
CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Meeting Date: February 24, 2021

Minutes



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

Barney Heath,
**Director, Planning &
Development**

Amanda Berman
**Director, Housing &
Community Development**

Tiffany Leung
**Planner
Community Development**

Members

Lakshmi Kadambi, Co-Chair
Anne Marie Killilea, Co-Chair
Jane Brown, Treasurer
Warren Abramson
Rob Caruso
Lucie Chansky
Rosemary Larking
Sandra Lingley
Barbara Lischinsky
Girard Plante
Eileen Sandberg
Matt Volpi

Jason Rosenberg
Chairman Emeritus

Advisor

Sergeant Dan Devine
Newton Police Department

Staff

Jini Fairley
ADA/Sec 504 Coordinator
617-796-1253

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Room Zoom

Time: 1:30-3:00 PM

COD Sub Committee- Spotlight on Mental Health

This meeting was a virtual meeting on Zoom, by phone or by computer/IPad:

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Committee Members Present:

Jane Brown, participating remotely

Lakshmi Narayan Kadambi (COD Co-chair), participating remotely

Barbara Lischinsky, participating remotely

Eileen Sandberg, Chair, participating remotely

Committee Members Absent:

Anne Marie Killilea

Warren Abramson

City Staff and Elected Officials Present:

Jini Fairley, ADA Coordinator

Meghan Kennedy, Director of Social Services

Brenda Noel, Newton City Councilor

Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Mayor's Office

Other Attendees Present:

Rakashi Chand

Susan Lowcock, member, Human Rights Commission

1. Introductions

Four members of the COD sub committee were present. Anne Marie Killilea and Warren Abramson were absent.

2. Update on City's HHS March 2 Event

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The current city plans are for 3 webinars on Mental Health via HHS and Mayors office: Called “Mental Health- Starting the Conversation” The first webinar on March 2,2021 and will be recorded. First seminar will be Conversations with NAMI and Riverside on general Mental Health, what it looks, feels and sounds like in the community, programs NAMI offers. Also, Riverside Emergency services and how they connect people with services and about their emergency line. There will be links for parents and a slide with names and contact information for social workers and psychologists working in the local public schools. Second round in early May will be with Samaritans with focus on Depression , Suicide prevention and families. The third conversation in July will be on substance use. This will be in a webinar format. Eileen suggested adding SEPAC information and a new website for parents called handheldma.org.

3. Possible COD Collaborative Event(s) with Partners

- Concert by Me2 Orchestra (Zoom Concert with Stories)
- “Our Own Voice” by NAMI
- A Tribute Quilt- Anne Marie whose idea it is was absent at this meeting.
- “Portraits of Resiliency” – Talk, Photos, & Storie.

4. Discussion of Impact of Pandemic on Mental Health

The committee discussed statistics not being easily available. and uptick of increased Anxiety being recorded in the state due to social isolation during Pandemic. A “shadow pandemic” that needs attention as there is a increase of mental health visits to ER. Glenn Vannaman mentions the State putting out a presentation “ Roadmap for Behavioral Health”.

Discussions on whether we can find innovative ways to deliver MH counseling techniques differently? Awareness together with soft action, mindfulness techniques and basic information through workplaces, places of worship, social organizations etc.

5. Training and Resources

- Preview of Movie “Resilience”
- Mental Health For All Webinar Series
- Webinar on ADA and Psychiatric Advance Directives- Accessibility Online, ADA rights workshops- bringing Rights based knowledge to the MH community suggested as something that could be done collaboratively with COD. Eg: giving more info on Reasonable accommodation at hospital settings for people with MH disability.

6. Next Meeting Dates

March 17th, at noon, for screening of movie Resilience

March 24th for regular meeting at 1:30PM.

The meeting adjourned at 3PM.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2021 at noon (movie), March 24, 2021 at 1:30

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**These minutes were prepared and respectfully submitted by
Eileen Sandberg, Chair**

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities requiring assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA/Sec.504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service, please dial 711 or call City Hall's TTY/TDD line at 617-796-1089.