
CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Meeting Date: January 22nd, 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

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Commission On Disability

Room Zoom

Time: 3:00- 4:30 PM

COD Sub Committee- Spotlight on Mental Health

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87171068474?pwd=U3pueklWZkg0alFBL3BNUEJKNDRnUT09>

Meeting ID: 871 7106 8474

Passcode: 820713

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 871 7106 8474

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COD MH Committee Members Present:

Jane Brown, participating remotely

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

Anne Marie Killilea (COD Co-chair), participating remotely

Barbara Lischinsky, participating remotely

Eileen Sandberg, participating remotely

Committee Members Absent:

Warren Abramson

City Employees, Commission Members and Elected Officials Present:

Jini Fairley, ADA Coordinator

Brenda Noel, Newton City Councilor

Other Attendees Present:

Rakashi Chand

Kim Freedman, Understanding Our Differences

Glenn Vanaman, Director, NAMI Newton Wellesley

Kimberly Vanaman

Jacki Rohan, Vice President, NAMI Newton Wellesley

1. Introductions

The Mental Health subcommittee met for the first time on zoom on January 22, 2021. The subcommittee briefly discussed the death of Newton resident Michael Conlon, and agreed that any

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further action by the subcommittee and the COD would await the final information on the situation resulting in his death.

2. Possible COD Collaborative Event(s) with Partners:

Update on City's HHS March 2 Event: City Of Newton would be starting its outreach with the first event slated for March.

The MH subcommittee discussed having an event, or series of events, in May 2021 during Mental Health Awareness Month. All potential events will need to be considered in light of Covid-19 restrictions.

Events discussed included:

- Theme: Shedding Light on Mental Illness
- Candle-lighting ceremony, either live and outdoors or remote
- Concert by Me2 Orchestra (www.me2orchestra.org) a classical music organization created for individuals with mental illnesses and the people who support them.
- A NAMI talk or panel, such as Our Own Voice

3. Raising Awareness in Newton: Discussion of Impact of Pandemic on Mental Health

The subcommittee discussed the integration and inclusion of Newton residents in community life, and how to break the stigma against mental illness.

The subcommittee discussed police actions and training. COD member Barbara Lischinsky spoke about the lack of accommodation for her service dog at the hospital.

The William James Interface (<https://interface.williamjames.edu/>) was discussed as a source of referrals for mental health care which searches based on the individual's insurance coverage.

NAMI Newton Wellesley members said that the Brookline Police has an excellent Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), and after the meeting provided information on that team.

After the meeting, Jacki Rohan, Vice President of Nami Newton Wellesley, wrote to say that she and Glenn Vanaman, Director of Nami Newton Wellesley, would like to work with the subcommittee on planning events in May 2021.

4. Election of Chairperson for MH Subcommittee:

The members elected unanimously Eileen Sandberg, who volunteered, as Chair of the Subcommittee.

Next Meeting Date

The subcommittee agreed to meet again on **February 24, 2021 from 1:30-3:00 pm. via Zoom.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30PM.

Next Meeting: February 24, 2021, from 1:30-3PM

Minutes were prepared and respectfully submitted by

Eileen Sandberg, Chair of the Mental Health Subcommittee.

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities reqtold us uiring 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.

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