectives for each deliverable; other members highlighted available research and resources within Massachusetts and other states to guide task force work.

The discussion concluded with an agreement among members that there is significant work ahead for the task force and renewed the sense of urgency to get the work accomplished. The Task Force Co-Chairs advised the members to expect communication about next steps for establishing work groups.

ITEM 7: Adjourn

Mr. Seltz announced the next Primary Care Task Force meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, 2025 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and will be held virtually via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 AM.